

**Sha Tin District Council**  
**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of**  
**the Health and Environment Committee in 2020**

**Date** : 6 February 2020 (Thursday)  
**Time** : 11:23 am  
**Venue** : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH (Chairman)	DC Chairman	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George (Vice-Chairman)	DC Vice-Chairman	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"	11:23 am	1:36 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	"	11:32 am	2:14 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	"	11:23 am	1:36 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	11:26 am	2:14 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	"	11:24 am	2:14 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	11:26 am	2:14 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	11:30 am	2:14 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr SHEK William	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	"	11:46 am	2:14 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	"	11:23 am	2:14 pm

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	DC Member	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	”	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	”	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	”	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	11:23 am	2:00 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	11:23 am	2:14 pm
Ms SHEK Ka-lai, Sannie	Executive Officer (District Council) 3/ Sha Tin District Office		

#### **In Attendance**

Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon  
Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian  
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

#### **Title**

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (1)  
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (2)  
Senior Executive Officer (District Council)/  
Sha Tin District Office

#### **In Attendance by Invitation**

Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek

Mr LI Ho-yin, Simon

#### **Title**

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin)/Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)2,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

#### **Action**

#### **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) informed the participants that there were 42 members of the current-term Health and Environment Committee (HEC).

2. The Chairman of the STDC announced the election of the Chairman of the HEC.
3. Before the meeting, the Secretariat only received 1 nomination form for the post of Chairman of the HEC:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Second</u>
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	Mr Michael YUNG	Mr CHING Cheung-ying Mr George WONG

4. As there was only 1 candidate for the post, the Chairman of the STDC announced that Mr TING Tsz-yuen was elected ipso facto as the new chairman of the HEC.

5. The Chairman of the STDC indicated that the procedure for the election of the Vice-Chairman of the HEC was the same as the election of the Chairman of the HEC. By the time of the meeting, the Secretariat had only received 1 nomination form for the post of Vice-Chairman of the HEC:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Second</u>
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	Mr TING Tsz-yuen	Mr George WONG Mr Michael YUNG

6. As there was only 1 candidate for the post, the Chairman of the STDC announced that Mr CHAN Pui-ming was elected ipso facto as the new Vice-Chairman of the HEC.

(The rest of the meeting agenda was presided over by Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Chairman of the HEC.)

7. The Chairman thanked the committee members for their support, and hoped to work together with all committee members in the future to promote the development of health and environmental affairs in the district.

### **Discussion Items**

#### Meeting Schedule of the Committee for 2020 (Paper No. HE 1/2020)

8. The committee members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

#### Request the Government to Enhance Diseases Prevention Work and Border Control (Paper No. HE 2/2020)

9. The Chairman stated that the STDC passed the above provisional motion at the meeting on 23 January 2020, and agreed to discuss it at the first meeting of the HEC. The relevant departments including the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA) did not send staff to attend the meeting, and this could be left to the next meeting for follow-up matters. He welcomed the representatives of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

10. Mr Michael YUNG pointed out that due to statutory restrictions, after the District Council has made a decision on a certain issue, members could not move a motion for discussion on the issue within six months, unless it was agreed by the Chairman.

11. The Chairman explained that, according to the Standing Orders, this motion could be left for follow-up discussion under ‘matters arising from the previous meeting’. Due to the serious situation, as the Chairman, he would exercise his discretion when necessary and agreed to discuss the issue of epidemic prevention again. He stated that there was only one round of speeches and each member was limited to two minutes.

12. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) he was strongly dissatisfied that the relevant departments did not send any representatives to the meeting to give an account of the epidemic situation. The District Council passed a motion at its meeting on 23 January, requesting the Government to immediately close the border, but the Government responded slowly and only officially closed the border on 8 February. He felt that this could not protect the safety of Hong Kong people; and
- (b) he thanked the FEHD and the LCSD for sending representatives to attend the meeting, especially the FEHD for helping with the cleaning of the housing estates.

He would move a regret motion later.

13. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he condemned the departments that did not attend the meeting. He said that the public was very worried about the spread of the epidemic; and
- (b) regarding information on infection cases, he suggested that the Department should notify the DC Members of the concerned constituencies, owners' committees and owners' corporations (OCs) in a timely manner when they found suspected confirmed cases.

14. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he understood that the DH and the HA needed to deal with the epidemic, and could not send representatives to attend the meeting. However, he did not understand why the District Officer (Sha Tin) (DO/ST) was also absent from the meeting;
- (b) he learned that some outsourced cleaners used the same mask at work for more than 24 hours. The situation was worrying. He hoped that the Department could report the situation to the contractor; and
- (c) he asked if the FEHD could arrange for contractors to clean up the trash bins frequently, because many masks fell near the trash bins.

15. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he condemned the departments that did not send representatives to attend the meeting. He hoped that the HEC would forward the following requirements to the relevant departments, including the implementation of comprehensive border closure, allowing Hong Kong residents on the Mainland to return to Hong Kong (but those residents needed to be quarantined), and ensuring that frontline medical staff had adequate protective clothing; and
- (b) he hoped that the FEHD and the Housing Department (HD) could cooperate with each other to clean the housing estates and surrounding areas, and the LCSD could properly clean up the park area, especially Shing Mun River Promenade Garden.

16. The views of Mr SHEK William were summarised below:

- (a) he was very dissatisfied that the DH did not send representatives to attend the meeting. He criticized the DH for the sudden announcement of the list of home epidemic prevention, the late notification time and the slow speed on list update. For example, City One Shatin and Sunshine Grove only learned that some units were under quarantine after the notice of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO); and
- (b) he asked the DH or the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to deploy dedicated staff to Sha Tin and set up a hotline, so that DC Members could inquire about the

latest epidemic situation in real time.

17. Mr George WONG strongly condemned the DH and the HA for numerous absences from meetings. He also suggested that the STDO coordinate with various departments to make the DC Members know more clearly whether each case was a suspected case or merely a fever case, so as to allay the doubts of the community.

18. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he learned that the masks for outsourced staff of the HD were provided by the contractor, but there was a shortage of masks and frontline staff might not have had enough masks. He asked whether the Government would provide masks for outsourced staff;
- (b) regarding the epidemic prevention work, he asked about the coordination work of the STDO. He believed that the STDO should play a coordinating role in this epidemic; and
- (c) starting from 8<sup>th</sup> February, all persons entering Hong Kong through the Mainland would be required to undergo a 14-day compulsory quarantine after arriving in Hong Kong. However, the public was not clear about the home quarantine arrangements, such as whether there would be a quarantine centre in Sha Tin, how the measures would affect nearby residents and who would provide the sterilised items. He hoped that the STDO could provide relevant information.

19. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa believed that the Government's epidemic prevention work was inadequate. He was dissatisfied that the Government's procurement of masks was time-consuming. Members of the public queued up overnight for one mask and some even used the same mask for two weeks. The epidemic still had not been alleviated yet.

20. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he learned that some people under home quarantine had not received the "home quarantine bracelet" before the end of the quarantine period. He asked the Government how to effectively conduct home quarantine;
- (b) regarding the free outdoor facilities which were still open, he asked about the current cleansing and epidemic prevention measures of the LCSD; and
- (c) he hoped that the FEHD would continue to strengthen street cleaning.

21. The views of Ms WONG Man-huen were summarised below:

- (a) she strongly condemned the inadequate notification of the department on home quarantine matters, and the relevant departments and the STDO did not contact the housing estates or owners' corporations related to the home quarantine in time; and

- (b) recently, students did not need to go to school and there were a lot of people in the park. She received complaints from the public about the lack of security, inadequate cleansing and overflow of trash bins in Sha Tin Park. She asked how the LSCD would deal with it.

22. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that the meeting notices and papers on the table were not the latest version;
- (b) he was dissatisfied that the DO/ST did not attend the meeting and the relevant department failed to provide information on home quarantine; and
- (c) he believed that the Government was slow to report home quarantine information, and hoped that relevant departments could discuss with the HEC in another time to discuss how to fight the epidemic.

23. The views of Mr LO Tak-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he was surprised when he received the list of buildings where people were undergoing home quarantine for 14 days. Some home quarantine cases ended on 7<sup>th</sup> February, but the list was just announced on 6<sup>th</sup> February. He asked why the Government did not announce the list on the first day the residents were subject to home quarantine; and
- (b) he pointed out that DC Members had no knowledge of the quarantine list. Only the night before they learned that some residents needed to undergo home quarantine, but the best time for disinfection had passed. He was worried about a major outbreak in the community. He asked how the Government could improve the notification mechanism.

24. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the FEHD could step up street cleaning;
- (b) he asked the STDO about the progress of the procurement of disinfection supplies;
- (c) the outsourced cleaners of the FEHD lacked masks. The security personnel of housing estates also faced the same problem. Private clinic doctors had to suspend their services due to a shortage of masks, too. As everyone in Macau was now allocated with masks, he wanted to know what measures the Hong Kong Government would take; and
- (d) he believed that the Government should implement a comprehensive border closure and deal with those Hong Kong people who were still staying in Hubei Province.

