

**Minutes of the 7th Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2020**

Date : 6 October 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Chairman : Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Members : Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	2:30 pm	4:42 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	2:30 pm	4:20 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	3:11 pm	7:18 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:52 pm	4:30 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	2:30 pm	7:00 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	3:26 pm	7:18 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	6:53 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	4:15 pm	7:18 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	6:14 pm	6:55 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:58 pm	4:06 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	2:44 pm	7:18 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	2:30 pm	7:00 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	2:30 pm	7:12 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	4:06 pm	7:18 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	2:30 pm	6:53 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	2:30 pm	7:15 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:46 pm	3:58 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	2:30 pm	6:53 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	2:30 pm	7:13 pm
Mr SHEK William	4:19 pm	7:18 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	6:30 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	2:30 pm	4:23 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	3:03 pm	3:58 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	2:53 pm	5:14 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	7:18 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	3:05 pm	7:18 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	2:58 pm	7:18 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	2:30 pm	7:15 pm

Present

Secretary : Mr YEUNG Sze-kin
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

**Time of joining
the meeting**

5:18 pm
2:30 pm
Senior Executive Officer (District Council)/
Sha Tin District Office

**Time of leaving
the meeting**

7:18 pm
7:18 pm

In Attendance

Dr WONG Chin-kiu, Janet, JP
Ms WONG Kwan-yee, Jenny
Ms WONG Yuen-shan, Candice
Ms CHAN Kam-kuk, Tammy

Mr IP Cheuk-yu

Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek

Mr CHAN Kai-lam, Allan

Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy

Ms LEUNG Yee-lee, Maggie

Ms WONG Sau-kuen, Joe

Ms CHAN Siu-kin, Ester

Ms WONG Kam-lai

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Mr HAR Sung-fu, Haven

Ms CHU Kam-seung

Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson

Ms YICK Hong-nien, Hannah

Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy

Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia

Mr WONG Chun-wai, Edmund

Mr HO Kin-nam, David

Title

District Officer (Sha Tin)
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2
Deputy District Commander (Shatin)/
Hong Kong Police Force
Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin
District) / Hong Kong Police Force
District Environmental Hygiene
Superintendent (Sha Tin)/ Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department
Chief Manager/ Management (Tai Po, North,
Sha Tin)/ Housing Department
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer
(Shatin)1/ Social Welfare Department
District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)/
Social Welfare Department
District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)/
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Deputy District Leisure Manager
(District Support) Sha Tin/
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Chief School Development Officer (Shatin)/
Education Bureau
Principle Transport Officer/ New Territories 1/
Transport Department
Senior Engineer/7 (North)/ Civil Engineering
and Development Department
Administration Assistant/ Lands (Atg)
(District Lands Office, Sha Tin)/
Lands Department
District Lands Officer/ Sha Tin/
Lands Department
Senior Town Planner/Sha Tin/
Planning Department
Chief Liaison Officer/
Sha Tin District Office
Senior Liaison Officer (West)/
Sha Tin District Office
Senior Liaison Officer (North)/
Sha Tin District Office
Executive Officer I (District Council)1/
Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr LAU Kwok-fu

Mr MUI Yin-wai

Mr TONG King-man

Mr CHENG Tsz-wing

TitleDivision Commander (New Territories East)/
Fire Services DepartmentStation Commander Sha Tin Fire Station/
Fire Services DepartmentAssistant Chief Ambulance Officer
(New Territories South) (Atg)/Fire Services Department
Superintendent (Ambulance) (New Territories
South East)/ Fire Services Department**Absent**

Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris

Mr YIP Wing

(Application for leave of absence received)

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Action

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the meeting. The meeting originally scheduled for 24 September this year was postponed to today due to the pandemic.

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

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Mr YIP Wing
Mr Chris MAK

Sickness
Official commitment

4. The Council unanimously approved the applications for leave of absence submitted by the Members above.

Discussion Item

To Inquire About the On-site Handling of a No. 3 Alarm Fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate in the Afternoon of 24 September 2020 by Relevant Government Departments and Their Provision of Emergency Relief Services and Relevant Arrangements After the Fire

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on the Rescue and Recovery Operations for the Fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate in the Afternoon of 24 September 2020

(Paper No. STDC 78/2020)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr LAU Kwok-fu, Division Commander (New Territories East); Mr TONG King-man, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (New Territories South) (Atg);

Mr CHENG Tsz-wing, Superintendent (Ambulance) (New Territories South East); and Mr MUI Yin-wai, Station Commander Sha Tin Fire Station of the Fire Services Department (FSD) to the meeting.

6. The Chairman said 2 agenda items at this meeting were related to the No. 3 alarm fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate which took place on 24 September 2020 pm. The first discussion item responded to the questions regarding the handling method raised by members when they learnt of the fire during the meeting of the District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee (DFMSC) dated 24 September. At that time, he suggested discussing it openly at the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) meeting. Mr Michael YUNG submitted his question regarding the relevant issue later on. He thanked the relevant departments for responding to the questions within a short period of time. He opined that, in handling the agenda items at this meeting, the departments could respond to the first discussion item regarding the No. 3 alarm fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate which took place on 24 September pm as well as Mr YUNG's question collectively. Considering the pandemic and a better control of the meeting duration, he suggested that each Member comply with the number of times allowed for raising and following up on questions during the questioning process and with the speaking time.

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

- (a) he received a letter on 24 September regarding his questions submitted to the STDC meeting on 14 August. The letter pointed out that some of the questions were not in compliance with the District Council Ordinance. 13 questions were not in compliance with the District Council's functions stipulated in Section 61 of the District Council Ordinance. He was discontented that no replies were given to those questions before the meeting;
- (b) he did not receive any reply from the relevant departments regarding the handling progress of his questions; and
- (c) he asked the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) to explain why those questions did not comply with the District Council Ordinance.

8. The Chairman said, before the meeting, he already asked the Secretariat to arrange for the relevant government departments to reply to Mr CHAN Pui-ming's questions and to handle them openly at this meeting.

9. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO said the reply letter to Mr CHAN Pui-ming dated 24 September pointed out that some of the questions were irrelevant to district level issues of the Sha Tin District, and thereby not in compliance with the District Council's functions stipulated in Section 61 of the District Council Ordinance. At that time, a copy of the letter addressed to the Chairman had already been sent to Mr CHAN, hoping he would re-consider his questions. Regarding Mr CHAN's enquiry just now, the Chairman could consider how to follow up on his questions and inform the Secretariat after the meeting.

