

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of  
the Sha Tin District Council in 2022**

**Date :** 27 January 2022 (Thursday)  
**Time :** 2:30 pm  
**Venue :** Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

**Present**

Chairman : Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris  
 Vice-Chairman : Mr SIN Cheuk-nam  
 Members : Mr CHENG Chung-hang  
                   Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix  
                   Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny  
                   Mr HUI Lap-san  
                   Mr WAI Hing-cheung  
 Secretary : Mr HO Kin-nam, David

**Time of joining  
the meeting**

2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm

**Time of leaving  
the meeting**

3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm  
 3:45 pm

Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Atg)/  
 Sha Tin District Office

**In Attendance**

Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP  
 Mr LAM Fong-tat, James  
 Ms WONG Yuen-shan, Candice  
 Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin, Percy

Mr CHAN Kwok-ho

Mr CHEUNG Wai-hang

Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy

Ms CHU Ha-fan, Jessica

Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson

Mr YEUNG Wai-dor

Mr CHAN Ka-kui

Mr CHAU Chun-wing

Ms WONG Sau-kuen, Joe

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Ms WONG Kam-lai

**Title**

District Officer (Sha Tin)  
 Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1  
 Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2  
 District Commander (Shatin)/  
 Hong Kong Police Force  
 Deputy District Commander (Shatin) (Atg)/  
 Hong Kong Police Force  
 Police Community Relations Officer/  
 Shatin Police District/Hong Kong Police Force  
 District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)/  
 Social Welfare Department  
 District Planning Officer/Shatin, Tai Po and North/  
 Planning Department  
 District Lands Officer/Shatin/Lands Department  
 Administrative Assistant/Lands (Atg)/  
 (District Lands Office, Sha Tin)/Lands Department  
 District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha  
 Tin)/Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
 Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East)/  
 Leisure and Cultural Services 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 (Sha Tin)/  
 Education Bureau

**In Attendance**

Ms WONG Kam-wah

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Mr CHENG Kin-man, Raymond

**Title**

Chief Manager/Management  
(Tai Po, North and Sha Tin)/Housing Department  
Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1/  
Transport Department  
Senior Engineer/8 (North)/  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

**Absent**

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

(Application for leave of absence received)  
( " )

**Action**

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC).

**Application for Leave of Absence**

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

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Mr MOK Kam-kwai

Official commitment

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

4. Mr Johnny CHUNG proposed that an item on matters relating to the compulsory testing in the Sha Tin District should be included in the agenda of the meeting after the item on the Reports of Committees under the STDC according to Order 13(2) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders).

5. The Chairman noted that Members present had no objection to the proposal put forward by Mr Johnny CHUNG. Therefore, he approved the proposal made by Mr Johnny CHUNG according to Order 13(2) of the Standing Orders.

6. To further facilitate the discussion in the meeting, the Chairman proposed that the order of business on the agenda should be adjusted according to Order 13(2) of the Standing Orders by first discussing the Reports of the Traffic and Transport Committee, the Reports of the Education and Welfare Committee, as well as the Report of the Finance and General Affairs Committee. It was proposed that the Reports of the District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee, the Report of the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee as well as the Report of the Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee should then be discussed together. Subsequently, the Reports of the Development and Housing Committee, the Report of the Health and Environment Committee as well as the Report of the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee should also be discussed together. Members present had no objection to the proposal.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 23 September 2021**

(STDC Minutes 4/2021)

7. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18 November 2021**

(STDC Minutes 5/2021)

8. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

**Information Items**

**Reports of Committees under the STDC**

**Traffic and Transport Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 2/2022)

(Paper No. STDC 3/2022)

(Paper No. STDC 4/2022)

**Education and Welfare Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 11/2022)

(Paper No. STDC 12/2022)

**Finance and General Affairs Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 13/2022)

**District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 5/2022)

(Paper No. STDC 6/2022)

**Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 9/2022)

**Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 14/2022)

**Development and Housing Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 7/2022)

(Paper No. STDC 8/2022)