25. The views of Mr CHAN Wan-tung were summarised below:
- (a) he would like to know how to contact the DO/ST;
  - (b) he pointed out that the hotline of the DH often could not be reached;
  - (c) he pointed out that the Government had been slow to announce the quarantine list. The last quarantine day of a certain unit in Hin Keng Estate was 8<sup>th</sup> February, which meant that the quarantine had already begun. However, he once asked the management company and related persons, and they all said that they did not know the relevant arrangements. The DH explained that there was a delay in publishing the quarantine list because it was too late to update the website. He suggested that the Department should report it through other press media; and
  - (d) he wanted to know what support the Government provided to the quarantined person, how to monitor their physical condition and make a report further.
26. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:
- (a) there were not enough trash bins on the street, and only trash bags were available. He wanted to know whether the FEHD would provide more trash bins with lids to collect the discarded masks;
  - (b) he asked whether the FEHD would provide personal protective equipment other than masks to outsourced cleaning staff; and
  - (c) he asked the LCSD and the FEHD what epidemic prevention measures were in place within the department and its management.
27. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:
- (a) he was dissatisfied that relevant departments such as the DH, HA and CHP did not send representatives to attend the meeting. As members of the public were panic buying daily necessities such as masks, rice, tissues, etc., he opined that the Government should appease the people at least; and
  - (b) he hoped that the FEHD could step up cleaning the streets and the surrounding environment, and provide adequate protective equipment to the outsourced workers.
28. The views of Mr YEUNG Sze-kin were summarised below:
- (a) he expressed his regret that the DH and the HA did not send representatives to attend the meeting; and
  - (b) he enquired about the number of trash bins in Sha Tin, the ratio of trash bins to residents in Sha Tin, and whether the number of trash bins would be increased. He also asked about what coordination work would be conducted by the STDO.

29. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) the rubbish on the footbridge and escalator has not been cleaned up for many days. He asked the FEHD if they would strengthen the floor cleaning service;
- (b) he asked whether the FEHD could ensure that the cleaning staff had adequate protective equipment; and
- (c) he asked about the Government's measures to block the masks of unknown origin and regulate their sale.

30. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he thought that the Government has performed poorly in epidemic prevention. Regarding the funding of masks from the DC, he suggested that the procurement procedures should be streamlined, and funds should be allocated to charitable organisations to be responsible for the procurement work, so that the masks could be forwarded to those in need as soon as possible;
- (b) he learned that some of the outsourced cleaning staff of the FEHD brought their own masks. He wanted to know if the contractor had enough masks for frontline staff. In addition, he would like to know the timetable for the Department to replace the trash cans;
- (c) he hoped that the MTR Corporation Limited could increase the garbage bins with lids for disposal of masks; and
- (d) regarding home quarantine arrangements, he suggested that the STDO should communicate with all parties.

31. The views of Mr LUI Kai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) regarding the issue of masks for frontline cleaners, he hoped that the FEHD could monitor whether the contractor had provided sufficient equipment to its staff; and
- (b) regarding home quarantine, he asked whether the Government had provided home quarantine and other items to those people under quarantine.

32. Mr LO Yuet-chau requested to meet the Secretary for Home Affairs, and asked why the DH had submitted the quarantine list to the DC Members so late. He criticised the Department for not setting guidelines to publish information on home quarantine, which caused panic in the community and panic buying.

33. Mr YAU Man-chun said that the Government only announced the home quarantine list yesterday. He suggested that the Chairman ask the DH and the CHP in writing after the meeting why the quarantine list was announced so late. The quarantine list was only announced yesterday, and the quarantine was completed on 7<sup>th</sup> February. He believed that the quarantine list should be announced within the next few days to increase public awareness of epidemic prevention.

34. Mr WONG Ho-fung strongly condemned the absence of relevant departments from the meeting. Hong Kong had a high population density. He believed that the Government should announce the quarantine list as soon as possible and implement a comprehensive border closure. He asked how the Government could ensure that home quarantine was effective.

35. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) there were residents in Sunshine City, Ma On Shan who needed to be subjected to home quarantine, and the shopping mall was the only way for residents to go home. However, he said that the DH had not contacted the MOS Town for epidemic prevention arrangements at all;
- (b) he would like to know the details of the quarantine arrangements for those returning to Hong Kong from the Mainland;
- (c) the waterfront promenade had a high utilisation rate. He asked if the LCSD had stepped up the cleaning measures; and
- (d) he wanted to know when the Ma On Shan Sub-office would reopen.

36. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:

- (a) many local residents complained that the FEHD outsourced cleaners swept the garbage into the pits when washing the floor, which worsened the environmental hygiene in the area. He hoped the Department would supervise more; and
- (b) due to the shortage of masks, inferior masks appeared in the district and were sold at high prices. He hoped that the Government would purchase masks and check the quality of masks.

