

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2020

Date : 7 July 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:42 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr TING Tsz-yuen (Chairman)	DC Member	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming (Vice-Chairman)	”	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	2:43 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:45 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	2:45 pm	5:16 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	”	3:06 pm	6:28 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	”	3:56 pm	5:17 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	”	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	”	2:46 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	”	2:42 pm	4:53 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	”	2:42 pm	5:16 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	”	2:42 pm	6:27 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	”	3:13 pm	6:25 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	5:36 pm	7:30 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	”	2:42 pm	4:16 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	”	2:59 pm	6:06 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	2:42 pm	6:04 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	2:42 pm	5:13 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	”	2:42 pm	6:03 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	”	2:46 pm	7:30 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	”	3:01 pm	6:28 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	”	2:42 pm	7:22 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	”	3:46 pm	7:30 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	”	2:42 pm	7:26 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	”	2:42 pm	2:47 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	”	2:42 pm	6:07 pm
Mr SHEK William	”	2:42 pm	6:57 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	”	2:42 pm	4:52 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	”	3:47 pm	4:55 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	2:47 pm	5:07 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:42 pm	6:59 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	”	2:42 pm	7:30 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	”	2:48 pm	6:26 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:46 pm	7:30 pm
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	”	5:43 pm	7:30 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:42 pm	4:26 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	2:42 pm	7:30 pm

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Ms LEE Yin-ching, Karen	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office		
<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2		
Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department		
Ms MOK Siu-fan	Assistant Housing Manager (Sun Chui)3, Housing Department		
Mr NG Raymond Tjeng	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional N) 4, Environmental Protection Department		
Mr LEE Ho-yin	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department		
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office		
Mr CHOY Cho-hei, Saki	Executive Assistant (District Council)5, Sha Tin District Office		
<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr WONG Ho Yeung, Jason	Senior Engineering / Project Management 1 Drainage Services Department		
Mr LEUNG Tsz-kit, Leo	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)11, Environmental Protection Department		
Mr LI Tak-pong	Engineering (Sha Tin), Drainage Services Department		
Mr LAU Ching-kong, Vincent	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin)1, Education Bureau		
Mr LAU Wei	Deputy Project Manager, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited		
Ms NG Tsing-yi	Project Engineer, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited		
Mr KONG Dong-ming	Traffic Consultant, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited		
<u>Absent</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	DC Member	(Application for leave of absence received)	
Ms NG Ting-lam	”	(”)	

Action

Welcome Message

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the fourth meeting of Health and Environment Committee (HEC) this year.

2. The Chairman informed all attendees that some members of the media, being present as observers, were taking photographs and making video and audio recordings.

3. Mr MOK Kam-kwai said that Mr CHAN Pui-ming had named the virus inappropriately in his questions. He thought that if the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) used that name in the record, the public would think that members did not know the official name of the virus.

4. The Chairman said that the questions raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming had been listed in the minutes of the previous two meetings. Since the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA) had not sent representatives to these meetings, discussions about his questions were postponed to this meeting. He said that members could enjoy a higher degree of freedom in terms of wording in raising questions, and Official Languages Officers were responsible for revising some words to make sentences clear and coherent.

5. Ms Karen LEE, Executive Officer (District Council)3 of Sha Tin District Office (STDO), pointed out that after the Secretariat received questions from members, it would forward the questions to Official Languages Offices for proofreading and revision to make sentences clear and coherent. And the questions raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming were also processed with the above-mentioned procedures.

6. Dr LAM Kong-kwan enquired with the Secretariat about whether it would explain to members who raised questions about the relevant words they used. He pointed out that there was no evidence proving that the pneumonia came from Wuhan. Without any evidence, this name should not be used, but the official name instead. He asked whether it was the responsibility of the STDC or the Secretariat to remind members of it.

7. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that the relevant paper had long been listed in the agendas of the previous meetings, but since it had not been discussed yet, it was postponed to this meeting. He pointed out that members had the right to decide what words to be used in raising questions and moving motions. He thought that it was not inappropriate to use the words “Wuhan Pneumonia” and it was hard to forbid people from using other names which were not official for diseases. He hoped to start discussions about the items of the agenda as soon as possible.

8. Mr Michael YUNG said that the official name of the virus was COVID-19. However, Dr LAM Kong-kwan did not know that the first confirmed case of Hong Kong was a resident from Hoi Nam Constituency who came back Hong Kong from Wuhan. He thought that when the virus was not officially named, “Wuhan Pneumonia” was known to the public. He suggested that if we attached importance to naming, the STDO should make a list of taboos terms. He could not understand why the member left after expressing his views, and he thought that the member should explain his views.

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

- (a) he wanted to have an in-depth discussion with Dr LAM Kong-kwan but he had left. It was known that a confirmed case visited a restaurant in Shek Mun in the past two days, but Dr LAM had left this meeting without expressing the residents’ worries. He expressed regret for this; and
- (b) he believed that no matter what positions they were at on the political spectrum, all the people of Hong Kong understood the meaning of “Wuhan Pneumonia”. He thought that it was not necessary to get entangled in this matter.

10. Mr WONG Ho-fung said that members should be concerned about the outbreak of the epidemic instead of chewing words over, which was a waste of time. He hoped to start discussions about the items of the agenda as soon as possible.

11. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that the Chairman started the meeting at 2:42 p.m., but two members had left the meeting at 2:48 p.m. He wanted to know that according to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (Standing Orders), whether the two members were deemed to have attended the meeting since they had left so early. If so, since members were paid the same salary, it was unfair to other members.

12. The Chairman pointed out that when the meeting began, these two members were still here, so they were deemed to have attended the meeting. The joining and leaving times of the

meeting of members would be recorded in the meeting minutes. These two members might have other official commitments and might join the meeting again. It was hard to guess at the moment.

Applications for Leave of Absence

13. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following Members:

Mr Chris MAK	Official Commitment
Ms NG Ting-lam	”
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	”

(Note: Mr CHENG Chung-hang joined the meeting at 3:56pm.)

14. Members unanimously approved the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 25 March 2020
(HEC Minutes 5/2020)

15. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 5 May 2020
(HEC Minutes 6/2020)

16. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said that he did not intend to make amendments but wanted to enquire about matters mentioned in the minutes. In paragraph 105(a), it was mentioned that after his questions were included in the agenda, the number of rubbish bins on Sha Tin Centre Street increased. However, after the meeting, there were only three rubbish bins in the vicinity of Sha Tin Centre Street. He wanted to know why those rubbish bins that were there before disappeared.

(Post meeting note: The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had temporarily removed the rubbish bins on Sha Tin Centre Street for cleaning and repair. However, due to misunderstandings between the cleansing service contractor and the staff of the FEHD, the delivery was delayed and same number of rubbish bins were not put back. At present, the FEHD had put those rubbish bins back and it would continue to pay attention to their use. The FEHD had reviewed its relevant work and reminded contractors to avoid similar incidents.)

17. Mr Derek LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD, said that a reply would be provided after investigation. After the last meeting, the FEHD had increased the number of rubbish bins. As to the current situation of a reduction of rubbish bins, he needed to follow up.

18. The Chairman requested the representative of the FEHD to reply in the next meeting.

19. Mr Michael YUNG said that there was something wrong in paragraph 143 of the meeting minutes. He pointed out that at that time, he had raised views regarding relevant contents, including asking about reasons and explaining the arranged procedure. He asked whether the Secretary had uploaded the recording of the meeting to the website of the STDC; If not, where was the recording. He thought that if it was not mentioned in the meeting minutes about why some words of his questions were deleted, then there was something wrong in the meeting minutes written by the Secretariat. He asked how this problem should be dealt with and demanded that the recording be played on the spot.

20. The Chairman asked Mr Michael YUNG whether it would be processed in Question 4 (b).

21. Mr Michael YUNG said that meeting minutes should be accurate and he opposed the Secretary's deliberate deletion of words in the minutes. He requested to not endorse the meeting minutes and wanted to listen the whole meeting recording with the Secretariat to see why the meeting minutes were written in this way.

22. Ms Karen LEE said that the views raised by Mr Michael YUNG as he had mentioned above should be listed in paragraph 11 of the meeting minutes.

23. Mr Michael YUNG said that it was different from what he remembered. He required that the meeting minutes should not be endorsed for the time being and said that whether there was something wrong in the meeting minutes should only be decided after he had listened to the recording with the Secretariat after the meeting.

24. The Chairman said that he would listen to the recording with the Secretariat and Mr Michael YUNG after the meeting and the meeting minutes mentioned above should be endorsed at the next meeting.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. HE 30/2020)

25. The Chairman asked members to note that the reply of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) about illegal gambling was put on the tables.

26. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam pointed out that the DH replied that children health services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre had been gradually resumed since 1 June. Some residents reported that the DH had only resumed newborn care services while antenatal and postnatal services were suspended. At present confirmed cases appeared in Sha Tin District successively. Therefore, he wanted to move a provisional motion to request the DH to review the services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre as soon as possible. If possible, he hoped that it could be dealt with as soon as possible so that pregnant women could avoid going to high-risk areas.

27. The Chairman said that since the FHB, the DH and the HA had not sent any representative to this meeting, no representative could answer the questions raised by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam at the meeting.

28. The Chairman said that Mr SIN Cheuk-nam had moved a relevant provisional motion at the meeting held on 5 May. According to the Standing Orders, where the Council had made a decision on a specific issue, no further motion, discussion item or question should be raised in relation to that issue within a period of six months unless given consent from the Chairman or over half of the members of the Council. He said that he approved to deal with this motion and asked members present whether they were against it.
29. Mr CHAN Pui-ming pointed out that at that day, the provisional motion moved by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam was about Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre and now there were confirmed cases at and around Lek Yuen Estate. Since at present, some of the services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre were provided by Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre, he suggested that Mr SIN Cheuk-nam should consider changing the target of his motion to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre and required that some services provided by Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre should be provided by Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre to reduce the service load and the impact on nearby residents.
30. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that he would revise his provisional motion, and he required that the DH should review the services of Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre and resume the services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre as soon as possible if the situation permitted.
31. The Chairman asked members whether they agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam.
32. Members agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam.
33. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam moved a provisional motion as follows:

“Background

At present, Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre provides three service items only, that is, childhood immunisation service, registration service and follow-up jaundice treatment for newborn babies, and the provision of emergency contraceptive pills. Child health service, family planning service, woman health service, and antenatal and postnatal care service are all suspended. Pregnant women in Ma On Shan can only go to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre for check-up.

Nevertheless, locally transmitted cases, and even cases of cluster infection of Wuhan Pneumonia, have been found in Lek Yuen Estate since the end of May. Take Luk Chuen House cluster as an example, over 10 cases have been confirmed so far, which include 2 deaths. The situation is worrying. If pregnant women have no other choices but can only have check-up in Lek Yuen, they will be exposed to the risk of infection undoubtedly, which will definitely be a threat to the health of pregnant women and their foetuses.

Content of the provisional motion:

To protect the safety of pregnant women and other users, the Committee demands that the department review the service of Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre as soon as possible. The service of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre should

be fully resumed if possible, so that pregnant women can avoid going to high-risk areas. Besides, the Committee demands that the department explain what criteria it bases on to resume some of the services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre only.”

Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr CHAN Pui-ming seconded the motion.

34. Mr Michael YUNG pointed out that the words used in the motion were Lek Yuen Health Centre, while the words used in the reply of the DH were “two health centres”. He asked whether these words meant Lek Yuen Health Centre or Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre and suggested that the use of words should be accurate. Besides, he wanted to second the motion.

35. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that he would accept Mr Michael YUNG’s seconding of the motion and would deal with the wording problem later.

36. Mr CHAN Pui-ming suggested that “the services of Lek Yuen Health Centre” in the motion should be changed to “the services of Lek Yuen and Ma On Shan Health Centres”. Since there were two health centres in Sha Tin, the motion would be more comprehensive after revision.

37. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam moved an amended provisional motion as follows:

“Background:

At present, Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre provides three service items only, that is, childhood immunisation service, registration service and follow-up jaundice treatment for newborn babies, and the provision of emergency contraceptive pills. Child health service, family planning service, woman health service, and antenatal and postnatal care service are all suspended. Pregnant women in Ma On Shan can only go to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre for check-up.

Nevertheless, locally transmitted cases, and even cases of cluster infection of Wuhan Pneumonia, have been found in Lek Yuen Estate since the end of May. Take Luk Chuen House cluster as an example, over 10 cases have been confirmed so far, which include 2 deaths. The situation is worrying. If pregnant women have no other choices but can only have check-up in Lek Yuen, they will be exposed to the risk of infection undoubtedly, which will definitely be a threat to the health of pregnant women and their fetuses.

Content of the provisional motion:

To protect the safety of pregnant women and other users, the Committee demands that the department review the service of maternal and child health centres in Lek Yuen and Ma On Shan as soon as possible. The service of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre should be fully resumed if possible, so that pregnant women can avoid going to high-risk areas. Besides, the Committee demands that the department explain what criteria it bases on to resume some of the services of Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre only.”

Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr Michael YUNG seconded the motion.

38. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 37.

39. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Proposed Estimates and Funding Proposals of Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment) of 2020-2021
(Paper No. HE 19/2020 (Revised))

40. The Chairman pointed out that since there was no vetting sub-committee under Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment) of the HEC, the Chairman of the HEC was responsible for reviewing and approving applications. At the meeting held on 5 May, members said that they wanted to vote on the applications after receiving more information about the applications. Therefore, the Secretariat had put related information on the tables for members' reference.

41. The Chairman asked members to make declarations of interest regarding the seven organisations applying for funds, including the Century Women Association (Shatin), the Force Association, the Fung Mou Ci Wai Alumni Association (鳳舞慈懷同學會), the Heng On Residents Rights Association, the Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis and the Hong Kong Sports and Culture Association (香港體智會).

42. Mr CHIU Chu-pong declared that he was a member of the Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis, holding a non-major position.

43. Mr WONG Ho-fung declared that he was a member of the Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis, holding a non-major position.

44. Mr Raymond LI declared that he was a member of the Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis, holding a non-major position.

45. The Chairman said that if a member held a non-practical position, he/she should declare his/her interest before the relevant discussion, but he/she could still participate in the discussion, resolution and voting.

46. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said the number of participants of some activities reached 200 or 1 000 to 2 000. He wanted to know whether the STDO would provide epidemic prevention guidelines to the applicants.

47. Mr Sebastian WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)², said that while allocating funds, the Secretariat would remind applicants to comply with the legal requirements in force of the times they applied and the latest guidelines and arrangements of the DH.

48. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Formation of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 31/2020)

49. The Chairman asked members to consider whether they approved the establishment of the following two working groups and approve their terms of reference:

- (a) Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin; and
- (b) Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

50. Members unanimously approved the establishment of the above two working groups and their terms of reference.

51. The Chairman asked members to nominate candidates to be the convenor of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin.

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Nominator(s)</u>	<u>Seconder(s)</u>
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	Mr CHIU Chu-pong	Mr WONG Ho-fung Mr William SHEK Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa

52. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman announced that the nomination would be closed immediately and Mr CHAN Nok-hang was automatically elected as the convenor of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin.

53. The Chairman asked members to nominate candidates to be the convenor of the Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

54. The Chairman said that if there was no nomination for the time being, members could nominate candidates at the next meeting. If there was still no nomination by then, the establishment of the working group might be cancelled.

55. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the International Day of Disabled Person was on 3 December each year. If the working group was not established until the next meeting, there might not be enough of time for it to hold activities.

56. The Chairman asked members to nominate candidates to be the convenor of the Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Nominator(s)</u>	<u>Seconder(s)</u>
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	Mr CHIU Chu-pong	Mr HUI Lap-san Mr Ricardo LIAO Mr William SHEK Mr LO Yuet-chau

57. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman announced that the nomination would be closed immediately and Mr CHAN Pui-ming was automatically elected as the convenor of the Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

58. Members unanimously endorsed that the term of office of the above two working groups would start from 7 July 2020 to 31 December 2023, the date of the end of the term of the HEC.

2020 Work Plans of Working Group under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 32/2020)

59. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group under the Committee and an Increase in the Number of Members of Working Groups
(Paper No. HE 33/2020)

60. Members unanimously endorsed the above Paper.

Rehabilitation of Underground Sewers and Stormwater Drains -Remaining Works
(Paper No. HE 34/2020)

61. Mr Jason WONG, Senior Engineering/Project Management 1 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Mr LAU Wei, Deputy Project Manager of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited briefly presented the Paper.

62. Mr Jimmy SHAM pointed out that some residents reported that on rainy days, there would be puddles at the bus stop in front of Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School at Yuen Wo Road. When large vehicles passed by, passengers would get splashed. He pointed out that this road section was quite long, but there were not many stormwater drain covers. He asked whether it was the cause of puddles. He asked the DSD when it inspected stormwater drains, whether it would inspect whether there were enough stormwater drain covers and whether they could drain stormwater, so that passengers could avoid getting splashed. He wanted to know whether the DSD had any plan and whether it was aware of the situation.

63. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised below:

- (a) he wanted to know whether the new technology for drain rehabilitation would narrow the inner diameter of the drains and reduce their flow capacity; and
- (b) he pointed out that it was shown in the paper that numbers of works were being implemented at Tai Wai. He asked whether the roads would be affected during the works.

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

- (a) he hoped that the DSD could provide a briefing paper to members after the meeting;
- (b) he wanted to know the progress of the last stage of the rehabilitation works. He pointed out that rehabilitation works were required for a section of the drain in front of Hang Ming Street, Hang Kin Street and Vista Paradiso, and at that time, to carry out the rehabilitation works, some space of Renaissance College had to be borrowed. He enquired about the progress of the works;

- (c) he pointed out that a 70-metre-long pipe near Yan On Estate and Kam On Court needed to be replaced, and the works of the Universal Accessibility Programme would be implemented at the place in front of Kam On Court. Therefore, cratering would be needed. He hoped that the DSD could discuss with the Highways Department (HyD) on what the temporary traffic arrangements should be;
- (d) he said that Yan On Estate Phase II was under construction and the route of roads would be changed. He suggested that the DSD should discuss with the Housing Department (HD) on methods to deal with the works; and
- (e) he pointed out that works of insertion of liners would be carried out on the road section near Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH), which was now under phase 2 of the redevelopment works. He suggested that the DSD should carry out an on-the-spot investigation with Mr William SHEK to ensure that the access of construction vehicles would not be affected. He asked the DSD to explain its relevant arrangements.

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

- (a) he showed gratitude to Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited for sending representatives to this meeting to explain the works;
- (b) he wanted to know about the new lining technology of Cured-In-Place-Pipe. He pointed out that the relevant technology avoided digging too many drains. He enquired about the data of the risks and accidents of drain collapse or leakage following the adoption of the new technology; and
- (c) he pointed out that according to the plan, Lok Lo Ha was also covered by the works. It was known that there were also sewer problems at Royal Ascot. Since the sewers were located near the tracks during the construction of the housing estates, the implementation of maintenance works was difficult. He asked whether the DSD could provide support to Royal Ascot or discuss the implementation of sewer replacement works in the future.

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

- (a) according to the plan, the works would be implemented at Hang Fai Street in Yan On Estate, Ning Tai Road and the temporary car park in Yan On Estate. It was known that insertion works could only be implemented at night when the water consumption dropped. He pointed out that there was a LPG filling station at Hang Fai Street and taxis lined up there every night. Therefore, he wanted to know whether the insertion works could be implemented at that time. He said that while setting up for works, the only entrance might be blocked. Therefore, he wanted to know how the DSD would deal with it;
- (b) he pointed out that a place within the constituency of Mr CHAN Pui-ming was requisitioned as a temporary car park of Yan On Estate by the HD and he worried whether the implementation of the works would affect the use of the car park of the residents of Yan On Estate;

- (c) insertion works had be carried out outside the site office near the Sha Tin Cavern Sewage Treatment Works at Ning Tai Road. He pointed out that there was a serious illegal parking problem at that place in the evening, and he wanted to know how the works would be implemented;
- (d) he pointed out that if large-scale works were to be implemented near Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Pet Garden (Pet Garden), assemblies must be lowered from the roundabout with a crane. If the works was carried at night and set up at the fast lane, while taxis were lining up for filling. He asked how the DSD would deal with this problem and ensure road safety; and
- (e) he said that there was also an illegal parking problem at Hang Ming Street and therefore, he wanted to know how the DSD would set up for the works and whether it had been approved by the Traffic Branch.

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

- (a) he expressed gratitude to the DSD for implementing rehabilitation works. He pointed out that because of soil and water loss, the carriageways within his constituency collapsed and the HyD did not dig to consolidate underground road sections. He hoped that the DSD could fill up these road sections to avoid subsidence;
- (b) he pointed out that his constituency was close to PWH, and he said that there was a minibus stop and a taxi stand near the intersection of Chap Wai Kon Street and Ngan Shing Street while taxi drivers would park near the minibus stop, resulting in congestion. Besides, ambulances would also enter PWH through this road section. Therefore, he asked the DSD to pay attention to traffic conditions while implementing the works; and
- (c) some residents reported that the traffic signals at the crossing near Yue Tin Court and Ngan Shing Street changed rather quickly, causing traffic congestion there. He worried that there would be more serious traffic conditions while implementing the rehabilitation works.

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

- (a) he expressed gratitude to the DSD for implementing rehabilitation works; and
- (b) he pointed out that in Ma On Shan, some road sections where works would take place were comparatively narrow, for example, the road sections around Kam Ying Road. He wanted to know if the DSD had any contingency plan to ensure road safety in these road sections.

69. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that rehabilitation works would be implemented at the road section between Saddle Ridge Garden and Kam Ying Court. He enquired about the length of the drain to be rehabilitated according to the proportions designated in the plan. He wanted to know when the works would start and how long it

would take to complete the works and when the works would be completed; and

- (b) he wanted to know whether the DSD would attend a meeting again to explain to members the progress of the works. According to the views raised by members, they all supported the implementation of the rehabilitation works. However, members did not know the lengths of the drains for rehabilitation in their corresponding constituencies and relevant arrangements. He asked whether the DSD would explain to members the details after this meeting or at the next meeting.