**Health and Environment Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 10/2022)

**Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 15/2022)

9. The Council noted the above 14 reports from the committees.

**Discussion Items****Matters Relating to the Compulsory Testing in the Sha Tin District**

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

- (a) he said that various places in the Sha Tin District, including Sunshine City in Ma On Shan, Heng On Estate, Scenery Garden, Shui Chuen O Estate and Mei Tin Estate, etc., had been included in the compulsory testing notices (CTNs) in recent days. Quite a few persons in the district who had been present at the specified places on the specified dates (persons subject to compulsory testing) had to undergo a nucleic acid test for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). However, the community testing facilities currently available in the Sha Tin District only included the Community Testing Centre (CTC) in Lek Yuen Estate, Sha Tin as well as the mobile specimen collection stations with limited services in Fo Tan and Ma On Shan. The need of the persons subject to compulsory testing to travel from their places of residence to the above community testing facilities inevitably resulted in further movement of people in the Sha Tin District. In addition, the above community testing facilities almost reached their full capacities, where the longest waiting time for testing was four hours. As such, many persons subject to compulsory testing were worried that it was difficult for them to undergo the test before the testing deadlines. He considered that the situation would adversely affect the anti-epidemic efforts in the Sha Tin District. He would like to learn more about the daily testing capacity of the community testing facilities in the Sha Tin District;
- (b) as far as he knew, a person subject to compulsory testing (the person concerned) called the hotline designated by the Government for booking arrangement of collecting the COVID-19 stool specimen bottles (stool specimen bottles) for his/her young child. However, as the hotline was very busy, the person concerned had to call the hotline as many as 93 times before getting through. Nevertheless, the hotline operator asked the person concerned to seek assistance from the Sha Tin District Office (STDO). The person concerned then called the STDO immediately. According to the person concerned, he/she was told by a STDO staff member to try to contact the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre (the Health Centre) to enquire about matters relating to the collection of stool specimen bottles. Yet, when the person concerned contacted the Health Centre, he/she was told by a Health Centre staff member that the stool specimen bottle distribution service was not available at the Health Centre at that time. At last, the person concerned called the designated hotline again to negotiate with an operator after getting through, and booking arrangement was then made for him/her to collect the stool specimen bottle. In his view, the incident reflected that there was a lack of effective co-ordination among government departments in respect of anti-epidemic work;
- (c) he considered that the Government had not allocated sufficient resources to take forward the anti-epidemic work in the Sha Tin District, and hence the community testing facilities in the district failed to meet the needs. He said that some confirmed patients in the district had to wait at home for a few days recently before being admitted to the community isolation facilities. The situation was unsatisfactory;

- (d) he did not agree that the Government should use existing community facilities to set up CTCs with fixed locations. However, he supported setting up additional mobile specimen collection stations, so that the demand for testing services at individual locations in the short term could be addressed swiftly; and
- (e) he would like to propose a provisional motion in due course.

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

- (a) as far as he knew, the Government had procured a large number of COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits. However, he was not informed of how the RAT kits would be distributed to the residents in the Sha Tin District. He recently learned from the media reports that some of the RAT kits were randomly distributed to citizens through the Sha Tin Community Anti-Coronavirus Link in the public area near the MTR Tai Wai Station, instead of being distributed to the groups with higher infection risk. He opined that the distribution arrangements were unsatisfactory, and hoped the Government could review the current arrangement under which RAT kit testing was not a substitute for the compulsory testing;
- (b) he considered that under the current booking arrangements for collecting stool specimen bottles, full consideration had not been given to the difficulties faced by some carers of young children with special needs; and
- (c) he said that the existing mobile specimen collection station near Chun Yeung Estate was located at the roadside, which was an undesirable location. He was of the view that the situation involving insufficient community testing facilities and undesirable location of the mobile specimen collection station in the Sha Tin District should be mitigated by the Government as early as practicable, and that the crowd management in the community testing facilities should be enhanced.

12. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he said that various housing estates and school premises in the Sha Tin District had been successively included in the CTNs recently. However, the number of community testing facilities in the district was not increased in a timely manner according to the actual needs. He estimated that in recent days, over 15 000 persons subject to compulsory testing in the district were actually required to undergo testing within two days for the prescribed period. Nevertheless, as the community testing facilities almost reached full capacities, the persons subject to compulsory testing had to wait for a long time for testing. Besides, no adequate social distancing measures were arranged for people waiting for undergoing testing at the community testing facilities;
- (b) he proposed that the Government should liaise with residents' organisations in the district for negotiation of using their venues to set up temporary community testing facilities, and consider using the venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to set up additional mobile specimen collection stations;
- (c) he hoped that the STDO would strengthen communication with the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and adjust the service hours and testing volume of the community testing facilities in the district having regard to the actual

circumstances; and

- (d) he asked the Government to set up community testing facilities on a standing basis in Tai Wai, Sha Tin Town Centre, Fo Tan and Ma On Shan.

13. The views of Mr SIN Cheuk-nam were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know what measures would be taken by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community during the Chinese New Year period; and
- (b) he considered that the Government should allocate sufficient resources to implement anti-epidemic work in the Sha Tin District as early as possible, such as deploying more supporting staff to the community testing facilities to provide services for the people waiting for the tests.