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

- (a) the Chairman could consider handling the questions concisely;

- (b) the questions on the No. 3 alarm fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate that took place on 24 September 2020 pm were urgent; and
 - (c) he queried the Secretariat's understanding of the District Council Ordinance and wished to learn the whole procedure for handling questions.
11. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:
- (a) he was dissatisfied with the Secretariat's procedure for handling questions, and asked whether the STDO and other government departments had followed up on the questions' compliance with the District Council Ordinance; and
 - (b) Section 61 of the District Council Ordinance did not authorise the STDC to handle questions.
12. The Chairman said he had already told the STDO and the Secretariat that they should explain to Mr CHAN Pui-ming why his questions were not in compliance with the District Council Ordinance when handling his questions, and they should do their best to handle them.
13. Mr Derek YUEN gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the Secretariat, upon receiving questions, would invite the relevant government departments to comment, and hence the replies were given by the Government; and
 - (b) the Secretariat would not assist in issuing relevant papers if the contents of the questions were not in compliance with the District Council Ordinance. The relevant government departments and staff of the Secretariat would not attend and participate in the discussion of the relevant papers.
14. Dr Janet WONG, District Officer (Sha Tin) gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the Secretariat, when handling questions, would first approach District Councillors for an understanding of the wording and contents of their questions. Afterwards, it would pass the questions to the relevant bureaux and departments for them to decide whether the questions were in compliance with the District Council Ordinance. It would then relay the comments of the bureaux and the departments to District Councillors;
 - (b) since it took time for government departments to study and process questions, they might reply to the Secretariat just shortly before the date of meeting; and
 - (c) questions in compliance with the District Council Ordinance were required to be district level issues of the Sha Tin District in order to be included in the agenda for discussion. If a question was partly in compliance with District Council Ordinance, the Chairman and the District Councillor who raised the question would be recommended to revise it.

15. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that the last thing uploaded onto the STDC website was the set of minutes of the STDC special meeting dated 14 May 2020. He asked if there was no agenda item for the STDC meeting originally scheduled for 24 September.

16. The Chairman said that the agenda items for the STDC meeting originally scheduled for 24 September included reports of the 7 committees under the STDC and the financial account of the STDC. Besides, there were 2 controversial questions which had been passed to the Secretariat to be processed.

17. Mr CHENG Tsuk-man said that it used to be controversial to discuss the absence of the police from the meetings of the DFMSC. He wished to know which bureau and department could explain the District Council Ordinance.

18. Mr LI Sai-hung was dissatisfied with how the reimbursements for the District Councillors' expenses were arranged and which issues were allowed to be discussed at meetings.

19. The Chairman said he was dissatisfied with the Government's unreasonable hindrance to District Councillors' questions. He suggested publicising the contents of the questions and explaining why some questions were not responded to, instead of removing them. He hoped the relevant departments, including the STDO and the Home Affairs Bureau, would review the STDC's arrangements.

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

- (a) he asked if the questions could be handled by the same standard; and
- (b) he wished to know why Mr CHAN Pui-ming's questions was not in compliance with the District Council Ordinance.

21. The Chairman said Mr CHAN Pui-ming would speak first and then the department would respond as a conclusion before the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

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

- (a) the submitted questions had been discussed before; and
- (b) he did not understand why certain parts of the questions, such as arrangements for cross-boundary school children by the Department of Health (DH) and the Education Bureau, were not in line with the interests of Sha Tin residents. He said some of the questions were raised by members of the public and they hoped the STDO would reply.

23. The Chairman said that the STDO or the Secretariat had to explain why they had reservations about Mr CHAN Pui-ming's questions on arrangements for cross-boundary school children.

24. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the STDC was required to comply with the functions of the District Councils stipulated in Section 61 of the District Council Ordinance (Cap.547 of the Laws of Hong Kong), in which the content regarding district administration was elaborated. The STDC could discuss agenda items in line with the functions of the District Councils, and the functions had parameters. Some questions were more suited to be referred to relevant bureaux and departments for follow-up action instead of being discussed in the STDC meetings. That did not mean hindering questions from District Councillors;
- (b) unreasonable hindrance did not exist at all if the relevant bureaux and departments replied; and
- (c) she would not comment on the previous practice. Relaying the questions to the relevant bureaux and departments for them to follow up properly for District Councillors would be an appropriate handling method.

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

- (a) there were occasions previously where he received emails informing him of the non-compliance of questions with the District Council Ordinance just before the agenda was issued. He opined that such a handling method left no room for coordination and discussion and was unfair to the questioner; and
- (b) he asked whether the staff of the STDO and the Secretariat had undergone legal training, and he questioned their understanding of the District Council Ordinance.

26. Mr CHAN Nok-hang opined that the Government was using the District Council Ordinance to suppress room for discussion, and he asked why agenda items which used to be discussed at meetings were now prohibited to be discussed. He felt disappointed.

27. The Chairman said he had suggested that the STDO and the Secretariat discuss with the questioner as to how the questions should be revised to prompt responses from the departments concerned, but the departments did not seem to handle them actively.

28. The Chairman said he did not recommend long-winded discussion before proceeding to agenda items.

29. Mr Wilson LI said that it was necessary to amply discuss the questions which were not in compliance with the District Council Ordinance. If they were issues affecting the residents of Sha Tin, he hoped there would be ample discussion. He opined that the STDO was currently applying a double standard in its ways of handling things.

30. The Chairman said he hoped the STDO and the Secretariat would respect the questions raised by District Councillors and discuss them more actively.

31. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she reiterated that the Secretariat had consulted the bureaux and the departments concerned when dealing with the questions;
- (b) no direct comparison should be made between previous and current cases;
- (c) she agreed with the Chairman and was willing to explore with District Councillors how to optimise certain questions to make them suitable for discussion at meetings. However, it would seem to defeat District Councils' original purpose of discussing issues related to the district concerned, if any issues were allowed to be discussed at the STDC meetings;
- (d) the date of meeting had been changed (mostly postponed) due to the pandemic, leading to a less ideal time control; in particular the time frame set for departments to submit their replies was not ideal; and
- (e) regarding Mr Michael YUNG's questions submitted to the Development and Housing Committee (DHC), she believed the departments concerned would reply later on.

32. The Chairman said he could not accept that the discussion on this issue lasted too long.

33. Mr Michael YUNG hoped that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, when meeting on Thursday with Mr TSUI Ying-wai, Caspar, Secretary for Home Affairs, along with Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the 18 District Councils, would bring up the questions raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming and him.

34. The Chairman said the discussion about the handling procedure for questions at meetings had ended, and the agenda would officially commence.

35. The Chairman suggested using Mr Michael YUNG's questions as a blueprint for Members to raise their questions. He suggested following the order based on Paper No. STDC 78/2020 where departments should first fill in the information, and then Members would question and comment.