70. Mr Jason WONG gave a consolidated response as follow:

- (a) he replied that regarding the flooding problem at Yuen Wo Road, it might be caused by reasons including outfall insufficiency and garbage piling up at outfalls. He pointed out that the DSD would deal with this problem by daily checking and cleaning. He said that he would forward the above-mentioned flooding problem to the Operation and Maintenance Branch of the DSD for follow-up. After inspection, he would inform Mr Jimmy SHAM of relevant situations and follow-up work;
- (b) regarding the enquiry about whether the Cured-In-Place-Pipe lining technology would affect water flow, he pointed out that thin materials would be used and the inner wall of pipes would be smoother after curing. Therefore, the water flow before and after rehabilitation would be more or less the same. Before rehabilitation, the DSD had carried out an impact assessment of the drainage and sewage collection systems to make sure that the drainage situation was acceptable. Therefore, there was no need to worry that the rehabilitation works would affect the drainage capacity;
- (c) he pointed out that the remaining works were now under detailed design and after receiving funds from the Legislative Council, tenders would be invited and the works would be outsourced to contractors. He said that the DSD could not provide a specific timetable at the time being and now it was seeking resources for the implementation of the works and consulting local opinions to optimise the works and reduce the impact of the works on the public. The DSD hoped to implement the rehabilitation works as soon as possible to make the drainage system more reliable; and
- (d) he said that rehabilitation works would only be carried out after receiving suggestions on temporary traffic measures approved by the Transport Department and the Traffic Branch of the HKPF. The DSD would contact relevant stakeholders and respective DC Members of the constituencies to explain implementation details before the works were started.

71. Mr LAU Wei gave a consolidated response as follow:

- (a) he pointed out that the Cured-In-Place-Pipe lining technology was adopted for the rehabilitation works and the working procedures included the opening manhole covers for cleaning and checking whether drains were abnormal, which could be carried out at any time. After that, liner curing would be arranged, which

would take a few hours. He said that the implementation of the works was flexible so it would not take up road sections for a long time, and the works could also be carried out in stages. He said that the works would not be carried out until PWH and the DC Members of the respective constituencies had coordinated a feasible traffic plan;

- (b) he understood that there would be cars lining up at the shifting hours of taxis at the LPG filling station near the Pet Garden and Hang Fai Street. He pointed out that the works would be implemented at non-shifting hours to reduce the impact on them;
- (c) he understood that illegal parking would affect the works, so the engineering team would communicate with the Traffic Branch of the HKPF;
- (d) he pointed out that different working procedures could be completed by different times. In case of emergency, they would coordinate to open road sections according to the progress of these procedures; and
- (e) he said that now the last stage rehabilitation works were being implemented and he would contact Mr CHAN Pui-ming with the personnel who were responsible for the first stage of the rehabilitation works to report the progress of the works in front of Vista Paradiso.

72. The Chairman asked members to note that Mr CHENG Chung-hang had joined the meeting.

73. The Chairman asked when the DSD would submit a design to the Legislative Council for review and approval, so as to get funded to implement the works.

74. Mr Jason WONG said that the length of the drains remained to be rehabilitated was more than 20 kilometres with 12 districts involved, while 3.9 kilometres were in Sha Tin District. He said that now the DSD was consulting the respective District Councils and it would arrange to submit to the Legislative Council for review and approval as soon as possible after the consultations, and it was expected that the works would be started within next year. He pointed out that the whole plan would last for 46 months and the DSD would make an implementation schedule according to environmental constraints and traffic factors.

75. Mr Michael YUNG said that regarding some cases, he wanted to discuss with the DSD after this meeting to know about the works arrangement.

76. Mr Jason WONG said that he would explain the works to Mr Michael YUNG after this meeting.

77. The Chairman said that if other members put forward relevant requirements, he hoped that the DSD could also contact them.

78. The Chairman ended the discussion of this agenda item.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming on Wuhan Pneumonia Assessment and Quarantine Measures

(Paper No. HE 21/2020)

79. The Chairman said that the FHB, the DH and the HA had not sent any representative to this meeting.

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

- (a) he said that this question had been presented in three meeting agendas, while no representative from the relevant departments had ever been sent to these meetings. He would rewrite this question and invite the departments to answer it;
- (b) it was known that the approval process of some Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao (one-way exit permits) had been resumed, but the department had not updated relevant figures and answered about relevant quarantine arrangements;
- (c) he pointed out that he had submitted a question about relevant quarantine arrangements for cross-boundary students and people entering and leaving Hong Kong to the District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee (DFMSC). However, the government and the Secretariat said that this question did not comply with the requirements of the District Councils Ordinance, that is to say, it was not about the welfare of the resident of Sha Tin District. He pointed out that there were several confirmed cases in Sha Tin today. He wanted to know whether these confirmed cases would be related to the reopening of the border or the exemption of businesspeople from quarantine. He wanted to know the quarantine arrangement as a whole, but his question was not discussed. He thought the situations of cross-boundary students would have direct impact on Sha Tin District; and
- (d) he did not press for answers on this question, because the relevant departments had not attended this meeting. He did not want to become a “pen pal” of the departments and want to know exact figures and arrangements.

81. The Chairman had some reservations about the statement made by the STDO that this question did not comply with the requirements of the District Councils Ordinance. He thought that some cross-boundary students lived in Sha Tin, so it could not be judged that this question was not covered within the functions of the District Council. He wanted the Assistant District Officer to respond.

82. Mr LO Yuet-chau pointed out that there had been no local case earlier for a while, but now there was a second wave outbreak in the local areas. The DH had not responded to the question of Mr CHAN Pui-ming directly and DH representatives were also out of contact. Therefore, it was hard to gain relevant information and information about the epidemic needed to be confirmed through nonofficial channels. He said that he had met the District Officer (Sha Tin) this morning in the hope of deepening the cooperation between the STDC and the STDO.

However, it was a pity that no representative of the DH attended this meeting. He wanted to know, regarding this matter, whether the STDO could coordinate the information and handling methods provided by the DH and the FEHD in dealing with the second wave outbreak. He said that he was disappointed by the absence of the DH and hoped that the STDO would follow up after the meeting.

83. The views of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa were summarised below:

- (a) according to the statement of Mr CHAN Pui-ming, he thought that it was inconceivable that the STDO did not allow him to ask questions about the epidemic. He thought that there were no regional restrictions for the epidemic and it would affect every member of the public, including the residents of Sha Tin District. Therefore, he thought that it was unreasonable to not allow discussions; and
- (b) he thought that the situation shown in the reply in the paper was already different from the current situations, such as the quarantine arrangements at Chun Yeung Estate, the situation of the entry of Hong Kong and others. He pointed out that the relevant departments did not attend the meeting and that the information in the paper was out of date. He asked how they could obtain the latest information from the relevant departments. He pointed out that information could only be obtained through press releases at present. He said it was difficult for members to get answers for their questions due to the absence of relative departments from meetings.

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

- (a) he said that putting the question of Mr CHAN Pui-ming or his question aside, it was normal for the departments to be absent from meetings. He pointed out that it was the departments' usual practice to avoid answering questions on the pretext of not complying with the requirements of the District Councils Ordinance;
- (b) he said that if the departments did not attend the meeting, he would move provisional motions regarding his question and request the FHB, the DH and the FEHD to submit information and documents regarding their work. He said that he would request relevant departments to provide information about Sha Tin District. He pointed out that he would invite the Assistant District Officer to listen to the recording with him regarding his statement being deleted by the Secretariat. He said that he had taken Sha Tin District into account in his written question and there were cross-boundary students in the district. Therefore, he asked why he could not ask this question. He asked whether the relevant decision was made according to the view of somebody or the comprehensive view of the government; and
- (c) he suggested that the Chairman should write a letter to the Secretary for Food and Health to ask the Bureau to reply the questions not listed. He thought that as a Secretariat, the STDO should not stifle members' questions.

85. The Chairman said that he would deal with the suggestion of Mr Michael YUNG and write letters to the FHB and the DH.

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

- (a) he pointed out that the epidemic had the most serious impact on Lek Yuen Estate, but the anti-epidemic work carried out by government departments was seriously inadequate. It was shown on the “COVID-19 Thematic Website” set up by the DH that the hotline service lasted until 6:00 p.m. and the hotline service provided by the STDO also lasted until 8:00 p.m. He once called the STDO to enquire about epidemic information, but the staff of the STDO said that he needed to call the hotline of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP); and
- (b) when there were confirmed cases at Lek Yuen Estate and Professor YUEN Kwok-yung carried on-site inspection, Mr George WONG, Mr Raymond LI and he wanted to join a meeting to understand the situation and provide opinions. He said that, however, after the District Officer (Sha Tin) arrived, they had not arranged a meeting. He said that he was not clear about the role of the STDO in the fight against the epidemic. He reiterated the mission of the STDO and asked whether it had coordinated the work of different departments. He pointed out that the HD had arranged for the Hygiene Services Division to clean buildings during the epidemic, while constant cleaning was also required within estates. Due to the shortage of manpower, he thought that the HD could borrow some manpower from the FEHD, but his proposal was not answered. He asked about the coordination work of the STDO. He pointed out that there were three new suspected cases in Sha Tin District. He asked what the responsibilities of the STDO were and whether the above-mentioned cases were confirmed. He asked whether the DH had received the information of the patients visited there from Dr LEE Yuk Tong’s clinic and contacted them by phone. He said that there was no coordination among departments. He pointed out that specimen bottles were being distributed at both Luk Chuen House and Sha Tin Market, while the stall owners at Sha Tin Market had to submit specimen bottles to clinics by themselves. He said that since stall owners needed to do business in the morning, the STDO should coordinate the DH to collect the specimen bottles at Sha Tin Market as well after doing the same at Luk Chuen House. He wanted to know about the work of the STDO during the anti-epidemic period.

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

- (a) he pointed out that the question raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming mentioned about military and the general quarantine arrangement, which concerned the whole territory of Hong Kong. This question was not related to affairs of Sha Tin, according to the criteria of the STDO. However, he felt that the reply of the STDO was strange and thought that it was hard to meet the requirements of the District Councils Ordinance according to its criteria. He did not agree that the STDO could have the right to review and restrain members from asking questions. He thought that this question was related to the welfare of the residents of Sha Tin. He pointed out that after knowing the number of cross-boundary students in Sha Tin District, it would be possible to predict the risk of infection after resuming classes. He could not understand why this question was not

recorded;

- (b) he thought that the government did not regard DC Members as stakeholders of the district, who received epidemic information by the same way of the public. They all needed to receive information through hotline services and press conferences, which made communication difficult. He said that the STDO did not cooperate and Liaison Officers also failed to answer questions. He said that if the STDO concerned what the public concerned, it should boost information flow. He could not understand why the government did not increase the participation and understanding of stakeholders of districts; and
- (c) he pointed out that there were suspected cases of infection in Sha Tin District and schools one after another. He asked how the DH would deal with them and whether it would maintain the current mode of communication or contact the whole community and try to stop the infection and listen to the opinions of members for improvement. He thought that it was about whether the DH and the STDO were willing to make improvements in the work against the epidemic.

88. The views of Mr George WONG were summarised below:

- (a) he asked about the principle based on which the STDO examined the question raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming. He pointed out that there were cross-boundary students in Sha Tin District. According to this principle, whether the Traffic and Transport Committee was not allowed to discuss inter-district bus routes. He pointed out that if this principle was extended, it would be difficult for the STDC to operate ;
- (b) he said that he had asked the STDO to establish regional contacts with DC Members since January, but so far there had been no news. He pointed out that when there were confirmed cases in the constituencies of Mr Jimmy SHAM and Mr WONG Ho-fung, the STDO had not called them. He thought that the STDO should forward information to Members on its own initiative. He said that the hotline was not answered, so the questions were not answered too, and the security guards of the HD knew the situations better than Members. He asked about the contact work of the STDO and the DH; and
- (c) he pointed out that since there was an outbreak in Sha Tin District again, he wanted to know the work plan of the STDO. He said that he had asked the former District Officer (Sha Tin) about the home quarantine list exposed with Mr LO Yuet-chau, but she did not meet with them and said that there was no supplementary information. He thought that the STDO knew the list was true but it had not informed Members. He had also waited outside the HD before dawn for enquiring about the case at Luk Chuen House with Mr Jimmy SHAM and Mr Raymond LI. However, the District Officer (Sha Tin) did not say anything and only told them that experts had already given a detailed account and she had nothing to add. He wanted to know whether the DH would inform the STDO when it found confirmed cases. If so, why the STDO did not inform Members..