37. The views of Mr LAI Tsz-yan were summarised below:

- (a) at present, only those returning from Hubei were quarantined. He opined that all persons returning from the Mainland should be quarantined; and
- (b) he said that there were many isolated units in his electoral district, and many neighbors asked him for help, but he lacked supplies. He regretted the slow response of the Government to the epidemic prevention work.

38. The views of Mr HUI Yui-yu were summarised below:

- (a) he suggested that the STDO issue the quarantine list to the DC Members and the management office of the relevant housing estate as soon as possible, so that the DC Members or the management office could notify the residents immediately;

- (b) regarding epidemic prevention, he suggested that the STDO should transfer the epidemic prevention guidelines of the DH to the management company. He asked whether the Government had distributed epidemic prevention pamphlets or leaflets to residents of buildings with confirmed cases, and distributed emergency epidemic prevention supplies to disadvantaged groups in the community; and
- (c) he asked the FEHD to undertake that each cleaning worker would be given two masks and goggles every day.

39. The views of Mr CHIU Chu-pong were summarised below:

- (a) he condemned the DH and the HA for not sending representatives to the meeting;
- (b) 1 person under quarantine in Shui Chuen O Estate completed the quarantine on 7<sup>th</sup> February, but DC Members and the estate management office only learned about the incident on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Inferring from time, the person under quarantine in Shui Chuen O Estate should have been quarantined at the end of January, but the entire community knew nothing about it. He asked why the STDO did not inform the DC Member of the concerned constituency and the housing estate management office. He suspected that the Government was concealing the epidemic situation, and suggested that the STDO disclose the quarantine list to the DC Members and the management office of the relevant housing estate as soon as possible;
- (c) he wanted to know how the STDO, the DH and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) could assist people under home quarantine;
- (d) regarding the mandatory 14-day quarantine, the Government did not announce any actual arrangements. He also suggested using the Hong Kong Police College in Wong Chuk Hang and the San Uk Ling Holding Centre as quarantine sites; and
- (e) he asked when the Government would spend the \$10 billion Anti-epidemic Fund.

40. Mr HUI Lap-san said that panic buying occurred in the community because people no longer trusted the Government. As the STDO promised to provide hand sanitizer to DC Members, he would like to know the timetable.

41. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> February, it was reported that a resident in Sun Tin Wai Estate was infected. It was finally discovered that it was a false report. This aroused a lot of discussions among the residents and they kept checking with him. He considered that the Government's dissemination of epidemic information was confusing and should be reviewed; and
- (b) the HD completely banned the use of all recreational and sports facilities in the

housing estates in order to reduce public exposure to public objects. He would like to know if the LCSD had taken the same measures.

42. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the LCSD and FEHD for attending the meeting;
- (b) he wanted to know whether the frontline staff had sufficient anti-epidemic equipment, the Government's quarantine arrangements and how many quarantined cases could be handled, whether there were designated clinics in Sha Tin District, and the home quarantine arrangements. However, the relevant departments did not send representatives to attend the meeting to answer DC Members' questions; and
- (c) the electronic bracelet project started on 3th February, and the quarantine list was announced on 4<sup>th</sup> February. He discovered that there were originally several housing estates in Ma On Shan that were on the list and some units were under quarantine. Having contacted several departments, he initially learned about the arrangement of home recommendations. He understood that home quarantine was a collaborative mechanism. The DH would contact the SWD and the STDO, but the STDO had not contacted relevant housing estates and OCs at once. He also asked why the DO/ST was absent from the meeting.

43. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he consolidated all opinions, including outsourced cleaning staff's masks and supporting equipment, condemning the community liaison work of the STDO and insufficient epidemic prevention, and the accountability of the DH; and
- (b) he asked the FEHD to answer questions about the supply of garbage bins and masks, and asked the LCSD to answer questions about cleaning up park management facilities.

44. Mr Simon LI, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)<sup>2</sup> of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the latest situation of the novel coronavirus, the LCSD closed its facilities, including swimming pools, sports fields and indoor facilities such as indoor gymnasias, starting from 29<sup>th</sup> January. As for the outdoor charging venues, they would also be closed, including tennis courts and lawn rolling courts. The reservation counters of the LCSD venues and the Leisure Link Self-service Kiosks were also temporarily suspended. The drinking fountains in the park were completely suspended. Free facilities at outdoor venues would remain open as usual, and the staff of the LCSD, outsourced cleaning staff and security guards would be reduced to the minimum manpower to minimise the contact of colleagues at work;
- (b) the LCSD had strengthened the cleanliness of the venue in accordance with the epidemic prevention guidelines provided by relevant departments, including posting relevant notices at the venue to remind the public to keep their personal

cleanliness, and stepping up actions to prevent park users from acting unclean behaviours such as littering;