36. Dr Janet WONG briefly introduced and the main point as follows:

- (a) the paper had briefly introduced the mechanism for activating support services and the arrangements for a temporary shelter centre which would not be repeated here;
- (b) she thanked the staff of the STDO as well as the District Councillors who had been to the site;
- (c) the STDO, upon receiving the FSD's report, already sent officers to the site to examine the situation and provide support;

- (d) there was a regular shelter centre at Lung Hang Estate. However, the fire took place at Lek Yuen Estate, so the STDO made an exceptional decision to open Lek Yuen Community Hall as a temporary shelter centre in response to the on-site situation; and
- (e) the STDO provided on-site assistance as well as backup support. It also assisted in handling the follow-up work, e.g. coordinating with the Housing Department (HD) to arrange temporary accommodation for the fire victims and applying for assistance funds for 11 fire victims with financial straits.

37. Mr LAU Kwok-fu briefly introduced the main points as follows:

- (a) the FSD received a call at 4:01 pm that day and arrived at the scene at 4:06 pm. The fire was burning fiercely and there were residents trapped on the exterior wall, so the FSD deployed a plethora of resources to the scene to put out the fire and save lives. The fire was upgraded to No.3 alarm at 4:21 pm, and the FSD had to deploy scores of manpower to rescue and search. The fire extinguishing process was smooth on the whole;
- (b) there was a resident sitting on precarious clothes drying racks waiting for rescue, and was then saved by firefighters after forcible entry into the apartment. The FSD sent 4 injured to the hospital in the end; it saved 10 residents and 1 dog in total in the whole operation; and
- (c) the FSD, with the assistance by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and other departments, evacuated the residents to temporarily stay in safe places and the temporary shelter centre.

38. Ms Tammy CHAN, Deputy District Commander (Shatin) of the HKPF said the police arrived at the scene 8 minutes after receiving the call at 4:02 pm. Their duties included setting up cordons, evacuating the residents, registering people's information for finding separated family members and diverting traffic, so that the injured could be sent to the hospital expeditiously.

39. Ms Maggie LEUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) briefly introduced the main points as follows:

- (a) the SWD arranged medical social workers stationed at the Prince of Wales Hospital to provide immediate emotional support and assistance for hospitalised residents and their family members;
- (b) the SWD also arranged social workers to contact affected families at the scene, so as to provide emotional support as well as case assessment and follow up on their needs;
- (c) the SWD set up an emergency relief support counter at the temporary shelter centre to provide emergency relief supplies for affected residents. Shatin (North) Integrated Family Service Centre also provided immediate emotional support for them and found out what they needed;

- (d) 16 cases asking for help had been processed. The SWD would arranged social workers to follow up on each family's needs, including supplies and financial aid; and
- (e) Shatin (North) Integrated Family Service Centre set up a street stall at Lek Yuen Estate so that residents could reach them easily for help.

40. Mr Allan CHAN, Chief Manager/ Management (Tai Po, North, Sha Tin) of the HD briefly introduced the main points as follows:

- (a) 1 manager and 2 assistant managers went to the scene to help that day, and 6 building supervisors went upstairs to inform the residents of evacuation. The HD also helped ease the traffic downstairs for the fire engines to park and extinguish the fire;
- (b) the HD inspected the building system right after the fire was put out. It immediately arranged emergency repairs by the contractor because of the severe condition on the fifth floor. Electricity resumed within the following 2 days. Since both the electricity meter and the gas meter were both affected, it was necessary to contact Town Gas and CLP Power for repairs. Besides, the department would keep following up on the 2 households that were not in Hong Kong;

[Post-meeting note: One of the households not in Hong Kong had already returned to the flat. The HD had entered the flat for inspection and completed all necessary repairs.]

- (c) the HD had arranged temporary housing at Lek Yuen Estate and Wo Che Estate for 7 affected households, and arranged supplies with the SWD and the STDO; and
- (d) the HD was currently processing 13 relocation applications.

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

- (a) he, on behalf of the residents, thanked the FSD for the rescue operation, the HKPF for the frontline direction, the SWD for processing the residents' relocation applications and help requests, the HD for arranging relocation for the residents, and the STDO for helping the residents apply for the General Chinese Charities Fund;
- (b) he considered opening the community hall as a temporary shelter centre a makeshift solution. Since the inadequate facilities there made it unsuitable for use as a temporary shelter centre, he referred to the overseas practice of using a sports centre as a temporary shelter centre and suggested that the STDO review relevant guidelines;
- (c) he thanked the SWD for setting up a counter at Lek Yuen Estate to take care of the residents to prevent them from having post-traumatic stress disorder. He

suggested that the SWD set up a hotline for emergency emotional support after a large-scale incident to help members of the public who had been psychologically impacted after witnessing the incident; and

- (d) he found the relocation procedure complex while the victims' needs were obvious. He asked if the procedure of relocation recommendation by the SWD could be omitted. He pointed out that temporary relocation made it hard for residents to arrange their daily needs at home. He suggested that the SWD consider providing permanent relocation for seriously affected residents and assess those less affected.

42. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he asked the STDO for its guidelines for dealing with emergencies;
- (b) to his knowledge, Assistant District Officer (ADO) would give direction at the scene in the past. On the day of the incident, he asked about the on-site situation at the DFMSC, but the STDO did not give a clear response. He asked about the work arrangements of District Officer (Sha Tin) (DO) for that day; and
- (c) he wished to know who would give direction in the event of large-scale incidents.

43. The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know about how DO handled the incident and what the follow-up support measures were. When a fire broke out at Kak Tin Village, the then DO went to the scene with Mr CHING Cheung-ying to inspect the site and comfort the villagers; and
- (b) he wished to know the role of the STDO in a rescue operation.

44. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) after receiving a report on the fire at Wing Shui House, Lek Yuen Estate from the Fire Services Communications Centre at 4:20 pm that day, the duty supervisor of the STDO' Emergency Co-ordination Centre immediately informed DO and the liaison unit of the constituency. Lung Hang Estate Community Centre was a ready shelter centre with comprehensive facilities for the public to shun the heat or the cold. Yet, she decided to open Lek Yuen Community Hall as a shelter centre instead for the convenience of the victims at Lek Yuen Estate. Consequently, the STDO informed the organisations hiring the venue of the arrangement and transferred the supplies from Lung Hang Estate Community Centre to Lek Yuen Community Hall. She was in charge of giving commands during the process;
- (b) according to the government's existing mechanism, the FSD gave overall commands at the fire scene and the STDO was responsible for working in coordination and providing support. Under general circumstances, arrangements such as evacuating the people and opening shelter centres were the only things to

do after the fire was extinguished. DO could give direction on the phone and did not necessarily have to visit the scene;

- (c) after receiving a report on an incident, the STDO would set up an Emergency Co-ordination Centre and send officers to provide assistance at the scene. There were 9 officers in total who first arrived at the scene to help, including 1 Senior Liaison Officer who gave on-site direction, 1 Chief Liaison Officer responsible for liaising with departments such as the HKPF and the FSD, and 1 Liaison Officer I responsible for supervising the work at the temporary shelter centre, providing support and contacting the victims; and
- (d) she said that she did not appoint ADO, who was attending the STDC meeting, to take part in the support work this time.