89. Mr Sebastian WONG gave a consolidated response as follow:

- (a) he said that the question submitted by Mr CHAN Pui-ming had been listed in the paper and what members were talking about should be the question raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming at the DFMSC. He said that Mr Simon Wong, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)¹ had explained at a DFMSC meeting and he had also explained the principle to the Chairman of the DFMSC and Mr CHAN Pui-ming;
- (b) he said that the Secretariat had always invited these departments to attend meetings to answer questions raised by Members, and the FHB had also given a reply regarding their attendance. He asked the Secretariat to explain the contents of its reply later;
- (c) he pointed out that at the beginning of the epidemic outbreak, the STDO had applied for additional resources to purchase epidemic prevention materials, such as alcohol-based handrub, and distributed them to management companies, residents' organisations and schools in the district. When there were confirmed cases at Lek Yuen Estate, the STDO had contacted the HD to ask whether there were enough epidemic prevention materials on its own initiative. Besides, it had also allocated materials to the residents and the staff of the HD immediately. He said the STDO had also done its best to support community health; and
- (d) when the STDO knew that there were confirmed cases, it would contact management companies or the HD immediately and remind organisations or government departments to arrange disinfection and follow-up action as soon as possible. The STDO would also contact the Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) to know about their needs and provide assistance.

90. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised below:

- (a) he thought that the epidemic reflected the work of the government was politicised. The Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)² said that the STDO would contact the MACs, management companies and the HD when there were confirmed cases. However, it did not contact DC Members;
- (b) he said that there was confirmed case in his constituency on 30 June, but the STDO had not contacted him. Some residents asked for information and he needed to call the hotline of the CHP to make enquiries. He successfully contacted the Liaison Officer later. The DH indicated that, up to now, some units concerned had not been disinfected due to the failure to obtain the keys from residents. He could not understand why they were not disinfected until now. He said that some residents reported that one confirmed person visited the shops nearby. He had once called the DH to ask if it was possible to conduct deep throat saliva testing for the merchants those shops. However, the DH said that the confirmed person had not declared that he had visited these places, so it was not possible to arrange deep throat saliva testing for them. He thought that the confirmed person may not be able to clearly explain the places he had visited while he was ill, and the HD had the responsibility to investigate; and
- (c) he pointed out that since new District Officer (Sha Tin) took office, the situations had not been improved yet. He said that he had no contact and information exchange with the STDO. He pointed out that DC Members were mandated by

the public, but the STDO had not contacted him. He asked about the work of the STDO.

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

- (a) he thought that the reply of the STDO was just empty talk and asked the STDO whether it had contacted the MAC regarding the confirmed case at Tai Wo House, Wo Che Estate. He said that the Chairman and him distributed bleach in the building but no staff of the STDO had come to provide assistance. Regarding Lek Yuen Estate, he had once called Liaison Officers for information about health lectures so that he could forward it to the residents, but no reply had been received. He said that Wo Che Estate was only one street away from Luk Chuen House, but the STDO did not inform Members and the MAC. Regarding the case at Tak Wo House, the HD said that there was a suspected case and the family members of the case had been sent to a quarantine centre by ambulance. As the case was not confirmed, the HD was unable to post a notice, conduct disinfection and distribute information about deep throat saliva testing. He asked whether the FHB and the CHP were indifferent to the safety of Sha Tin residents and he believed that it was the responsibility of the STDO to assist follow-up actions. He said that he had not received any information from the STDO about the three cases and hoped that the STDO could review its work; and
- (b) he said that members had given opinions on epidemic prevention measures and hoped that the government would follow up, but the government did not take any follow up action. He said that there were kindergartens at the ground floors of Tak Wo House and Mei Wo House, and there were also a number of primary and secondary schools nearby. He hoped to move a provisional motion and required an urgent suspension of classes. He said that he had asked to suspend classes at the previous meeting, but the government gave no response. He said that if it was known this morning that there was a confirmed case in an estate and the residents were at risk because the estate had not been cleaned, what protection the residents had.

92. The Chairman said to the provisional motion moved by Mr Raymond LI would be addressed first and asked members whether they agreed to proceed.

93. Members agreed to address the provisional motion moved by Mr Raymond LI.

94. Mr Raymond LI said that he had demanded the resumption of classes be suspended when there was an outbreak at Lek Yuen Estate, and now he demanded an emergency suspension of classes.

95. Mr Raymond LI moved the provisional motion below:

“ Short title of the motion: Motion to condemn the incompetence of the Department of Health to cope with the relapse of the epidemic and to demand an emergency suspension of classes of primary and secondary schools in Sha Tin District

Background

Since June, Wuhan Pneumonia has gradually relapsed in Hong Kong and the number of confirmed cases per day even keeps rising

In this wave of outbreak, Sha Tin not only is the hardest hit area, but even the “Ground Zero” of the relapse of the epidemic. On 31 May, a couple living in Luk Chuen House, Lek Yuen Estate, Sha Tin, was confirmed positive, which ended the 16-day zero local infections record. The situation worsened later and even developed into “Luk Chuen House cluster”, in which 9 residents in total were confirmed positive.

In fact, Professor YUEN Kwok-yung, Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology of the University of Hong Kong, immediately inspected the site that night when the couple was confirmed positive, and then warned that there might be a super-spreader in Lek Yuen Estate and suggested expanding the area for virus test. However, the Department of Health (DH) remains indifferent and continues the so-called usual standard procedures, and fails to expand the area for virus test, lock down the high-risk locations, put the close contacts of patients under compulsory quarantine, step up disinfection work and assist in providing anti-epidemic supplies to the public. Moreover, the DH has been very uncooperative. First, it never informs the District Council Members of the respective constituencies of the information of confirmed cases on its own initiative. Second, it does not respond to the questions and concerns of residents of the respective constituencies. Third, it does not disclose the details of the anti-epidemic work. All these not only causes panic among the public, but also make it impossible for Members and residents to make early preparations.

Being highly conservative and bureaucratic, the DH simply ignored the professional advices of Professor YUEN and the local information provided by residents and Members, and continued to act in its own way after the Mei Sau House case, which finally resulted in the relapse of the epidemic. The DH had an inescapable responsibility for the fall of Sha Tin to the epidemic.

Just today, three cases were confirmed in Wo Che Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate, and a parent of a student of Stewards Pooi Kei Primary School, Sha Tin was also confirmed positive. Sha Tin is now on the edge of danger but the Government has no remedial measures at all. For the sake of public health and to safeguard the students, classes must be immediately suspended in all schools in Sha Tin, to prevent further epidemic outbreak.

Motion: The Committee condemns the DH’s incompetence in handling the relapse of epidemic since June, in which the conservative attitude and bureaucracy of the department is especially shameful; the Committee also demands that the Education Bureau immediately announce urgent class suspension of schools in Sha Tin, in order to prevent a further outbreak of epidemic and protect the innocent lives of students.

Mr WAI Hing-cheung, Mr YIP Wing, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr SIN Cheuk-nam, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Ms WONG Man-huen, Ms LUK Tsz-tung, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr Wilson LI, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr William SHEK,

Mr George WONG, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr Michael YUNG seconded the motion.

96. Mr CHAN Pui-ming suggested adding more requirements to the motion, including expanding the scope of testing and giving priority to teachers and students, medical staff, school and hospital staff, who needed to be in frequent contact with patients and stay in crowded areas. In addition, he also suggested that the government should tighten the control of inbound or outbound travellers who were now exempted from quarantine. He pointed out that a person reported that he departed from Taiwan, but did not report that he had visited the Philippines. And he was confirmed to have been infected later. He pointed out that some experts said that this was a loophole in epidemic prevention and hoped that the entry and exit quarantine arrangements could be strengthened.

97. The Chairman suggested deleting the word “innocent” from “and protect the innocent lives of school children”, because every life was innocent.

98. Mr Raymond LI said that he agreed with the suggestions of the Chairman and Mr CHAN Pui-ming and asked Mr CHAN Pui-ming to help revise it.

99. Mr Raymond LI moved an amended provisional motion as follows:

“Background

Since June, Wuhan Pneumonia has gradually relapsed in Hong Kong and the number of confirmed cases per day even keeps rising

In this wave of outbreak, Sha Tin not only is the hardest hit area, but even the “Ground Zero” of the relapse of the epidemic. On 31 May, a couple living in Luk Chuen House, Lek Yuen Estate, Sha Tin, was confirmed positive, which ended the 16-day zero local infections record. The situation worsened later and even developed into “Luk Chuen House cluster”, in which 9 residents in total were confirmed positive.

In fact, Professor YUEN Kwok-yung, Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology of the University of Hong Kong, immediately inspected the site that night when the couple was confirmed positive, and then warned that there might be a super-spreader in Lek Yuen Estate and suggested expanding the area for virus test. However, the Department of Health (DH) remains indifferent and continues the so-called usual standard procedures, and fails to expand the area for virus test, lock down the high-risk locations, put the close contacts of patients under compulsory quarantine, step up disinfection work and assist in providing anti-epidemic supplies to the public. Moreover, the DH has been very uncooperative. First, it never informs the District Council Members of the respective constituencies of the information of confirmed cases on its own initiative. Second, it does not respond to the questions and concerns of residents of the respective constituencies. Third, it does not disclose the details of the anti-epidemic work. All these not only causes panic among the public, but also make it impossible for Members and residents to make early preparations.

Being highly conservative and bureaucratic, the DH simply ignored the professional advices of Professor YUEN and the local information provided by residents and Members, and continued to act in its own way after the Mei Sau House case, which finally resulted in the relapse of the epidemic. The DH had an inescapable

responsibility for the fall of Sha Tin to the epidemic.

Just today, three cases were confirmed in Wo Che Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate, and a parent of a student of Stewards Pooi Kei Primary School, Sha Tin was also confirmed positive. Sha Tin is now on the edge of danger but the Government has no remedial measures at all. For the sake of public health and to safeguard the students, classes must be immediately suspended in all schools in Sha Tin, to prevent further epidemic outbreak.

Motion

The Committee condemns the DH's incompetence in handling the relapse of epidemic since June, in which the conservative attitude and bureaucracy of the department is especially shameful; the Committee also demands that the Education Bureau immediately announce urgent class suspension of schools in Sha Tin, in order to prevent a further outbreak of epidemic and protect students' lives. The Committee also demands that the area of virus test be expanded, teachers, students, medical personnel, and staff of hospitals and schools be accorded priority of testing, and entry quarantine procedures be tightened at the same time."

Mr WAI Hing-cheung, Mr YIP Wing, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr SIN Cheuk-nam, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Ms WONG Man-huen, Ms LUK Tsz-tung, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr Wilson LI, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr William SHEK, Mr George WONG, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr Michael YUNG seconded the motion.

100. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 99.