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

- (a) he was of the view that various government departments failed to achieve effective co-ordination in the anti-epidemic work. He would like to know the workflow and manpower arrangements of the Government in offering proactive support for the persons subject to compulsory testing and confirmed patients. These included whether the Government had maintained the lists of persons subject to compulsory testing and with special needs;
- (b) he opined that the Government did not make an estimate of the usage rate of the community testing facilities in the district seriously, which would adversely affect the anti-epidemic efforts as the number of such facilities were not increased in a timely manner according to the actual needs. He hoped that the STDO could get the full picture of the testing volume of the community testing facilities in the district so as to plan for the testing service arrangements in a holistic manner; and
- (c) he hoped that the Government could enhance the layout design of the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app, with a view to conveying the testing-related messages to the public in a concise yet comprehensive manner.

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

- (a) he said that a mobile specimen collection station was set up at Tsuen Nam Road outside Exit A of the MTR Tai Wai Station recently. However, a large portion of the pavement was occupied by the mobile specimen collection station, which caused inconvenience to the pedestrians. He proposed that the Government should instead consider setting up a mobile specimen collection station at a nearby venue of the LCSD in the future. Furthermore, as far as he knew, the said mobile specimen collection station ceased operation earlier than scheduled without prior notice, which caused inconvenience to members of the public who planned to undergo testing at the mobile specimen collection station; and
- (b) he said that a mobile specimen collection station was set up by the Government in the public area outside his ward office in the Lek Yuen Estate recently without notifying him in advance. He hoped that the Government could strengthen communication with the members of District Council, so that they could assist in

the anti-epidemic work in the community.

16. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that after Heng On Estate was earlier included in the CTN, many elderly people subject to compulsory testing were required to queue up for undergoing testing at the CTC in Lek Yuen Estate as the mobile specimen collection station in Ma On Shan reached its full capacity. This resulted in further movement of people in the Sha Tin District and adversely affected the anti-epidemic work in the district;
- (b) as far as he knew, the longest waiting time for undergoing testing at the mobile specimen collection station in Ma On Shan was over four hours, and that no adequate social distancing measures were arranged on-site for people waiting for testing. As a result, many elderly people as well as persons subject to compulsory testing and with special needs felt tired. He considered that the Government should actively increase the testing volume of the mobile specimen collection station in Ma On Shan and liaise with the residents' organisation (e.g. Heng On Estate Owners' Corporation) in the district for using their venues to set up temporary community testing facilities;
- (c) he extended thanks to the Police for their assistance in setting up community testing facilities in the Sha Tin District recently. He asked the Government to deploy first-aiders and other supporting staff to these community testing facilities for assisting people waiting for the testing services;
- (d) he hoped that before the mass outbreak of COVID-19, the Government could take appropriate measures to increase the testing volume of the community testing facilities and release the details of testing arrangements to the public and service units (including schools) in advance, which would enable members of the public to make corresponding arrangements at an early stage;
- (e) he hoped that the Government could set up a CTC with a fixed location in Ma On Shan to cope with the ever-increasing demand for testing in that district; and
- (f) he asked the District Officer (Sha Tin) to assist in seeking sufficient resources from the Government to facilitate the anti-epidemic work in the Sha Tin District.

17. Mr James LAM, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)<sup>1</sup> gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the STDO had kept in view the demand for community testing service from the the Sha Tin District, and had maintained liaison with the FHB, the Police, contractors of the testing services as well as the management staff of relevant venues;
- (b) it was understood that the Government would allocate appropriate resources to provide community testing services having regard to the individual circumstances of each district. The STDO had relayed to the FHB that there was an ever-increasing demand for community testing services in the Sha Tin District. In light of the actual circumstances, the STDO liaised with the FHB and contractors

of testing services on 26 January this year to immediately enhance the testing volume of the CTC in Lek Yuen Estate and to set up a mobile specimen collection station at the hard-surface soccer pitch of Ma On Shan Recreation Ground. In view of the rising demand for the community testing services in Ma On Shan, the STDO asked the FHB to study the possibility of adjusting the opening hours of the mobile specimen collection station. Contractors of the testing services would adjust the testing volume of individual testing facilities based on the objective factors like the environment of the venues concerned. Besides, the Government would, in light of the epidemic development, announce the latest operating hours of various mobile specimen collection stations through the press release from time to time. Moreover, the STDO proactively liaised with the FHB to examine the overall demand for community testing services in the Sha Tin District, and requested the FHB to make appropriate arrangements, such as setting up mobile specimen collection stations at suitable venues in the district. The STDO would continue to relay to the FHB that there was a strong demand for community testing services and supporting staff at testing facilities in the Sha Tin District;

- (c) pursuant to the prevailing arrangement, testing conducted by using RAT kits was not a substitute for compulsory testing. However, the STDO would still make arrangements progressively for distributing RAT kits at various locations to the general public as well as the groups with actual needs such as the elderly and foreign domestic helpers for them to take the tests on their own, with a view to achieving early identification of infected persons in the local community to help cut transmission chains in the community; and
- (d) people in need might collect stool specimen bottles by making a booking through the specified hotline at present. The STDO would relay to the FHB that the hotline was always busy and request the FHB and the Department of Health to adjust the booking arrangement as appropriate.