45. Ms Maggie LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the relocation arrangements, the SWD kept in close contact with the HD. The SWD would assess the cases and at the same time take care of the residents' other needs, e.g. applications for addition of household members; and
- (b) regarding the suggestion for setting up a hotline for emergency emotional support, the SWD would examine the feasibility and how to reinforce emotional support for the residents.

46. Mr Allan CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the HD provided temporary housing for the affected residents and, in response to the residents' individual needs, made relocation arrangements or referred them to the SWD for support or counselling;
- (b) the HD had also contacted the SWD, the STDO and non-government organisations to provide the residents with basic household supplies; and
- (c) he had contacted the contractor and demanded expeditious power resumption at the scene. The elevators for the odd floors had been damaged by water, and he already asked the contractor to repair them within the day to provide easy access for the elderly.

47. The Chairman asked the HD and the SWD if they could provide housing units with basic facilities for the victims.

48. Mr Jimmy SHAM said it would be difficult for the HD to prepare housing units with facilities in advance because where an incident would take place was unpredictable. He opined that the HD could directly relocate the residents so that they could buy furniture and home appliances.

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

- (a) he opined that the Government had yet to show strong leadership in severe incidents;
- (b) he wished to know the work of the STDO, including accommodation and meal arrangements for the victims as well as the coordination role of the on-site officers. He knew that the STDO was in charge of coordinating different departments, but he wondered if it had relayed the opinions and needs of members of the public to relevant departments apart from helping to disseminating departments' information; and
- (c) he opined that District Councillors could take up the role of communication and information dissemination in severe incidents. He suggested that the STDO step up its efforts to communicate with District Councillors and liaise with local organisations and eateries so as to provide the victims with support.

50. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the Government did not have proper preparation and arrangements because disasters were relatively rare in Hong Kong. He opined that members of the public could only rely on mutual aid in the event of incidents and pandemics;
- (b) he found the response of the STDO to incidents rather slow without clear instructions and execution. Everything just depended on DO's direction. He suggested that the STDO review its guidelines on handling disasters; and
- (c) he asked the FSD about the report's findings and progress regarding the fire at Fung Shing Court last year. He hoped the FSD would provide the information after the meeting.

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

- (a) he said he asked one of the two ADOs attending the meeting on the day of the incident to visit the scene, and he wished to know why no arrangement was made;
- (b) he found the FSD's response swift as it only took the department 5 minutes from deployment to arrival at the scene. He said that most of the ambulances in the Sha Tin District were deployed that day, and he asked if the department would consider providing more ambulance depots or fire stations in the district;
- (c) he asked if the temporary housing provided by the HD for the victims had already been allocated. If not and victims wished to apply for relocation, he asked whether the department would make flexible arrangements. Since residents might have psychological trauma resulting from witnessing the fire, he asked if the department could arrange relocation without the SWD's assessment; and
- (d) he regretted that the Hospital Authority (HA) had failed to send representatives to attend the meeting because it said the injury cases involved personal privacy not

suitable for open discussion. He called on Members to propose a provisional motion for him to pass onto the Hospital Governing Committees to request that they send representatives to attend STDC meetings.

52. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the support provided by the STDO regarding this fire included: opening Lek Yuen Community Hall as a temporary shelter centre and providing basic supplies such as bedding; coordinating with the SWD and the HD; and helping victims apply for the General Chinese Charities Fund, etc.;
- (b) according to the existing mechanism for handling incidents, she did not agree that individual decisions would affect the overall handling method. Everyone had their own role;
- (c) she welcomed opinions from District Councillors and would take the chance to review the emergency response mechanism to make improvements;
- (d) she said that officers of the HD and the SWD provided assistance at the scene, e.g. providing emotional support and food. On the other hand, Chief Liaison Officer of the STDO kept in contact with the FSD and the HKPF for updates as to when the scene would be reopened. Since bodies were found at the scene at a later stage of the incident, the forensic team was expected to examine the scene which therefore would not be reopened within a short period of time. The STDO hence expeditiously arranged for residents to stay at the temporary shelter centre. Afterwards, the STDO urged the HKPF and the FSD to reopen the floors outside the incident site one by one for residents to return. During the whole process, the STDO already made adjustments based on the situation and changes; and
- (e) she said she would adopt suitable opinions from Members and aptly adjust the procedures and arrangements in the future.

53. Mr LAU Kwok-fu gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FSD already replied to Mr CHAN Nok-hang's question in the STDC meeting dated 21 May. He hereby reiterated that the FSD had set up an independent committee of inquiry to investigate the causes, injuries and fatalities of the Fung Shing Court fire. Since the committee was not under the purview of the New Territories East district and death investigation was involved, he could not respond at this stage; and
- (b) fire engines and ambulances were deployed by the computer system. Vehicles from other districts could be deployed to Sha Tin, if necessary, to maintain services. He said whether to provide more ambulance depots or fire stations was still in the preliminary study stage.

54. Mr TONG King-man said that apart from the computer system deploying nearby ambulances to hurry to the scene to handle incidents in the district, the Ambulance Command also had a Special Support Unit in charge of assisting in handling large-scale incidents so as to

ensure rescue resources in the district were sufficient.

55. Mr Allan CHAN said those units were just temporary housing instead of relocation. The HD would provide as much assistance as possible or arrange relocation based on available resources according to the residents' individual needs.

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

- (a) he wished to know how the HD would have arranged temporary housing if the incident had taken place in a private residential estate. He found the facilities in the vacant units substandard and the living conditions poor. He suggested that the HD consider arranging campsites as temporary housing for the victims; and
- (b) he said the current relocation arrangements were taking rather long, and asked if the administration could be sped up.

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

- (a) he said the victims needed to rebuild their homes, not temporary relocation; and
- (b) he opined that DO would have to visit the scene to understand the situation. He said the units in the vicinity of the affected ones might not be habitable after the fire either. After knowing that the floors were not to be reopened shortly, he already contacted nearby eateries for assistance. He opined that only being at the scene to examine the situation could provide suitable post-incident support, and that it was necessary for the STDO to strengthen communication with him.