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

- (a) as for the overall epidemic prevention measures, he believed that the government should tighten the loopholes in epidemic prevention. He pointed out that some persons entering Hong Kong were exempted from quarantine. He thought that the first step to be taken should be to stop infection at the source and the related measures should be more resolute; and
- (b) he hoped that the STDO could enhance communication and coordination. He pointed out that there was a great chance that the suspected cases in Sha Tin would turn into confirmed cases. He thought that the situation could be improved from different dimensions. He said that the communication within the government was not satisfactory. He believed that there was room for improvement in the epidemic prevention work of the FHB, the DH, the CHP and the STDO. As lives were at stake, he understood that members were worried. He hoped that the government would increase the transparency of information and suggested that the STDO should establish communication channels with the STDC on epidemic information so that Members could help the public. He also hoped that the communication among government departments could be strengthened and the relationship, communication and cooperation between the

government and the STDC could be improved.

102. Mr YAU Man-chun felt angry. He said that last night he received a call from the Chairman of the MAC of Ming Chuen House, from which he was told that a staff of the CHP had transported a preliminarily positive case to an ambulance and enquired with him about relevant information. He also received many enquiries from the public. He called the District Officer (Sha Tin) and the Assistant District Officers this morning for enquiries, and then the STDO provided an informative reply. He also called the CHP, from which the information received was the same as that published on news websites. A resident of Ming Chuen House called for more information about the confirmed case to decide whether he should be self-isolated, but he had no access to relevant information. He said that the STDO had not informed the MAC of Ming Chuen House. He pointed out that the preliminarily positive case had once visited the community facilities block at the ground floor of Ming Chuen House. He said that the DH and the STDO should disseminate information and clean public places as soon as possible to reduce the risk of virus spreading in community. He pointed out that if early notification was made, the community spreading chain would be shortened. He thought that the government ignored the lives of the public and did not do what should be done.

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

- (a) as the route of transmission of the virus was unknown, it was difficult for the public to protect themselves and the distribution of alcohol-based hand rubs failed to reassure the public. He believed that it was necessary for the public to know about the cross-departmental collaboration among government departments, which fight the virus together, so as to increase public confidence;
- (b) he asked if there was a preliminarily positive case in a public rental housing estate, whether the HD would arrange cleaning services immediately. He suggested that the public areas of the whole building should be cleaned and disinfected on the day the case was found. If there were multiple confirmed cases in the estate, whether the FEHD could be arranged to assist the HD in cleaning the public areas of the estate; and
- (c) he pointed out that the lack of information would cause fear among the residents. He said that if the hotline was not answered on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and evenings, the public would feel helpless. He suggested that the STDO, the HD, the DH, the Education Bureau and other departments, as well as DC Members of the corresponding areas where confirmed cases were found, should form an cross-departmental liaison group to take charge of liaison work, so as to dispel the concerns of the public with the help of local DC Members.

104. Ms MOK Siu-fan, Assistant Housing Manager (Sun Chui)³ of the HD, said that if a resident of a public rental housing estate was listed into the list of confirmed cases or home quarantine, the HD would conduct disinfection and cleaning work in accordance with the guidance given by related departments.

105. Mr Jimmy SHAM asked the HD whether it was possible for the it to arrange cleaning work when there were preliminarily positive cases or suspected cases, rather than arranging cleaning work after these cases had turned into confirmed cases.

106. The Chairman asked about the guidance of the HD.

107. Ms MOK Siu-fan gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HD would carry out cleaning work in accordance with the guidance of by related departments, for example, it would use diluted household bleach to clean and disinfect elevator buttons, handrails of lobby doors, lobby and stairs and others. Besides, it would also use diluted household bleach to clean and disinfect the carpets at the entrances and exits of buildings and provide alcohol-based hand rubs to the residents in the ground floor lobbies of buildings; and
- (b) she said that the HD would report the views of Mr Jimmy SHAM on dealing with preliminarily positive cases and suspected cases, and she would give a reply after the meeting.

108. The Chairman asked how the FEHD would provide assistance regarding the above-mentioned cases and whether the STDO had asked the FEHD to provide assistance.

109. Mr Derek LAI said that after being informed by the DH, the FEHD would clean and disinfect the streets outside the residential units of confirmed cases. The FEHD would also clean and disinfect the house of confirmed cases. If the residential unit of a confirmed case was under the management of the HD, the Health Inspectors of the FEHD would inspect the cleaning work of the HD on the spot. If the residential unit of a confirmed case was a private unit, the FEHD would send staff to clean and disinfect the residential unit under the supervision of Health Inspectors.

110. Mr Sebastian WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he pointed out that the DH and the CHP had set up divisions to coordinate and handle guidelines regarding community cases, and the DH would arrange divisions to take corresponding measures regarding community cases in accordance with the established procedures;
- (b) when the DH and the CHP confirmed the new cases and new epidemic situations, information would be released to the public through the “COVID-19 thematic website” and press release immediately. The DH would not release anything until exact information was available. He said that the STDO would not obtain information and release it to communities before information was confirmed; and
- (c) it was known that when the DH informed the HD of a confirmed case in a public rental housing estate, the HD would inform the residents of the estate. To avoid duplication of work, the STDO was responsible for contacting the residents’ organisations of buildings with confirmed cases to know about their special needs so that it could provide assistance.

111. The Chairman said that he could understand that members were angry and asked why the information could not be released through DC Members. He thought that Members could release information via different channels while the only way of releasing information of the DH was to post notice, which was not infiltrative. He hoped that the STDO could make

improvements.

112. Mr HUI Yui-yu said that the report made by the DSD involved every district of Hong Kong. He asked why the STDO did not say that it did not meet the requirements of the District Councils Ordinance. He said that according to the Ordinance, DCs could discuss matters that affected local residents. However, the Secretariat limited the discussion to such matters only without undergoing legal procedures. He thought that logically, the act of the Secretariat was not the same as what was required in the Ordinance. He said that there were many public facilities serving different districts. In some cases, a public facility in Hong Kong was serving the whole Hong Kong, such as the airport, the high-speed railway station as a whole and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. According to the explanation of the Secretariat, District Councils could not discuss the above issues, which he thought was unreasonable. He said under such criteria, examples of other districts could not be cited for comparison or commented at meetings. He suggested that members should ask the Secretariat to provide a written record if the Secretariat would deal with questions or motions with that explanation in the future. He pointed out that it was difficult to know who was in charge of the decision, making it difficult for the public to hold someone to account. He suggested that the Secretariat should explain the relevant definition to the public.

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

- (a) he said that a residents' group of Ming Chuen House, Shui Chuen O Estate released information about a suspected case being sent to an ambulance last night. The residents were worried that the building would become an epidemic building, and the information and guidelines issued by the government were not clear, which made it impossible to trust the government. He thought that the government did not pay attention to suspected cases, which worried the residents. He pointed out that many parents applied for leaves on their children's behalf, reflecting that the administrative measures of government departments were not trusted by the public. He hoped that the motion asking for an emergency suspension of classes moved by Mr Raymond LI would be implemented and that the government would respect the wishes and rights of the residents; and
- (b) he pointed out that unclear information of the government would cause panic among the residents. He thought that it was too late to clean after cases were confirmed. All preliminarily positive cases or suspected cases should be handled according to the procedures for confirmed case to restore public confidence.

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

- (a) he thought that the failure of the STDO to invite the departments to this STDC meeting to respond to questions and the act of it to prevent members from asking questions would worsen the relationship between the two parties;
- (b) he asked what the STDO was responsible for regarding the suspected case at Hin Yeung House, Hin Keng Estate and the current cases in Sha Tin District. Regarding the case at Hin Yeung House, he pointed out that the Management Office had arranged cleaning work immediately. He said that during the epidemic, he had also distributed a lot of hand rubs and masks. He thought that the epidemic prevention work of the STDO was insufficient and the liaison work

was also insufficient. He said the residents, Management Offices and the Link REIT would inform him of epidemic and hygiene situations of the district. He thought that the STDO only explained its work and had done no substantive work. He believed that the epidemic situation was one of the top priorities at present, and he suggested that the District Officer (Sha Tin) should attend the meeting; and

- (c) he asked if the STDO could invite the DH to STDC meetings. He thanked the Chairman for writing letters to invite departments to the meeting, though departments did not attend.

115. Mr Raymond LI asked what the established guidelines of the STDO were. He wanted to know the responsibilities of the STDO under the established guidelines. He said that Members had not received information provided by the STDO. According to the Chairmen of the MACs of Mei Wo House and Tak Wo House, they once took the initiative to contact the HD, but they were not contacted by the DH and the STDO. He said that he had earlier asked if the STDO had contacted the MACs, but the Assistant District Officer gave no response. He asked why the STDO said that things had been completed if it had not contacted the MACs.

116. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether it was stipulated in the District Councils Ordinance about what the consequences were if representative of the STDO provided false information at district council meetings. He pointed out that the STDO had contacted neither the MAC of Shui Chuen O Estate nor the MAC of Wo Che Estate. In addition, he pointed out that regarding members' questions, the STDO was requested to assist in inviting relevant departments to attend meetings, but the DH had not sent any representative to attend meetings, making it difficult to exchange information;
- (b) he said that 2 007 deep throat saliva specimen from Mei Sau House were tested. If a resident did not received any notice, it meant that he/she got a negative testing result. He said that the employees of some organisations need to provide test reports before they could go to work, but the procedures for obtaining reports were complicated and it would take a long time. He thought that this arrangement made it difficult for the public to go to work;
- (c) he pointed out that the hotline of the CHP should be a 24-hour hotline; and
- (d) he said that he would move a provisional motion later.

117. The views of Mr CHAN Wan-tung were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the representatives of departments attending this meeting would not recite their manuscripts when answering questions. members hoped that the discussions would be efficient and substantive conclusions could be drawn;
- (b) he hoped that the STDO would not regard members as its opponents;
- (c) he expressed his gratitude to members for their efforts to monitor the cleaning

work, inform residents door to door and distribute epidemic prevention kits after they were informed of confirmed cases. He said that members were unable to know the unit where confirmed cases lived and had to ask door to door. He pointed out that previously, a confirmed case in Hin Tin Village was sent to quarantine centre. Mr NG Kam-hung and him asked about the situation door to door. The Owners' Corporation said that it had not received any notice, while the STDO and the HD said that they had no information. Later, the village head called the STDO and finally found out which unit the confirmed case lived at. He said that whenever there was a confirmed case, Members could help contact the residents and act as a bridge of communication, but they had no information, which made it hard to provide assistance; and

- (d) he would call doctors of the DH for enquiries when there were new confirmed cases, but the call would only be answered afterwards. He said that Members did not mean to disclose the private information of patients or strive for political achievements. He said that every Member cared for communities and residents, and hoped that communities would do a good job in epidemic prevention as soon as possible. He thought that the STDO had relevant information. He hoped that the STDO would establish a notification mechanism, such as telephone direct enquiry, to let members know about situations as soon as possible.

118. Mr Sebastian WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that he had explained the role and liaison work of the STDO earlier; and
- (b) he responded to the question of Mr Raymond LI and said that the STDO would not be informed earlier if there were new confirmed cases. He said that the STDO contacted the relevant MACs, but he had not been informed of the result of the contact yet.

119. The Chairman asked whether the STDO had contacted the Chairmen of the MACs of Tak Wo House and Mei Wo House.

120. Mr Sebastian WONG said that the STDO had contacted these two MAC Chairmen. He said that no information about the confirmed cases was obtained before the meeting, so contact was yet to be made. After receiving information, the STDO had contacted the two MAC chairmen, but he had not been informed of the result of the contact yet. He guaranteed that the STDO would make contact with the two MAC chairman within today even if they were out of contact at this moment.