- (c) regarding the cleaning arrangements for the Shing Mun riverside grounds, he said that the cleaning staff would still maintain services for toilets and recreational facilities, children's playgrounds and elderly fitness facilities, etc. which would be disinfected with 1:99 diluted household bleach;
- (d) regarding the equipment of outsourced cleaning staff, according to the contract, the cleaning service contractor needed to provide employees with personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, etc. The LCSD had not received any information that the contractor could not provide relevant equipment. However, the Department would closely contact the relevant contractor or cleaning staff every day to inquire about the status of the relevant equipment. As some venues of the LCSD had been closed, the number of cleaning staff at work has decreased. Correspondingly, the need to use protective equipment has also decreased. The Department would also deploy the equipment in closed venues for use in venues where the equipment was required;
- (e) regarding the cleanliness of facilities which were open free, staff would continue to provide cleaning services;
- (f) regarding the cleanliness of Sha Tin Park, he pointed out that there were currently more than 100 garbage bins in Sha Tin Park and 4 to 5 large garbage bins. The Department would step up inspections of the garbage bin cleaning and take timely follow-up action;
- (g) regarding the cleanliness of the Ma On Shan promenade, the promenade was about 2 kilometres long and provided toilets and recreational facilities. In order to strengthen the disinfection and cleaning of related facilities during the epidemic prevention period, the Department would deploy cleaning staff from closed venues to perform disinfection and cleaning work at the Ma On Shan Promenade; and
- (h) for the HD's complete closure of outdoor recreational facilities, he would bring relevant opinions back to the Department for review and consideration.

45. Mr Derek LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in response to the novel coronavirus epidemic situation, the FEHD would strengthen the management of cleanliness of facilities, including the cleaning and disinfection of cooked food markets, public toilets and refuse collection points in public markets. The Department would install adhesive plastic film on lift buttons in public markets, and the escalator handrails and adhesive plastic film on lift buttons would be disinfected with 1:99 diluted household bleach every hour during market operation. The toilets in markets would be cleaned and disinfected with 1:99 diluted household bleach once every two hours during market operation. If vomit or other dirty objects that had a serious impact on

hygiene were found in the market, they would be cleaned immediately and the concerned places would be disinfected with 1:49 diluted household bleach. As for other public places in the market, they were disinfected at least 4 times a day with 1:99 diluted household bleach during the business hours. In public toilets with a toilet duty officer on duty, the floor, toilets, urinals, wash basins, toilet seats, doors, handrails and buttons, etc. in the public toilets would be cleaned and disinfected with 1:99 diluted household bleach once every two hours. Other public toilets without toilet duty staff would be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day with 1:99 diluted household bleach;

- (b) the Department would issue information to the food trade associations. When inspecting food premises, it reminded the responsible personnel of the food premises to not only pay attention to the personal hygiene of the staff and keep the premises and equipment clean, but also ensure food hygiene, and called on market stall operators to clean their stalls thoroughly;
- (c) the Department would take enforcement actions against those who caused environmental hygiene problems, including littering, spitting and other unhygienic behaviours in public places;
- (d) upon receipt of notification from the DH, the FEHD would visit the residential units of confirmed patients to carry out cleaning and disinfection work. The cleaning team was composed of 1 Health Inspector and at least 2 cleaning workers. As for the public areas of buildings and other housing estates, the Department would request the relevant property management offices to perform cleaning and disinfection work for lift lobbies, lifts, corridors, stairs and places where residents would touch, etc.;
- (e) when notified by the DH of a confirmed case, in addition to arranging home disinfection, the Department would also use 1:99 diluted household bleach to clean the pavement outside the housing estate every day for 14 consecutive days;
- (f) in addition, if the FEHD was informed by the DH that relevant units or persons needed to be quarantined at home, the Department would collect garbage from private premises;
- (g) regarding the reduction of trash cans on the street and the replacement of trash cans with transparent plastic bags, he said that he would review the situation with the Department and replace them with trash cans with lids when appropriate. He explained that the use of transparent plastic bags was for safety and to avoid damage to the trash can;
- (h) the masks for the outsourced cleaning staff were provided by the cleaning contractor. The Department has reminded the cleaning contractor to provide enough masks for the staff to use. Supervisors of the foreman grade also came to the site to contact the cleaning staff to check if there were enough supplies. For general cleaning, the cleaning staff did not need to wear eye masks, but for household cleaning and disinfection in the home of the confirmed patient, the cleaning staff must wear a complete set of protective clothing, including full-body

sealed protective clothing, gloves, eye masks, masks, etc.; and

- (i) as for the situation of the outsourced cleaning staff sweeping rubbish into the pits, he said that he would follow up the matter again. If the investigation was confirmed, the Department would impose penalties on the relevant contractors.

46. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he understood that the FEHD has a special team to clean the homes of confirmed cases, and the building management office was responsible for public areas. However, in the case of Sunshine City as an example, the management office was not notified of the confirmed case in the housing estate, so the management office did not clean the public areas without knowing it. This reflected that the notification mechanism needed to be reviewed;
- (b) he asked the STDO to answer questions about the guidelines and procedures for the release of quarantine information, the progress of the maintenance of the Ma On Shan Sub-office, and the promise of when to distribute hand sanitizer; and
- (c) he said that it might be necessary to convene a special meeting to invite various departments to explain the epidemic prevention measures.

47. Mr Simon WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (1) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) committee meetings were usually attended by the Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) as a representative;
- (b) regarding the role of the STDO in home quarantine, he said that after receiving the home quarantine list issued by the DH, the STDO would contact the home quarantine personnel one by one to explain the relevant laws under home quarantine and inquire about the people's daily life. If necessary, the arrangement of meals, daily necessities, etc., would be forwarded to the SWD for follow-up action. The SWD would provide relevant daily necessities and arrange meals. The STDO had a 24-hour hotline for home quarantine personnel to contact. Under the home quarantine arrangement, persons under quarantine needed to take their own body temperature regularly. If they had fever or felt unwell, they could contact the CHP directly; and
- (c) after receiving the home quarantine list, the STDO would send a letter to the relevant mutual aid committee and management company on the same day. The management company of Sunshine City was also the management company of the shopping mall, so the STDO had sent a letter to inform relevant units such as Sunshine City and Shui Chuen O Estate.

48. Mr Sebastian WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (2) responded to the purchase of anti-epidemic items. He said that the supply of masks and hand sanitizer in the market was unstable. Due to the Chinese New Year holiday and the epidemic outbreak, some factories did not operate or had just resumed work recently. He said that the STDO was making every effort

to make a procurement, and it was expected that hand sanitizer would be purchased within three months the earliest. It would be distributed to various parties in Sha Tin District, including DC Members, schools and residents' organisations.

49. The Chairman asked the DH to respond to the requirements for the release of quarantine information, the effectiveness of electronic bracelets, the inadequate supervision of inferior masks, the use of anti-epidemic funds, and the arrangements of anti-epidemic clinics.

50. Mr Simon WONG added that the Ma On Shan Sub-office was expected to reopen in the first quarter.

51. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO said that there was no problem with the online version of the papers, while the papers put on the conference table had problems due to insufficient communication between colleagues. He apologised for this.

52. Mr CHAN Pui-ming temporarily acted as Chairman. said that he had received a provisional motion from Mr Wilson LI and agreed to deal with the motion. He asked if any members objected to it. He stated that he had not received any objection from members to deal with the provisional motion.

53. Mr Wilson LI proposed the following provisional motion:

“Since the first case of Wuhan Pneumonia was identified in Hong Kong, the number of infection keeps increasing and a death case is even caused. In view of this, the Sha Tin District Council has twice discussed the outbreak of Wuhan Pneumonia. However, related departments such as the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority did not send representatives to the meetings on 23 January and 6 February. The Committee is well aware that departments are occupied with diseases prevention work, but being absent for two consecutive meetings, failing to report the situation and to listen to the public views by sending a representative to the meeting, has deprived the public of their further access to the information on diseases prevention arrangement.

The risk of community outbreak of the disease is increasing. However, the slow response of related departments in respect of disease prevention is disappointing. For example, when patients were put under mandatory home quarantine, the concerned buildings, housing estates or DC Members were not informed of the arrangement, and the list of buildings was not immediately updated. Such failure of prompt notification not only affects the residents of the concerned buildings, but also undermines public awareness of diseases prevention. Public safety is disregarded as people's right to know is deprived and the community can find no channel for communication.

Motion: The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council deeply regrets the absence of the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority from two consecutive meetings for discussion of the disease outbreak, as well as the absence of a comprehensive strategy on diseases prevention in the community.

The Committee demands that the relevant departments give an account of diseases prevention to the District Council as soon as possible, and actively consider the implementation of the motions passed at the meetings on 3 January and 23 January by the Committee, including immediate border closure, in order to safeguard the health of people in Hong Kong.”

Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TING Tsz-yuen and Mr CHAN Pui-ming seconded the motion.

54. Mr Simon WONG asked whether Mr Wilson LI would consider changing the background of the motion. According to the mechanism, if there was a home quarantine case, the CHP would immediately go to the relevant residence to explain the latest situation, and after receiving the quarantine list, the STDO would immediately send a letter and call the relevant unit to explain the relevant arrangements.