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

- (a) he knew that the FSD and the HKPF were present at the scene that day to provide suitable assistance;
- (b) he asked the SWD about its procedure for handling large-scale incidents, e.g. providing assistance at the scene and setting up hotlines;
- (c) he hoped the HD would provide temporary housing for residents of the units near the affected ones. He asked if the affected units would release carcinogenic substances after the fire that would affect the health of the residents;
- (d) he wished to know the STDO's procedure for handling emergency incidents; and
- (e) he opined that the government departments should strengthen cooperation with District Councillors so as to help members of the public.

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

- (a) she wished to know if the Government was serving members of the public. She opined that the units near the affected ones were inhabitable after the fire, and that the STDO should arrange temporary housing for the residents and provide dinner

for the elderly expeditiously; and

- (b) she wished to know if the STDO would think that streamlining the coordination procedure for incidents would make the handling more flexible.

60. Dr Janet WONG said that the situation at the scene kept changing, and the STDO already sent officers to provide support there and report to her. The STDO also prepared to open Yuen Chau Kok Community Hall as a temporary shelter centre that day to house the residents who could not return to their homes that night. The SWD also provided assistance for the victims. In short, different departments provided support and coordinated with one another; the STDO did not do everything.

61. Ms Cecilia LEUNG, Senior Liaison Officer (West) of the STDO briefly described how the STDO assisted the victims at the fire scene as follows:

- (a) upon receiving the fire report, the STDO immediately sent officers to the scene to study and examine the situation. When the officers arrived, the FSD and the HKPF were still carrying out the rescue operation. The HKPF had already set up a temporary command centre at Fu Yu House to help residents register. If residents asked for help, the HKPF would refer them to the STDO for follow-up action;
- (b) the STDO received a case asking for help from a household at the scene. Since the fire was not put out yet at the time, officers could only comfort them at once and settle them at the shelter centre, and then contact the SWD expeditiously to offer them suitable support;
- (c) the STDO arranged to open Lek Yuen Community Hall as a temporary shelter centre as soon as possible. Since it was not an established temporary shelter centre, the STDO was required to inform the hirers of cancelling their bookings in advance;
- (d) the necessary supplies were transported to Lek Yuen Community Hall;
- (e) officers of the STDO contacted the SWD to provide suitable assistance for the victims at the shelter centre;
- (f) the STDO estimated that there would be quite a number of victims to be sheltered when the building was not yet reopened. It simultaneously had considered arranging to open Yuen Chau Kok Community Hall as the second shelter centre due to the anti-pandemic needs and arranging free transportation for the victims;
- (g) after the residents had been informed of the gradual reopening of the floors, the STDO helped them return to their homes in an orderly manner;
- (h) since the fifth floor which was the incident site had not been reopened yet, officers of the STDO at the ground floor of Wing Shui House informed the fifth-floor residents to rest or stay the night at the shelter centre; and

- (i) the STDO helped a dozen victims settle in at the shelter centre.
62. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:
- (a) he said the STDO did not send enough manpower to provide assistance at the scene;
 - (b) he opined that Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre equipped with relatively comprehensive facilities could be considered being used as a temporary shelter centre; and
 - (c) he opined that DO should have visited the scene to examine the situation so as to provide suitable assistance.
63. Mr LO Yuet-chau hoped the STDO would submit a review report on the fire incident to the STDC.
64. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:
- (a) he opined that it was difficult to give direction from a distance to provide victims with support in a large-scale incident. He believed that DO would have been able to assess the situation and arrange to use Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre as a temporary shelter centre if she had examined the situation at the scene;
 - (b) he hoped DO would communicate more with District Councillors in times of large-scale incidents; and
 - (c) he wished to know if the work DO was dealing with when the fire was taking place outweighed the handling of the fire incident.
65. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:
- (a) he hoped DO would respect and listen to Members' opinions;
 - (b) he said there was no officer in command from the STDO to provide assistance for the victims at the fire scene. He asked why DO and ADOs did not go there to give commands and coordinate;
 - (c) he opined that the STDO had to coordinate departments to provide assistance such as meals and medications for the victims; and
 - (d) he asked if the HD could expedite relocation within the estate instead of merely providing temporary housing.
66. The views of Mr CHAN Wan-tung were summarised below:
- (a) he hoped the STDO would communicate more with Members. District Councillors kept close relations with the residents; and the residents would ask District Councillors for assistance. He opined that, when dealing with grave

incidents, District Councillors of the relevant constituency could gather and contact residents, e.g. evacuating them and contacting eateries for providing meals; and

- (b) he said Mr Jimmy SHAM was denied entry to the shelter centre. He opined that District Councillors and the Government were not in a hostile relation. Instead, District Councillors worked for the well-being of the residents. He asked for DO's contact method and hoped DO would strengthen communication with District Councillors.

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

- (a) he visited the temporary shelter centre with Mr CHAN Pui-ming on the night of the fire incident. He said Mr Jimmy SHAM had contacted the eateries nearby to provide meal boxes for the victims. He opined that the officers in charge of the STDO did not go to the scene to give commands, so immediate support could not be provided;
- (b) he opined that the STDO should have coordinated departments and provided assistance for the victims based on the situation, e.g. requesting the SWD to provide meal boxes for the victims. He found the role of district leadership indistinct in this fire incident;
- (c) he hoped the STDO would review its handling of the incident. It should be required to arrange suitable officers to give commands and assist at the scene if incidents of the same sort happened in the future; and
- (d) he asked the Vice-Chairman to relay this issue along with the questions raised by Members when he met with Secretary for Home Affairs.

68. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that Mr Raymond LI's accusations against her were ungrounded, and that he did not listen to her response just now carefully;
- (b) she had consulted Ms Cecilia LEUNG, Senior Liaison Officer (West), who was the commander at the scene about the manpower deployment there and whether she needed her to return to the scene. Ms LEUNG reported that the fire was extinguished at 5:25 pm that day and information had it that 3 residents had been sent to the hospital without any fatality. Since Chief Liaison Officer had already arrived at the scene to help, colleagues judged that it would not be necessary for her to be present at the scene. The STDO colleagues at the scene were capable of handling the then situation and following up on the work the STDO was responsible for;
- (c) she said the FSD, not the STDO, was in command on the day of the fire incident. The HKPF swiftly set up a command centre at Fu Yu House as well. She asked Members not to neglect the fact that there were other colleagues and departments

at the scene that carried out their own duties to serve members of the public and the victims;

- (d) the STDO would surely conduct a review and learn from experience if Members opined that it failed to deliver;
- (e) the STDO had contacted the SWD for arranging meals. Besides, things such as cup noodles were also provided; and
- (f) during the fire incident, different departments (including the HKPF, the FSD, the HD and the STDO) belonged to one team and each of them sent suitable people to help.