121. Mr LO Yuet-chau said that he had met with the District Officer (Sha Tin) this morning and she said that she would try her best to keep a close eye on district affairs. He pointed out that now there was an outbreak in Sha Tin District and the District Officer (Sha Tin) had not attended the meeting to know about the situations. He understood that Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) 2 did not have much information. He believed that the STDO should be more aware of the trends of departments and should contact the DH for information before the meeting, rather than only giving responses after receiving members' questions. He pointed out that practical work, instead of verbal work, was required for dealing with district affairs.

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

- (a) he said that he did not agree with Mr YAU Man-chun, who was commenting the work of the STDO in a sarcastic manner. He thought that the use of the term “hands and feet” to describe the STDO belittled the contribution made by the actual “hands and feet”; and
- (b) he thought that the STDO had failed to do a good job in communication and notification. He pointed out that the STDO checked Members’ personal social media and web pages every day and searched for sensitive words, which were filed as evidence for disqualifying them from running in the future election. He said the STDO did not deal with livelihood issues. He thought that the work of the STDO had unexpectedly regressed after the expansion of its establishment, and now the Secretariat was also under its management. He pointed out that the District Officer (Sha Tin) had once inspected Lek Yuen Estate, so how the STDO would not know about the information of the confirmed cases. He asked whether the STDO was underestimating the IQ of members, trying to muddle through with beautiful answers. He hoped that the District Officer (Sha Tin) could handle district affairs in a responsible manner with conscience.

123. The views of Mr George WONG were summarised below:

- (a) he said that members received enquiries from the public about the epidemic every day, but the STDO had not provided relevant information, which made members unable to respond to the concerns of the public;
- (b) he wanted to know about the communication mechanism between the STDO and the DH. He asked whether a mechanism would be established with the DH. If not, whether it was a neglect of duty of the STDO; and
- (c) the Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) 2 said that they would contact the MACs and Owners’ Corporations. He asked whether the STDO would contact Members regarding epidemic information in days to come. He said that none of members present had received any information on the epidemic situation, and asked why the STDO did not inform them after obtaining information.

124. Mr YAU Man-chun said that the Chairmen of the MACs had not received calls from the STDO.

125. Mr Sebastian WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that he would review how to strengthen communication with Members. He said that the STDO would not receive information earlier than members, because the CHP had already released information as soon as possible;
- (b) he would relay members’ views on establishing a notification mechanism to the DH. He said that the DH had released information as quickly as possible. It was difficult for the STDO to receive information before it was released, and it would not release unconfirmed information, so as to avoid causing unnecessary panic; and

- (c) questions about hotline enquiries would need to be answered by the DH, but he would communicate with the DH regarding the relevant opinions.

126. Mr YAU Man-chun said that the establishing of a notification mechanism could break the transmission chain of the virus. He thought that the STDO should take the lead in establishing a notification mechanism and he hoped that District Officer (Sha Tin) could deal with it properly.

127. The Chairman asked members whether they agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Raymond LI.

128. Members agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Raymond LI.

129. Mr Raymond LI moved a provisional motion as follows:

“Short title of the motion: Motion to regret the poor coordination by the Sha Tin District Office in matters related to epidemic prevention

Background

The outbreak of Wuhan Pneumonia has caused severe damage to Hong Kong. The epidemic has relapsed recently and many confirmed cases have been found in Sha Tin. Just today, three cases were confirmed in Sha Tin, and all of the cases do not have travel history and are not close contacts of the previously confirmed cases. It is clear that a large-scale community outbreak has already taken place in Sha Tin.

The Sha Tin District Office (STDO) and District Officer (Sha Tin) (District Officer) have to support and assist in the operation of the Committee in accordance with the law. According to the speech by Mr LAM Woon-kwong, the then Secretary for Home Affairs made during the debate of the motion on “Report of the Working Group on District Councils Review”, “the District Officer of each district is responsible for discharging and following up the administrative duties of the District Councils in accordance with the views of the District Councils”. The Legislative Council’s minutes of meeting of the District Councils Bill also shows that the “support services required by activities organised by District Councils were provided by other staff of the District Office” (WONG Kai-yeung, 2020).

Nevertheless, under repeated urges of the Committee, the STDO and District Officer still have not effectively coordinated with other government departments on anti-epidemic issues in accordance with the instruction made by the Committee. First, the STDO and District Officer have failed to, under the instruction of the Committee, arrange for the representatives of the Department of Health (DH) and the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to attend the meetings of the Committee; second, the STDO and District Officer have failed to, under the instruction of the Committee, acquire from the DH and CHP the information required by the Committee for implementation of anti-epidemic work.

Besides, the Committee has noticed that the representatives of the STDO claimed that they had contacted the Mutual Aid Committees (MAC) of the housing estates in which the epidemic broke out, but some of the MACs claimed that it was not the case when

the Committee made enquiries with them.

Motion

Regarding the anti-epidemic issues, the STDO has failed to effectively coordinate with other government departments under the instruction of the Committee, including failing to arrange for the DH and CHP to attend the meetings of the Committee, and acquire from the DH and CHP the information required by the Committee for implementation of anti-epidemic work, for which the Committee expresses regret. As for the claim of the representatives of the STDO that they had contacted the MACs of the housing estates in which epidemic broke out, but some of the MACs claimed that it was not the case, the Committee demands that the STDO submit the contact record or related proof to the Committee for investigation of the truth.”

Mr WAI Hing-cheung, Ms LUK Tsz-tung, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr LAI Tsz-yan, Mr HUI Yui-yu, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Mr William SHEK, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr George WONG, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr YEUNG Sze-kin, Mr CHING Cheung-ying seconded the motion.

130. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 129.

131. The Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and its Subsidiary Legislation
(Paper No. HE 25/2020 (Revised))

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

- (a) he felt helpless and pointed out that the Chairman told him last night that the Secretariat had postponed the processing of the Part H and Part I of his questions. The Secretariat informed him that the Part H and Part I of his questions were not district level matters of Sha Tin District and that the government thought that these parts were not covered by the functions of the STDC under the section 61 of the District Councils Ordinance. And he was asked to review whether to add these questions into the agenda and how to deal with these questions and informed the Secretariat after he had decided. If there were items that were not in line with the regulations of the District Councils Ordinance, the Secretariat would not help distribute relevant documents and all the staff of government departments and the Secretariat would not attend the meeting and join the discussion of relevant documents. Therefore, he had to delete these parts so that he could read his questions at the meeting;
- (b) he pointed out that the Part H was about the section 4 (Chief Secretary may exempt certain persons) of the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment)(No.2) Regulation 2020. He pointed out that there was a liaison centre of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (LOCPG) in Sha

Tin District and therefore he was worried that quarantine exemption might cause an outbreak of the epidemic in the communities, and this was the reason why he made that statement. He hoped that the Chairman could write to the relevant department and require explanation to his questions on why Part H could not be added in his questions. He said that his questions included: 1. whether “the person’s or persons’ entry into Hong Kong is necessary for governmental operation” applied to non-civil servants; 2. since the Chief Secretary might exempt certain persons from quarantine, whether the exemption would be based on the risks in related to the persons’ whereabouts in the Mainland and their locations; 3. whether the Chief Secretary would exempt the organisations of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and their staff from quarantine; 4. as to the education institutions exempted from quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment)(No.2) Regulation 2020, why the exemption list excluded higher education institutions and what the reasons were. He pointed out that there were higher education institutions in Sha Tin District, including the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Design Institute; 5. cross-boundary students could be exempted from quarantine arrangements. How to effectively monitor their health status to ensure that they were not invisible patients;

- (c) he pointed out that Part I was about the arrangement of cancelling the quarantine order. The 4 questions about the “health code” were: 1. what the authority and certificate were as specified in “a certificate issued by a public authority in the Mainland or Macao” in the regulation; 2. how to verify the authenticity of certificates; 3. what the form of declarations specified by the Director was and what the form and error rate of medical laboratory tests were; 4. If test results were wrong and the quarantine order was cancelled wrongly, how to remedy it. He said that the related departments had never explained the “health code” at STDC meetings, while there were cross-boundary students in Sha Tin District. He asked whether the departments was ignoring the safety of the residents; and
- (d) he said that he could not understand why these parts were not regards as matters that were related to Sha Tin District. He said that departments had not replied to his question about “group gathering ban”. Moreover, when it did not want to answer a question, it would say that the question was not a matter of Sha Tin District. He asked the Chairman to send letters to the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Secretary for Food and Health and the Secretary for Justice. He thought that the ordinance affected the welfare of the residents of the district. He wanted to know how these questions violated the District Councils Ordinance.

133. The Chairman agreed with Mr Michael YUNG. He said that there were also cross-boundary students in his constituency. He thought that questions about the epidemic were also related to Sha Tin District and it was unreasonable to not allow discussions. He regretted that they used the District Councils Ordinance as an excuse to not allow discussions about the epidemic.

134. Mr CHAN Pui-ming pointed out that last week the Chairman and him had sent letters to the FHB, the DH and the Immigration Department to invite them to this meeting to explain

matters about the “health code”, including quotas, application procedures and inspection methods. He asked members to note that these departments had not replied yet.

135. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa pointed out that the STDC had invited the relevant departments to attend meetings to explain the ordinance for several times. However, the departments avoided talking about it on the pretext of having to deal with the epidemic. But he pointed out that what members were asking were exactly about the epidemic. He thought the questions raised by Mr Michael YUNG were related to the residents of Sha Tin District, because now Sha Tin District was undergoing an outbreak. He said that if no representative of the departments attended the meeting, it was hard for members to pursue the matters and follow up. He thought that government departments were being uncooperative. He pointed out that cross-boundary students and officials from the Central People’s Government in Hong Kong would visit Sha Tin, and therefore, the relevant questions should be regarded as being in accordance with the regulations of the District Councils Ordinance. If not, he thought that all of the questions raised by Mr Michael YUNG should be rejected, because the Hong Kong Legislation Cap. 599 was not related to Sha Tin District. He thought that the doubts of the public had not been dispelled on relevant issues. Even though the STDO had invited them for many times, the departments still had not sent any staff to attend meetings. He thought that cooperation would not happen under this circumstance.

136. The Chairman said that regarding the questions raised by Mr Michael YUNG, the representatives of the HD and the FEHD had answered them at the meeting.

137. The Chairman asked Mr Michael YUNG whether he would move a provisional motion.

138. Mr Michael YUNG said that he had communicated with Mr WONG Ho-fung and decided to combine their provisional motions.

139. The Chairman asked the representatives of the HD and the FEHD whether they had anything to add.

140. Mr Derek LAI said that he had nothing to add. He said that the written reply for the question about inspection would be given by the FHB after combining the information of districts.