55. Mr Michael YUNG said that the STDO had not done enough in reporting on home quarantine. If the STDO's intelligence work had been done well, the DC Members, corporations of housing estates and management offices would not have been unaware of the home quarantine list.

56. Mr SHEK William said that the management office of Sunshine Grove was informed by DC Members in other districts that there were cases of home quarantine in the housing estate, while the STDO only notified the housing estate later. He considered that the STDO should review the notification mechanism.

57. Mr Chris MAK opined that the Government's notification was insufficient. He suggested that it should be added in the motion that the STDO should take up the coordinating role and work with the DH, the FEHD and the HD to fight the epidemic with the public.

58. Mr Raymond LI proposed to point out the negligence of the STDO on this issue in the background of the motion.

59. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked the STDO to explain when the DH received notification of home epidemic prevention arrangements, whether it received the home epidemic prevention list announced by the DH on 4<sup>th</sup> February, and when the STDO first contacted the relevant housing estates for related arrangements.

60. Mr Simon WONG said that according to the mechanism, the STDO would contact the relevant business owners and provide relevant information on the day they received the home quarantine list issued by the CHP. This mechanism was updated daily. So, if a quarantine list of the Sha Tin District was received, the STDO would handle it and issue an notification on the same day.

61. Regarding the case in Oceanaire, Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked whether the STDO received the relevant quarantine order on January 21.

62. Mr Simon WONG added that the STDO only notified the relevant parties after the CHP issued a quarantine order. He also said that he did not have any information in hand, and if any

members think it was necessary, they could provide it after the meeting.

63. Mr Wilson LI expressed regret that the motion was mainly aimed at the absence of relevant departments from the meeting. He opined that the examples presented in the background were appropriate and accurate, so he would not modify it.

64. Mr Michael YUNG suggested adding in the background that it was with regret that the lack of communication between the STDO and stakeholders in the district had caused the housing estate's failure to adopt appropriate epidemic prevention measures to reduce the risk of home quarantine.

65. Mr Wilson LI believed that the content proposed by Mr Michael YUNG was specific and reasonable, and the motion could be revised.

66. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned for 5 minutes to discuss the amendment to the motion.

67. Mr Wilson LI read out the provisional motion after discussion:

“Since the first case of Wuhan Pneumonia was identified in Hong Kong, the number of infection keeps increasing and a death case is even caused. In view of this, the Sha Tin District Council has twice discussed the outbreak of Wuhan Pneumonia. However, related departments such as the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority did not send representatives to the meetings on 23 January and 6 February. The Committee is well aware that departments are occupied with diseases prevention work, but being absent for two consecutive meetings, failing to report the situation and to listen to the public views by sending a representative to the meeting, has deprived the public of their further access to the information on diseases prevention arrangement.

The risk of community outbreak of the disease is increasing. However, the slow response of related departments in respect of disease prevention is disappointing. For example, when patients were put under mandatory home quarantine, the concerned buildings, housing estates or DC Members were not informed of the arrangement, and the list of buildings was not immediately updated. Such failure of prompt notification not only affects the residents of the concerned buildings, but also undermines public awareness of diseases prevention. Public safety is disregarded as people's right to know is deprived and the community can find no channel for communication.

Motion: The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council deeply regrets the absence of the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority from two consecutive meetings for discussion of the disease outbreak, the failure of the Sha Tin District Office to notify community stakeholders, including owners' corporations / owners' committees / mutual aid committees / estate management offices and DC Members, of the isolation orders, which has hindered the joint revision of a strategy and measures on diseases prevention to minimise the chance of community outbreak, as well as the absence of a comprehensive strategy on diseases prevention in the community.

The Committee demands that the relevant departments give an account of diseases prevention to the District Council as soon as possible, and actively consider the implementation of the motions passed at the meetings on 3 January and 23 January by the Committee, including immediate border closure, in order to safeguard the health of people in Hong Kong.”

Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TING Tsz-yuen and Mr CHAN Pui-ming seconded the motion.

68. The members unanimously passed the provisional motion in paragraph 67.

Formation of a Working Group on the Procurement Matters Related to Diseases Prevention to Enhance the Public Health in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. HE 3/2020)

69. The Chairman stated that this paper invited members to consider and approve the establishment of Working Group on Enhancing the Public Health in Sha Tin District (Ad Hoc), and to apply to the STDC for a total of \$2 million in response to the latest situation of Hong Kong’s “serious new infectious pathogen respiratory system disease”, and co-organise environmental hygiene activities with non-governmental organisations in Sha Tin District. In order to fit in with the meeting schedule of the Finance and General Affairs Committee and the process of submitting the work plans and related funding applications by the working group took quite a long time, it was unable to cope with the continuous changes in the above-mentioned environmental and hygiene matters. It was recommended that the above-mentioned working group be established as soon as possible. Developing a framework for the working group, the HEC would directly submit a funding application for \$2 million and an application for virement of funds to the STDC for approval, so that the working group could directly start working and use the funding after it was established.