69. Mr Allan CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding relocation arrangements, the HD currently had 7 vacant units as temporary accommodation for the residents in the most dire need;
- (b) the department had received 13 relocation applications and had approved some of them;
- (c) whether the affected residents would be directly relocated to temporary units depended on factors such as the size of the original units and the number of people;
- (d) for residents who wished to apply for relocation outside the estate, it would depend on the vacancy and the number of units yet to be allocated. Hence, the waiting time would probably take longer. He promised that the department would do its best to help the affected residents relocate and would seek the help of the SWD when necessary; and
- (e) Members questioned if substances having been burnt at a high temperature would be carcinogenic. The walls along the corridors did not contain carcinogens, but it would be hard to say about the burnt objects inside the units. The department would arrange the works section to repaint the exterior walls of the building expeditiously.

[Post-meeting note: The HD's contractor had finished repainting the exterior walls of the building affected by the fire.]

70. Mr LAU Kwok-fu added that, for the first part of the fire incident, the FSD was responsible for extinguishing the fire and carrying out the rescue operation; whereas, for the latter part, different government departments, including the FSD, the STDO, the HKPF and the HD, had a meeting together to exchange views on the follow-up work. Thus, as DO said, it was team work by the Government as a whole.

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

- (a) he hoped the STDO would fare better in handling severe incidents or disasters in the future and DO would personally give commands at the scene; and

- (b) he said both ADOs were present in the conference room that day. One of them should have been appointed to inspect the site and report the situation to the management so as to make better decisions.

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

- (a) he wished to know why the two ADOs did not visit the scene to examine the situation while a number of Members were enquiring about the fire;
- (b) he asked how the STDO communicated with District Councillors of the constituency concerned regarding the fire and what information was provided;
- (c) he hoped the newly appointed DO and the two ADOs would provide their mobile phone numbers for easy contact; and
- (d) he said he would meet with Secretary for Home Affairs on Thursday, and asked Members to feel free to raise the issues they wished to be relayed.

73. The Chairman said that, based on previous experience, District Councillors played a vital role in communicating with the residents in times of severe incidents in their respective constituencies. He asked the STDO to refer to the past work arrangements and experience.

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

- (a) he opined that DO giving direction would lead to more effective communication and more humanised arrangements, e.g. requesting the HA to help make arrangements for the medication needs of the elderly and the SWD to provide the victims with dinner, providing bedding and daily necessities for the victims, or considering arranging campsites as temporary housing for the residents;
- (b) he hoped the newly appointed DO would have better communication with Members;
- (c) he pointed out that some district issues had to be addressed by cross-departmental efforts, but the former DO requested that the departments reply separately and failed to play the role of a coordinator; and
- (d) regarding providing temporary housing, he wished to know whether it was due to administrative or institutional reasons that hindered the HD's immediate handling of relocation cases in the event that unfurnished units were sufficient.

75. Mr CHIU Chu-pong said Members were concerned about the fire, and hence he allowed discussion at the DFMSC meeting. He hoped the STDO would cooperate with Members when it came to the well-being of the residents, and he hoped DO would provide her mobile phone number for them to contact her.

76. Mr YAU Man-chun said the STDO should actively provide support under emergency. He urged the STDO to conduct a review and asked DO to provide her mobile phone number for

contact purposes.

77. Mr Wilson LI opined that the government departments and District Councillors had their own functions which complemented one another in terms of livelihood issues, so that they could help members of the public together.

78. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said although Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon had left the STDO, the newly appointed ADO, Ms Jenny WONG, used the same mobile phone number. Members could contact her at the same number. She also knew that Liaison Officers and the Secretariat's staff members had already given their contact methods to the Chairmen of the relevant committees;
- (b) Members mentioned that the Executive Officer responsible for election duties was assisting at the scene. In fact, she was on duty as the vice supervisor under the emergency response mechanism that day;
- (c) the Chief Liaison Officer and the Senior Liaison Officer at the scene that day were experienced in handling district emergency response duties and such manpower was allocated based on reasonable considerations and decisions. The STDO would review how to handle incidents of the same sort better in the future;
- (d) departments would inform and update one another under the mechanism in a timely manner. In the event of emergency, it would be subject to cases as to whether the departments would still need assistance from district offices when they could handle it directly;
- (e) she opined that they should serve members of the public and the public's well-being should take priority. The Government or the STDO and District Councillors should take the same stance; and
- (f) she hoped there would be no more severe incidents. If the STDO needed to apply the emergency response mechanism, she hoped it would fare better to provide the residents with more befitting assistance, including follow-up services.

79. Mr NG Kam-hung opined that it was rather difficult for Members to contact DO directly.

80. Mr YAU Man-chun wished to know if DO inspected the scene afterwards.

81. Mr HUI Yui-yu opined that the review at this meeting lacked substance. He pointed out that only the persons-in-charge with decision-making authority could decide the deployment of food supply at the scene and resources at the community centre. He therefore was dissatisfied with the emergency response this time.

82. Mr CHIU Chu-pong said that the fire incident was a livelihood issue, so he asked the two ADOs at the DFMSC meeting to provide assistance at the scene and help solve problems. He hoped the STDO would review this.

83. The Chairman asked the STDO to note Members' opinions and respond, and develop a close and efficient cooperative relation with the STDC.

84. Dr Janet WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) as stated in the paper, a Senior Liaison Officer authorised by her gave commands at the scene that day;
- (b) when the STDO needed to activate emergency support services, open temporary shelter centres, etc., staff members had their own positions and there were established procedures to follow. There was no need to ask DO for approval for every action. As for the review she had mentioned, she meant reviewing how to improve in terms of execution; and
- (c) she said both ADOs did inspect the scene and report that evening. She herself inspected the scene of the road leading to Lek Yuen Estate.

85. Mr Allan CHAN added that the HD would process relocation based on priority and would contact the SWD for assistance if need be.

86. Mr Michael YUNG wished to know how the Secretariat would handle the information on the No. 3 alarm fire dated 24 September 2020 provided by the FSD. He asked if the information would be enclosed in the question so as to keep the relevant textual record.

87. Mr LAU Kwok-fu said the information was a file in response to a STDO's email which asked the department to provide a brief account of the incident and to Mr Michael YUNG's question.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee (Paper No. STDC 79/2020)

88. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked the Transport Department (TD) to follow up on the survey on the number of passengers after the pandemic.