141. Ms MOK Siu-fan said that she had no supplementary information.

142. The Chairman asked members whether they agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Michael YUNG.

143. Members agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Michael YUNG.

144. Mr Michael YUNG moved a provisional motion as follows:

“ Since this term of office, the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) of the Sha Tin District Council has raised questions and carried out discussions on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (commonly known as: Wuhan Pneumonia) several times. Under Section 61, Functions of a District Council, of Cap.547, District Council Ordinance, the functions of the HEC are “(a) to advise the Government on matters affecting the well-being of the people in the District.”, and under Order 32 of the Sha Tin District Council

Standing Orders, “(1) The Council may appoint committees for the purpose of carrying out its functions and may delegate any of its functions to a committee.” And the first three articles of the terms of reference that have already been endorsed, “(1) Advise the government departments and organisations concerned on district matters related to health, medical service and environment. (2) Monitor and improve the environmental conditions of the district. (3) Raise awareness and concern among local communities regarding matters related to health, medical service and environment, and encourage them to participate in relevant activities”, clearly set out the functions that are related to the Department of Health (DH). However, the DH has skipped several meetings for no reason, making the Council unable to formulate effective anti-epidemic measures with the DH, and resulting in the outbreak today (7 July 2020), that is, 14 additional confirmed cases, among which 9 are locally transmitted cases, while 3 out of the 9 cases are residents of Wo Che Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate in Sha Tin.

Therefore, the Committee demands that the DH attend future HEC meetings by sending permanent representatives to reply Members’ enquiries, and provide information papers on the following facilities: the waiting time of general out-patient clinic services and special out-patient clinic services, and the utilisation rates of mortuaries of hospitals, Fu Shan Public Mortuary, Fu Shan Crematorium, public niches and Po Fook Memorial Hall, so that the Sha Tin District Council can perform section (2) of the terms of reference, that is, to monitor and improve the environmental conditions of the district.”

Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr Raymond LI, Mr William SHEK, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr HUI Yui-yu, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Ms LUK Tsz-tung, Ms WONG Man-huen, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr George WONG, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Mr LAI Tsz-yan, Mr LO Yuet-chau seconded the motion.

145. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 144.

146. The Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on the Pollution Problem of Shing Mun River near Man Lai Court
(Paper No. HE 35/2020)

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

- (a) he wanted to know whether the DSD had set up a team to carry out on-site investigation immediately after receiving reports. He pointed out that the situation might change if on-site investigation was not carried out as soon as possible. He hoped to contact the DSD in the quickest way;
- (b) regarding the reply of the DSD on the Part (d) of his questions, which pointed out that no connection between any drain and the outlet with white liquid flowing out had been found, he said that he could not understand why there would be white liquid flowing out, if no drain had been connected to that outlet;

- (c) as to the question (f), he asked the frequency of riverbank clearing of the bank section from Shing Mun River to Man Lai Court could be increased;
- (d) he showed his gratitude to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for testing the water samples he provided and listing the relevant information in the paper;
- (e) he said that he could not understand the meaning of “it would not produce any no odour” at the fifth line of the reply of the EPD;
- (f) he pointed out that the limestone was found in the samples, and he wanted to know which industries would use this substance;
- (g) according to the materials, from May to July, pollution was found many times. He pointed out that these situations were not occasional. He thought that some companies, institutions or organisations were carrying out some activities nearby, which made the pollution flow into the river. He hoped that the above-mentioned materials could help the DSD to find out the source of the pollution;
- (h) assuming that the limestone mentioned by the EPD would not exude any odour, he wanted to know what produced the odour exuding from Shing Mun River;
- (i) he pointed out that in the past three years, the EPD had not initiated any prosecution against pollution. He was worried that the frequent river pollution in the past two months were caused by the absence of prosecution; and
- (j) the DSD had cleared riverbed deposits in early June, but there was still odour exuding from mid-June to late June. He wanted to know the cause of the odour.

148. The Chairman left the meeting for other commitments and the Vice-chairman Mr CHAN Pui-ming presided over the meeting for the time-being.

149. Mr. LI Tak Pong, Engineering (Sha Tin), DSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the DSD had a 24-hour hotline 2300 1110 to handle cases. For drainage problems in Sha Tin District, please call the engineers of Sha Tin District so that personnel could be arranged to deal with problems on site as soon as possible;
- (b) he said that drains might be wrongly connected, where sewerage systems might be connected to clean water systems. According to closed circuit television detection, it was not found that the sewerage system was wrongly connected to the clean water system and flowed into Shing Mun River. The DSD did not rule out the possibility that pollutants discharged by the residents ran into the clean water system and then into Shing Mun River. And as a result, pollution was caused. He said that DSD would do its best to assist the EPD in tracking down illegal sewage discharge; and
- (c) an engineering vehicle of the DSD was driven from the maintenance access of Mei Lam Estate to the section of Shing Mun River near Man Lai Court to clear the mud. Since engineering vehicles would go through overpasses and under

footbridges, it was impossible to arrange large engineering vehicles for the work due to height restrictions. In addition, since the time for the DSD to carry out mud clearing work was limited by tides, the efficiency was comparatively low. The DSD was studying the construction of a new maintenance access to Shing Mun River to allow larger engineering vehicles to enter, so as to enhance the efficiency of clearing.

150. Mr Raymond NG, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional N) 4, EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the water quality of Shing Mun River had been improved greatly in recent years and the EPD would try its best to maintain it. He said that if the EPD received samples from Members, it would arrange testing for them;
- (b) he said that there was a written error in the fifth line of the reply, and the word “no” should be deleted. He pointed out that limestone would not produce odour, because limestone was also a highly inert substance. He pointed out that the substance was widely used in many industries. For example, it would be used at construction processes at sites and for food processing;
- (c) regarding the case reported by Mr WAI Hing-cheung, he said that the EPD had inspected three times at nearby sites, but nothing was found. He showed gratitude to the DSD for its assistance in the investigation, including opening the drain covers, placing closed-circuit video cameras in the drains and arranging personnel to enter the drains for inspection. According to the information provided by the DSD, the above sites had been excluded and high-risk sites had been identified for inspection and ambush;
- (d) he pointed out that it was difficult to initiate a prosecution because there were difficulties in searching for evidence. He said the EPD would arrange an ambush after the sites were identified. If someone continued to discharge pollutants illegally, the EPD would identify the offenders as soon as possible;
- (e) during the epidemic, the frequency of inspections decreased, but now it had gradually increased. He pointed out that inspections could bring a deterrent effect, and the EPD would increase the frequency of inspections to enhance the deterrent effect. If evidence was found by the EPD, prosecution would be initiated;
- (f) he pointed out that the DSD would clean up sediments in rivers every three months. Due to the geographical environment and flowing factors of Shing Mun River, there were a lot of sediments at the bend of the river, which might produce odour at low tide and sun exposure. He hoped that after the implementation of the measures of the DSD, river clearing could be strengthened and more efficient, so as to improve the environment; and
- (g) he showed gratitude to Mr WAI Hing-cheung for providing information. The EPD would gradually arrange inspections and monitor the situation. He welcomed Mr WAI Hing-cheung to provide information collected and the EPD would join hands with the DSD to investigate the cases of illegal pollutant

discharge.

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

- (a) he asked if the DSD could increase the frequency of river clearing to once every two months before the implementation of the construction works of the new access;
- (b) at first, he thought that it was the cover construction works at Tai Wai MTR station site that led to the outflow of pollutants. He had also discussed and conducted site inspections with site development companies. The EPD had also made sudden inspections for three times, but nothing was found. According to the photos taken by him, a large amount of white liquid flowed out on the morning of 3 May (Sunday). He guessed that the construction works were not carried out on Sunday morning, so the pollutants would not be discharged from the site. He asked whether the information could help the EPD to identify the source of the pollution; and
- (c) he agreed that the water quality of Shing Mun River was hard-earned. He hoped that when the EPD found out the source of the pollution, it could initiate a prosecution

152. The view of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he asked Mr WAI Hing-cheung whether it rained the night before and in the morning of 3 May. he said that pollutants might accumulate on or near the site and flow into the drains after heavy rain;
- (b) he wanted to know whether the DSD could increase the frequency of river clearing;
- (c) he wanted to know the specific arrangements of the construction of the new maintenance access; and
- (d) he asked if the DSD could provide a map of the drains near the outlet for members' reference, so that members could trace the source of the pollutants and assist the EPD in collecting evidence.

153. Mr. LI Tak-pong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the DSD also hoped to increase the frequency of clearing, but it had to be conducted at low tide and it was also subject to other factors. If the situation permitted, the DSD would keep in close contact with the contractors to increase the frequency of clearing as much as possible;
- (b) he said that the construction works of the new maintenance access were still in the preliminary study stage and that if the works were feasible, the contract could start as soon as the end of 2021; and

- (c) he said that a map of the drains could be provided after the meeting for members to understand the drain distribution.

154. Mr NG Kam-hung said that according to the data of the Hong Kong Observatory and the DSD, the water level of the river had risen. In addition to digging, he suggested that the silt could be removed with suction pipes, so that the clearing work would not be affected by the rise and fall of tides.

155. Mr. LI Tak-pong pointed out that the use of robots for silt clearing at box culverts had been tried out at other districts. If the results were satisfactory, this silt clearing method would be adopted at Shing Mun River.

156. Mr Raymond NG said that the information provided by the members would help the EPD to analyse cases and narrow down the scope of investigation. After sufficient evidence had been collected, the EPD would initiate a prosecution.

157. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr MAK Tsz-kin on the Pollution Problem of Fo Tan Nullah
(Paper No. HE 36/2020)

158. The views of Mr MAK Tsz-kin were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the public was concerned about the notification mechanism for reporting illegal sewage discharge. He pointed out that the public often found illegal sewage discharge cases on holidays. He wanted to know whether the DSD could send staff to take samples from rivers immediately for testing after the public called the hotline of the DSD;
- (b) he asked the DSD and the EPD whether they had tested the white liquid discharged from Fo Tan Nullah on 17 May this year;
- (c) he wanted to know whether the DSD and the EPD have prosecuted tenants or owners who illegally discharged sewage in Sha Tin District;
- (d) regarding that the EPD said that the frequency of inspection was decreased due to the epidemic, he wanted to know the monthly or weekly inspection frequency of the EPD; and
- (e) he wanted to know whether the EPD would write letters to the owners of the industrial buildings in Fo Tan about the pollution and ask them to inform the tenants of the risk of discharging sewage.

159. Mr LUI Kai-wing said that in May this year, he had contacted the EPD regarding his discovery that Fo Tan Nullah was contaminated by liquid of an unidentified colour. The EPD said it had sent staff to the scene to investigate, but no unidentified liquid of colour was found in the river. He understood that the liquid might have flowed into the Shing Mun River, so the EPD could not find it. He wanted to know what prosecution measures were in place to deter illegal sewage discharge. He said that it would be too late if it was dealt with after pollutants had flowed into Shing Mun River. He hoped that the EPD would find a way to put an end to

this problem

160. The Vice-chairman said that the industrial area in Fo Tan was the main source of sewage discharge. He wanted to know the arrangements for the EPD to conduct inspections and handle reports from the public during non-working hours or holidays.

161. Mr. LI Tak-pong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the public could call the hotline of the DSD on holidays and the DSD would send staff to inspect in case of emergency;
- (b) he said that water quality monitoring was under the management of the EPD and the EPD could explain the prosecution for discharging pollutants; and
- (c) he pointed out that the DSD would inspect Fo Tan Nullah once a month and arrange contractors to clean up rubbish or weeds if there was any.

162. Mr Raymond NG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the EPD would arrange inspections from time to time during holidays. The Department would also inspect rivers every day and take water samples regularly to monitor water quality;
- (b) he said that in response to the case on 17 May, the EPD immediately contacted the DSD to arrange for opening drain covers, and contacted the property management offices and the owners' corporations of the more high-risk industrial buildings in the industrial area in Fo Tan. In this case, the EPD would send letters to warn or remind relevant units after each inspection. According to the information provided by the DSD, the EPD identified an industrial building and inspected the relevant plants, but nothing had been found. The EPD had also followed up with the property management offices on the structures of the storm water drains and sewers in the industrial buildings to ensure correct connection; and
- (c) he said that after receiving the notification of Mr LUI Kai-wing, the EPD immediately sent personnel to investigate, but nothing had been found. The EPD would send staff to inspect on the spot to maintain the water quality of Shing Mun River.