70. Mr CHING Cheung-ying stated that the funding available for the STDC was \$2.2 million, of which \$2 million was earmarked for the Working group on Enhancing the Public Health in Sha Tin District (Ad Hoc). At the same time, an application for funding was submitted today. He hoped the working group could start discussion and the work as soon as possible. Upon approval of this funding application by the HEC, it must also be discussed and approved at the STDC meeting on 13rd February. He also pointed out that the term of the terms of reference could be extended at the meeting of the HEC.

71. The Chairman asked the members whether they agreed with the terms of reference of the working group in the paper, the members of the working group being STDC Members, and a member of the HEC elected being the convener of the working group at the same time.

72. Mr MOK Kam-kwai pointed out that the funding of \$2 million was not enough to cover the costs of anti-epidemic items allocated to all residents of Sha Tin District. He suggested that masks or hand sanitizer should be designated for distribution to certain people and how to distribute them should be discussed.

73. Mr Michael YUNG hoped that the convener of the working group would adopt the opinion of Mr MOK Kam-kwai. Since the funding was from the 2019-20 financial year, if there was no agency to make a bid, the funding would be returned to the Treasury. He asked the DO/ST to consider allowing the working group to purchase masks from the Correctional Services

Department under the circumstances that no supplier was willing to supply masks, whether to allow the \$2 million allocation to be carried forward to the next financial year for future use, and whether the procurement regulations could be relaxed to deal with an emergent epidemic situation.

74. Mr Raymond LI believed that the members of the working group had to be members of the District Council so that they would have a better understanding of the content and progress of the meeting. He wanted to know if he could obtain masks from the Correctional Services Department.

75. Mr Felix CHOW agreed with the establishment of this Working Group very much. He wanted to know which non-governmental organisations met the criteria and how the items would be allocated to the residents in the district. He also suggested that it be distributed to designated groups in the community.

76. Mr George WONG asked whether the STDO and the DC Secretariat had contacted any organisations interested in this project. If there was no agency to make a bid, he asked how to deal with it.

77. Dr LAM Kong-kwan expressed his support for funding, but it had to be used appropriately. He said that at the STDC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, the purchase of masks was proposed. He asked if the processing of this funding could be given priority.

78. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he corrected that it was the motion of 23<sup>rd</sup> January that the purchase of masks was proposed. He asked the Secretariat whether the processing of the funding could be sped up and whether the funding could be carried forward to the next financial year; and
- (b) he learned that some groups would donate anti-epidemic materials to the STDC. He wanted to know whether the materials would be handled by the working group or distributed under the co-ordination of the STDO.

79. Mr SHEK William said that according to the funding application, the publicity work accounted for \$620,000. He considered it too expensive and would rather use more resources to buy anti-epidemic supplies. The number of beneficiaries was about 27 600, and the average number of beneficiaries in each district was only about 650. He wanted to know how many millilitres each hand sanitizer was.

80. The Chairman said that the way to distribute materials would be discussed at the working group. He asked the Secretariat to answer how the funding would be arranged if there was no institution to make a bid.

81. Mr Derek YUEN said that the funding was for the 2019-20 financial year and could not be used in the next financial year. However, the procedure could be streamlined and the working group meeting could be carried out as soon as possible. He proposed that in order to speed up the process, if the committee members agreed, the circulation time for joining the working group could be shortened, and the funding application could be submitted to the STDC

for approval by circulation.

82. Mr Chris MAK asked whether a membership list of the working group could be drawn up.

83. The Chairman proposed that the deadline for registration to join the HEC be advanced to 7<sup>th</sup> February. The membership list of the working group would be confirmed on 10<sup>th</sup> February, and the working group meeting would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Regarding the election of a member to be the convener of the working group, and the requirement that the members of the working group must be DC Members, he asked the members if they had any objections. If there was no objection, the proposal would be unanimously endorsed. He announced the official establishment of the working group and commencement of the process of electing a convener.

84. The Chairman asked the committee members to nominate candidates to be the convener of the Working Group on Enhancing the Public Health in Sha Tin District (Ad Hoc).

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Mr Chris MAK	Mr HUI Lap-san	Ms TSANG So-lai Mr WAI Hing-cheung Mr CHENG Chung-hang Mr Johnny CHUNG Mr Felix CHOW

85. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman announced the end of the nomination. As only 1 candidate was nominated for the post of convener of the working group, he announced that Mr Chris MAK was elected ipso facto.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

86. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on March 10, 2020 (Tuesday).

87. The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/40

March 2020