89. Mr Michael YUNG said the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) originally planned to convene a special meeting on 13 October to discuss the airport bus routes of Long Win Bus Company Limited (LW), Sha Tin District's restructuring arrangements and a reduction in route services after the Tuen Ma Line came into operation. He said the TD would further survey the number of passengers of the routes concerned in the week of 6 October in the hopes of getting a better idea of the passenger capacity after schools resumed. Since the survey on the number of passengers took time, and LW disagreed with the STDC and the TD on the arrangements for its airport bus routes, he would further follow up with the STDO on the arrangements for the use of the conference room.

District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee
(Paper No. STDC 80/2020)

90. Mr Michael YUNG said he previously had a meeting with GAW Capital Partners (GAW) and representatives of the STDO to follow up on Project DMW378. He opined that the engineers of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had not researched sufficiently. Apart from the connecting covers requested by the Highways Department, it also depended on whether the Independent Checking Unit (ICU) of the HD accepted the relevant opinions or not. Regarding the engineers' saying that it would take 2 months to draw the plans, send letters to the ICU, etc., he asked Mr Allan CHAN, Chief Manager of the HD, to help communicate with the ICU.

91. Mr CHAN Pui-ming opined that the STDO had not properly fulfilled the liaison duties for Project DMW378. He said GAW, since taking over from the LINK, had not understood that the Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures and the ICU had their respective standards regarding the connecting rain shelter structures. He urged the relevant departments to help follow up.

92. Mr Raymond LI added that the working group invited GAW and representatives of the HAD, including the engineers, to attend a meeting to follow up on Project DMW378. He had asked the departments concerned to attend it, but to no avail. He was disappointed at the engineers' failure to provide a progress report on the works and the standards of the structures at the meeting. He quoted the secretary of the working group as saying that it took time to write to ask the departments what requirements would be acceptable, and hence a precise schedule could not be provided yet.

93. Mr CHIU Chu-pong said he fully supported Mr Raymond LI and Mr Michael YUNG to handle the disagreements on the works project.

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee
(Paper No. STDC 82/2020)

Health and Environment Committee
(Paper No. STDC 83/2020)

94. Mr Michael YUNG said, regarding the DH's failure to send representatives to the committee meeting, he requested at the meeting that the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) provide data on the health and environment facilities in the Sha Tin District under the purview of the FHB and the DH for reference. However, the FHB did not do so in its reply on the follow-up items. He asked if the Secretariat had followed up on it after the meeting; if no, he asked DO to help follow up.

95. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said he had tried contacting Secretary for Food and Health regarding the request made at the meeting to the DH and the HA for providing the information paper, but the FHB did not give a clear reply. He wished to know the progress the STDO had made on following up.

96. The Chairman asked the STDO to maintain good communication with the FHB and try its best to invite representatives of the DH to attend the meetings.

Education and Welfare Committee
(Paper No. STDC 84/2020)

97. Mr CHAN Pui-ming hoped that the next meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) would discuss the problem of traffic congestion after schools resumed and issues such as the auxiliary arrangements for the zero-car policy in the Sha Tin District.

98. Mr LO Tak-ming said he would discuss with the EWC's Chairman, Mr Chris MAK, whether it would be possible to invite representatives of the TD to the next EWC meeting to answer Mr CHAN Pui-ming's question.

99. The Chairman said it would be more appropriate to discuss issues involving traffic problems in the district at the TTC.

100. Mr Michael YUNG said the zero-car policy put forward by the English Schools Foundation had yielded effective results. He had requested that the Education Bureau (EDB) include appropriate clauses when renewing the contracts with Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School as well as International Christian School (ICS). However, the EDB said the ICS had changed its principals and later on the Chief School Development Officer (Shatin) of the EDB assumed office. Hence, things were still not processed from last term to the current term. He therefore asked Mr LO Tak-ming to tell Mr Chris MAK that the problem of traffic congestion in Ma On Shan did not lie in A Kung Kok Street, but Shek Mun Interchange. He urged the EWC to follow up on implementing the zero-car policy in the school district in Shek Mun so as to ease the congestion problem at Shek Mun Interchange.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat already passed the letter from Mr Michael YUNG and Mr CHAN Pui-ming regarding their request to discuss the traffic congestion at Shek Mun Interchange after schools resumed to the Chairman of the EWC on 8 October 2020 for him to decide whether it would be included in the agenda of the EWC meeting held on 5 November this year.]

101. Mr YAU Man-chun said the walkway from TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School to Shui Chuen O Estate was considerably steep and narrow. He asked the TD to estimate future traffic conditions and actively consider widening the walkway. He would be willing to voice his opinions to the department upon site inspection.

Finance and General Affairs Committee
(Paper No. STDC 85/2020)

102. Mr Ricardo LIAO asked when the special meeting would be convened to follow up on the STDO's letter dated 11 September sent to Mr YEUNG Sze-kin and him regarding the use of the STDC's logo.

103. Mr YEUNG Sze-kin wished to know if the Secretariat had verified the credibility of the complaint's contents.

104. Mr HUI Yui-yu said he wished to propose a provisional motion in a moment.

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

- (a) he wished to know how the Secretariat handled the attachment provided by the FSD; and
- (b) regarding the absence of the DHC's report at this meeting, he asked the Secretariat to help arrange a site visit at the Hong Kong Science Park for the government departments and the committee members concerned before the DHC meeting on 13 October, so as to study solutions to the traffic congestion.

106. The views of Mr YAU Man-chun were summarised below:

- (a) he said the Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) had discussed issuing letters using STDC letter sheets with DO as the undersigned;
- (b) he had already asked the Secretariat to save the date for the special meeting, and the STDO's reply as to whether the letter could be withdrawn was still pending;
- (c) he said the agenda items of the special meeting included CCTV in the conference room, and he was planning to invite representatives of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to attend the meeting;
- (d) some of the committee meetings had been postponed due to the pandemic, and the DHC meeting was adjourned due to the lack of a quorum. He was willing to pass the date for the special meeting to the DHC or the TTC; and
- (e) he pointed out that a special meeting would not be necessary if direct discussion with DO on the facilities for the conference room could be held.

107. The Chairman asked DO to consider Mr YAU Man-chun's opinions.

108. Mr CHIU Chu-pong said he wished to propose a provisional motion in a moment.

109. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to relay Mr Michael YUNG's opinions to the DHC's Chairman.

[Post-meeting note: The Innovation and Technology Commission, the TD, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the consulting firm conducted a site visit at Chak Cheung Street with Mr Michael YUNG and Mr CHAN Pui-ming on 12 October 2020.]