163. The Vice-chairman asked whether consideration would be given to adding automated sample-taking equipment at pollution black spots so as to take samples by remote control. He asked whether the EPD would consider introducing relevant technologies.

164. Mr Raymond NG said that it depended on whether there were suitable geographical locations. He pointed out that the purpose of taking water samples was to monitor water quality, and the evidence for prosecution should be taken from the source of pollution. The EPD had also regularly monitored water quality. For individual cases, the EPD would study whether there was any equipment available to assist in the implementation of water quality monitoring.

165. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr LUI Kai-wing on the Use of Chun Yeung Estate as a Quarantine Centre and Relative Support to Prospective Tenants
(Paper No. HE 37/2020)

166. Mr LUI Kai-wing said that since the start of the epidemic, the FHB, the DH and the HA had not participated in any of the meeting of the HEC. He thought that the written reply of the departments failed to respond to the questions raised by members, resulting in inefficient questioning. Taking his questions as an example, he pointed out that departments did not respond to the question on how long it would take to disinfect Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre and Chun Yeung Estate. He wanted to know whether it was because departments missed that question or there were other reasons. He said that as the department did not attend the meeting, it was difficult to know about the reasons and waiting for a written reply was time-consuming. He asked how to follow up questions raised.

167. The views of Mr MAK Tsz-kin were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that members were disappointed that the FHB and the DH had not attended any meeting of the STDC to discuss matters about Chun Yeung Estate Quarantine Centre and how to response to the epidemic since the virus struck. He said both questions and replies could only be raised and given in writing, but not in the Council face to face;
- (b) he said that the public hoped that the HD could release the information of the units with confirmed cases in Chun Yeung Estate Quarantine Centre;
- (c) he pointed out that the government might suspend the use of Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre in July. However, in view of the replase of the epidemic, the prospective residents of Chun Yeung Estate were worried that the government would continue to requisition Chun Yeung Estate. He wanted to know from the HD when the prospective residents would be informed to sign contracts and pick up keys, and what the order of moving in was;
- (d) it was known that the allocation of houses for civil servants was handled by the Civil Service Bureau. He wanted to know whether civil servants would be arranged to move in at the first group or the second group. He hoped that the STDO would get a reply from the relevant department;
- (e) he asked the Education Bureau about the number of the vacancies of school place in Sha Tin District. Some residents reported that children were assigned to study in Ma On Shan. He asked about the number of the vacancies of school place in the School Net 91 available to the prospective residents of Chun Yeung Estate; and
- (f) he said that the prospective residents of Chun Yeung Estate had sacrificed six months of time and had to pay high rent, but the government did not provide assistance. He pointed out that he had suggested that the government should provide ex-gratia allowance to the prospective residents until they moved in, but the government refused. He asked whether rent relief or exemption would be provided after they moved in.

168. The views of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa were summarised below:

- (a) he wanted to know what measures the Education Bureau had in place to support the school children affected by the use of Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre; and
- (b) he asked if there was any new school near Chun Yeung Estate that could provide school places for the residents of Chun Yeung Estate so that the number of school children who need to travel to other districts to attend schools could be reduced. He thought that in view of the mental and physical conditions of school children, it might be not suitable for primary school students to travel to other districts to attend schools.

169. The views of the Vice-Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) if the residents of Chun Yeung Estate were granted rent relief, those who gave up the opportunity to gain residential units at Chun Yeung Estate but choose to re-queue would not be benefited. He asked what supporting measures such people could receive;
- (b) he asked about the practical support for school children who failed to move into Chun Yeung Estate as scheduled and needed to travel to other districts to attend schools;
- (c) he pointed out that about 3 000 units at Chun Yeung Estate were used for quarantine. He wanted to know the addresses of those units and the unit numbers of the units where confirmed cases had once stayed; and
- (d) he pointed out that Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre could only provide 1 500 quarantine units, which was far behind Chun Yeung Estate. He hoped that the STDO would ask the HD to explain the arrangements when more quarantine units were needed if the epidemic broke out again.

170. Ms. MOK Siu-fan gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the question of Mr MAK Tsz-kin about the allocation of public rental housing units, she said that the HD would follow up after the FHB and the DH returned the units of Chun Yeung Estate; and
- (b) she said that she did not have any information on other questions at the moment and would reply later after the meeting.

171. Mr Vincent LAU, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin)¹, Education Bureau (EDB) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that there were 600 primary school place vacancies in the School Nets 88, 89 and 91, ranging from vacancies for Primary 2 to vacancies for primary 6. Fo Tan area was covered in the School Net 91, where there were 150 school places; while there were 250 school places in the School Net 89 and about 200 school places in the School Net 88. Within the district, there were also more than

1 000 school place vacancies for secondary students. Therefore, there were sufficient vacancies of school place for school children who would move in;

- (b) the EDB had distributed Application Form for School Transfer through the HD to residents in need to provide parents with information on schools with school place vacancies in the district or provide school referral services according to their needs. By the end of June, the EDB had received 28 applications for school transfer and provided appropriate assistance to all applicants; and
- (c) he said that before the prospective tenants officially moved in, traveling to other districts to attend schools was not recommended. He pointed out that if the prospective tenants were informed of the date of moving in, the EDB would arrange school places in Sha Tin District for them as soon as possible.

172. Mr Sebastian WONG replied that since some members hoped that the STDO could assist in following up departments' replies, in what form would the Vice-chairman like to provide information to members.

173. The Vice-chairman said that regarding the housing allocation arrangements for civil servants, he hoped to forward information to the HD as the related concession was provided for civil servants by the HD and he asked whether the HD could discuss with the Civil Service Bureau about how it should be followed up. In addition, the DH would need to respond to the question about the information of the quarantine units.

174. Mr Sebastian WONG said that they could ask all departments to submit replies to relevant follow-up questions, which would be included in the paper about matters arising of the next meeting.

175. The Vice-chairman said that processing replies simultaneously could increase efficiency.

176. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa wanted to check with the EDB whether there would be no new school because there were enough school places in the district to cope with the enrolment of primary and secondary school students.

177. Mr MAK Tsz-kin said that there were school children living in Southern District who were allocated to schools in Ma On Shan. As it was expected that it would take time to decorate the unit after receiving keys in September, he asked whether the EDB would consider providing cross district transportation allowance for school children. He wanted to know how the EDB would deal with the problem about school places.

178. The Vice-chairman asked what the Department would do if a resident knew that there had been a confirmed case in his/her unit and finally decided to give up the unit.

179. Mr Vincent LAU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said there were no new school planned for Chun Yeung Estate. P.L.K. Siu Hon Sum Primary School would move to the new school premises under construction in Fo Tan and the EDB would provide sufficient school places for the school children of the district as needed;

- (b) he said that the EDB had no plan to provide cross district allowance for the time being; and
- (c) members mentioned that the school places allocated to some school children were far away from their homes. The EDB would try its best to arrange the school places within the School Net 91 that were closer to their homes for school children. He suggested that school children should attend schools at their districts and avoid traveling to other districts to attend schools before moving in.

180. Ms MOK Siu-fan said that Chun Yeung Estate had not been returned to the HD yet and the HD needed time to review the situations.

181. The Vice-chairman said that if a resident was allocated a unit that a confirmed patient had stayed in and the resident gave up the unit due to concern, the HD should consider what procedures and mechanism had to be adopted to handle such cases.

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

- (a) he wanted to know whether the HD would inform the prospective residents of the units in which confirmed cases had lived. If not, the prospective residents would not know about it; and
- (b) he said that if the prospective residents refused to accept the allocation because they were worried that the units had not been thoroughly disinfected, he asked how the HD would deal with it. He said that the HD had indicated that a number of issues were still under consideration. He thought that it was necessary to reassure the prospective residents. If something unpleasant happened to the units, the HD should inform the prospective residents. It was known that after the estate was returned to the HD by the DH, the HD would check whether the relevant units needed to be renovated before they were handed over to the allocation team. He said that the prospective residents would have questions and the HD would need to provide information. He said that he had also proposed to let members visit and know about the allocation and disinfection processes at the DFMSC because these measures were implemented for the first time. He opined that doubts could not be dispelled simply by the DH's assurance of disinfection.

183. Ms MOK Siu-fan said that she would report the relevant opinions to the HD and give a reply after the meeting.

184. The Vice-chairman hoped that the HD would communicate with the relevant Members because they had collected a lot of enquiries and questions from the residents of Chun Yeung Estate. He also hoped that the HD would provide perfect arrangements.

185. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

Information Item

Report of Working Group
(Paper No. HE 38/2020)

186. Members noted the above Paper.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2020 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. HE 39/2020)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2020)
(Paper No. HE 40/2020)

2020-2021 Approved Estimates of an Expenditure Head under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 41/2020)

187. The Vice-chairman said that due to the time limit of the meeting, the three papers would be processed together. He asked members if they had any opinions.

188. The Vice-chairman said that the ovitrap index of this year was higher than that of last year. He wanted to know whether it was because of the epidemic that it was impossible to arrange manpower to spray mosquito spray or because the rainy season came earlier. He pointed out that some residents reported that the mosquito problem had appeared earlier this year. He wanted to know about the anti-mosquito work arrangements of the FEHD this year.

189. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) since April this year, the FEHD had replaced old ovitraps with newly designed gravidtraps to determine gravidtrap indices and develop new density indices. The new gravidtrap was simple in design. The gravidtrap was a simple device made of a black plastic container of approximately 600ml with a glue board placed inside, and was covered by a black lid with openings and a raised grey cover. The FEHD could directly check whether there were adult albopictus on the sticky boards in the collected gravidtraps to calculate gravidtrap indices. New gravidtraps were more accurate and convenient than the old ovitraps;
- (b) the Area Gravidtrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (AGI) indicated the extensiveness of the distribution of Aedine mosquitoes in an area, while the Area Density Gravidtrap Index for *Aedine albopictus* (ADI) indicated the density of Aedine albopictus in the particular survey area during the survey period. The ADI reflected the level of activity of Aedine albopictus in an area by counting the number of Aedine mosquitoes in gravidtraps. After obtaining relevant figures, the FEHD would inform District Environmental Hygiene Offices and relevant government departments of the AGIs and ADIs at each stage so as to take targeted anti-mosquito measures; and
- (c) according to the paper, the AGI of Ma On Shan area in April 2020 was 8.1%, and the ADI was 1.2%; the AGI in May was 12.1%, and the ADI was 1.9%; members could refer to the paper for the relevant indices of other areas.

190. The Vice-chairman wanted to know whether the FEHD had completely replaced the old ovitraps with newly designed gravidtraps or would gradually replace them.

191. Mr Derek LAI replied that the FEHD had completely replaced the old ovitraps with newly designed gravidtraps.

192. The Vice-chairman asked members whether they had other questions.

193. The Vice-chairman said there were rodents dashing out into the road from area near Kam Tai Court, which reflected rodent infestation. He hoped the FEHD would pay attention to it.

194. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of discussion on this item.

195. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

196. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 8 September 2020 (Tuesday).

197. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

September 2020