18. Ms Carol OR, District Officer (Sha Tin) said that Mr James LAM had earlier given an account of the work of the STDO on behalf of the STDO. The STDO would proactively liaise with the relevant departments (e.g. the FHB) to relay the anti-epidemic requests of the community and take necessary follow-up actions.

19. The Chairman agreed to deal with the provisional motion proposed by Mr Johnny CHUNG, and asked whether Members agreed to do so.

20. The Council agreed to deal with the provisional motion proposed by Mr Johnny CHUNG.

21. Mr Johnny CHUNG proposed the following provisional motion:

“Background:

Various housing estates and locations in the Sha Tin District have been covered by the compulsory testing notices (CTNs). Over tens of thousands of residents and other people having visited the locations concerned are required to undergo testing on specified dates. However, no special measures are put in place to address the issues relating to the compulsory testing orders, and hence the anti-epidemic measures turn into measures that cause nuisance to the public. The chaotic situations are as follows:



1. issuing the compulsory testing orders without any corresponding supporting measures: two housing estates in Ma On Shan were covered by the CTNs concurrently, but no testing station had been set up in Ma On Shan on the date when the compulsory testing order was issued, and hence the residents had to travel a long distance to undergo testing in other districts;
2. Mei Tin Estate, Scenery Garden and Shui Chuen O Estate have been covered by the CTNs. However, no mobile testing stations have been set up in the above housing estates so far. The residents concerned had to undergo testing in other districts as a result;
3. the number of persons subject to compulsory testing far exceeding the capacities of the testing centres: it is simply impossible to address the huge demand for testing arising from the compulsory testing orders solely by the CTC at Lek Yuen Community Hall, as well as the mobile testing station in Fo Tan operating only during daytime on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The compulsory testing order concerned was issued on Tuesday, on which the testing station in Fo Tan was closed. As such, a large number of members of the public, including the elderly and the disabled, queued up for over four hours at the CTC in Lek Yuen despite the rain;
4. confusing and improper arrangements at the CTC: around noon time of 25 January, the staff at the CTC at the Lek Yuen Community Hall suddenly made the announcement without permission to stop latecomers from joining the queue for undergoing tests, and even disseminated incorrect information to the public that “it is okay to undergo testing on the next day”, which might make them breach the law inadvertently by contravening the compulsory testing order;
5. confusing arrangements for distributing stool specimen bottles, ineffective communication among various departments and dissemination of incorrect information: it is difficult to get through to the booking hotline for the stool specimen bottles. A member of the public dialled the hotline number as many as over 93 times before getting through. The CTC and mobile testing stations did not distribute stool specimen bottles, as stated in the Government’s websites, for the testing stations at the buildings subject to compulsory testing. A staff member of the booking hotline for stool specimen bottles said that the department would not handle the requests for obtaining stool specimen bottles in relation to the compulsory testing orders for the buildings, and only asked the persons in need to contact the local District Office. The staff of STDO disseminated incorrect information to parents, indicating that the stool specimen bottles could be obtained at the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre. However, only deep throat saliva specimen collection packs (instead of the stool specimen bottles) were available for distribution at the said Centre. Incorrect information is constantly disseminated among departments. As such, parents of young children have been confused and have had nowhere to turn to for assistance. A lack of proper communication among departments has in effect made young children have no choice but to breach the compulsory testing orders.

In this connection, the Sha Tin District Council moves that:

1. the Government be strongly condemned for making confusing arrangements in respect of compulsory testing orders, making the anti-epidemic measures turn into a

farce that causes nuisance to the public;

2. the Government be requested to set up mobile testing stations near the buildings covered by the compulsory testing notices at the time of issuing compulsory testing orders in the future, so as to prevent members of the public from undergoing tests in other districts;
3. the departments concerned be requested to enhance communication mechanism immediately and clearly delineate responsibilities of various departments to avoid the situation where members of the public are passed from one party to another like “human balls” and have nowhere to turn to for assistance;
4. the procedures for obtaining stool specimen bottles be streamlined, and the number of booking hotline be increased.”

Mr Chris MAK, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr WAI Hing-cheung and Mr SIN Cheuk-nam seconded the motion.

22. The Council unanimously endorsed the provisional motion stated in paragraph 21.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

23. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 24 March 2022 (Thursday).
24. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

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

May 2022