110. Mr YAU Man-chun wished to know why the letters to Mr Ricardo LIAO and Mr YEUNG Sze-kin were issued with STDC letter sheets with DO as the undersigned.

111. Mr Derek YUEN responded that staff members had made a clerical mistake by using the wrong letter sheets and the Secretariat apologised to Members. He already reminded the staff members concerned to handle the matter with care.

112. Mr YAU Man-chun said such a mistake might mislead people into thinking that the STDC logo had been misappropriated in the letter.

113. Mr Ricardo LIAO asked if the STDO would withdraw the letter which had been issued with the wrong letter sheets.

114. Dr Janet WONG said it was the first time she had heard of the letter issue, and pointed out that the undersigned was incorrect which should have been “STDC Secretariat” instead. The letter hence did not misappropriate the STDC logo, but incorrectly wrote DO as the undersigned. She asked the Secretariat to rectify and handle it.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat already wrote to Mr Ricardo LIAO and Mr YEUNG Sze-kin on 14 October 2020 to replace the said letters and rectify the mistake.]

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

- (a) he was astonished by the fact that it was the first time DO had heard of the letter issue and DO had not seen the letter with her as the undersigned;
- (b) he quoted a complaint as saying that Mr Ricardo LIAO posted leaflets without a logo on a public notice board in Kwong Yuen Estate. He wished to know why the Secretariat issued a warning letter without giving the complainee a chance to defend himself first; and
- (c) he invited DO and Mr Ricardo LIAO to inspect the notice board together in order to examine the situation.

116. The Chairman asked DO to consider withdrawing the letter. He reminded Members that the current agenda was about information items of committees and asked them to be brief.

117. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped the FGAC special meeting would follow up on the letter and asked the STDO to consider withdrawing it; and
- (b) he had mentioned in the DFMSC meeting that his office received a letter from the STDO on 22 September requesting an explanation of a suspected breach of use of the community hall/centre. Mr SUEN Ka-wing, Executive Assistant of the STDC, was the undersigned. He wished to know why a staff member of the Secretariat would help handle matters of the STDO.

118. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said the representatives of the STDO did not deny the existence of the letter at the FGAC meeting, so he did not believe that DO had not seen the letter and he opined that DO had shirked her responsibilities to the Secretariat. He was dissatisfied that he could not contact DO direct to discuss his question.

119. Dr Janet WONG was dissatisfied that Mr CHAN Pui-ming had made ungrounded accusations against her. She added that the Secretariat followed up on Mr CHAN’s question direct, and hence there was nothing wrong with the Secretariat responding. She questioned why she was accused of shirking her responsibilities.

120. The Chairman thanked DO for giving clear clarifications.

121. Mr YAU Man-chun said it was ADO who attended the FGAC meeting that day. He was dissatisfied that the representative did not report to DO that the committee members requested withdrawal of the letter at the meeting. He wished to write to the Civil Service Bureau to ask whether the STDO's representative present at the FGAC meeting had committed dereliction of duty, and he considered it necessary to convene a FGAC special meeting to follow up.

122. Mr YEUNG Sze-kin reminded the Secretariat to proofread letters carefully before issuing them.

123. Mr CHIU Chu-pong suggested that DO remind the Secretariat to use her title to issue letters with prudence.

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

- (a) regarding the use of the STDC logo in letters, he asked whether the STDC could write to ask why DO or the staff members concerned issued letters using letter sheets with the STDC logo; and
- (b) he wished to know how the letter would be handled and hoped the STDC would be informed of the follow-up work.

125. Mr WONG Ho-fung suggested that the department investigate the letter incident and submit a report to explain to the committee concerned.

126. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa said he hoped DO would communicate with Members more, apart from tea gatherings, so as to avoid misunderstandings concerning the undersigned of letters.

127. Mr CHAN Pui-ming showed a letter issued by the STDO with Mr Derek YUEN as the undersigned on behalf of DO. He said he did not know how to differentiate between or handle letters issued by the Secretariat and those by the STDO, so he called the Secretariat and the STDO for enquiry. He asked the FGAC to follow up, and he would apologise to DO if he had misunderstood her.

128. The Chairman asked the FGAC to follow up and DO to carefully handle the contents of the letter and the use of letter sheets, in order to review whether the letter would be rectified or withdrawn.

129. Dr Janet WONG responded by saying that it was a matter of administrative operation. The staff member concerned joined the Secretariat less than a month ago. She would ask the Secretariat to strengthen internal training.

130. Mr HUI Yui-yu wished to know if Mr YEUNG Sze-kin would violate the regulations on the use of the STDC logo by posting "the STDC's purview did not include helping members of the public with universal screening" on a notice board holding the STDC logo.

131. Mr Wilson LI said he believed it was the first time that DO had read the letter. He pointed out that staff members issuing letters without showing them to DO in advance might have “overstepped their bounds”. He hoped DO would handle it with sternness and caution.

132. The Chairman said Members had overstretched the discussion and it was inappropriate.

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

- (a) he opined that “finance” involved using the STDC’s provision to hire staff members to support the STDC while “general affairs” were related to regulations, and therefore it was appropriate to voice their opinions to the Secretariat at this meeting; and
- (b) given that DO and ADOs just assumed office a while ago, he said Members wished to exchange phone numbers with them to share their views more often. He asked the Vice-Chairman to relay to Secretary for Home Affairs that DO might need more training in order to facilitate smooth operation of the STDC.

134. The Chairman asked the FGAC and the STDO to follow up on the opinions voiced by Member just now.

135. Dr Janet WONG clarified that the contents of the letter had been checked by appropriate colleagues. Yet, the staff member concerned might have printed the letter with the wrong letter sheets or the wrong job title when processing the layout. She instructed the STDO to pay closer attention when approving letters in the future.

136. Mr YEUNG Sze-kin said the letter did not ask him to defend or explain, so he deemed it inappropriate. He hoped DO would withdraw it.

137. Mr YAU Man-chun said he understood it was a “clerical error” made by a new colleague. He said he already relayed his request for withdrawing the letter to the STDC Secretariat, the Vice-Chairman, ADOs, etc. after the FGAC meeting. He believed that the problem could have been solved and re-discussion at this meeting would not have been necessary, had there been proper communication.

138. The Chairman said Members and the STDO colleagues were not in sync at work and there had been misunderstandings. He asked the STDO to strengthen communication with Members.

139. The Council noted the 6 progress reports above.

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 31 August 2020)
(Paper No. STDC 86/2020)

140. The Council noted the above paper.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

141. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 19 November 2020 (Thursday).

142. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/15/1

March 2021