

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the  
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee 2024-25 of the  
Seventh Term of the Central and Western District Council  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Date:** 1 February 2024 (Thursday)

**Time:** 10:10 am

**Venue:** Central and Western District Council Conference Room  
14/F, Harbour Building  
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present:**

Chairman

Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

Vice-chairman

Mr LUI Hung-pan

Members

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy

Mr NG Yin

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Ms JIN Ling, MH

Mr SHIH Jan Noel

Mr WU Man-hin

Dr ZHANG Zong

Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP

Dr FUNG Kar-leung

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing

Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Mr IP Yik-nam, JP

Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH

Mr LAU Tin-ching

Mr LAW Kam-fai

**Guests:**

**Item 4**

Mr LAM Chung-nam Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Item 5**

Mr LAM Chung-nam Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Item 6**

Miss MAK Ka-ying, Carren Senior Administrative Officer (Municipal Solid Waste Charging Policy), Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHEANG Sin-yeung, Clarence Administrative Officer (Municipal Solid Waste Charging Policy), Environmental Protection Department

**In Attendance:**

Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP District Officer (Central & Western)  
Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry Senior Executive Officer (District Council),  
Central and Western District Office  
Ms LAU Mei-ling, Tenny Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)1,  
Central and Western District Office  
Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional  
South)1, Environmental Protection Department  
Mr LAM Chung-nam Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2, Food and  
Environmental Hygiene Department  
Ms HUI Man-wai, Fion Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3, Food and  
Environmental Hygiene Department

**Absence with Apologies:**

Mr QIU Song-qing, MH

**Secretary**

Ms CHEUNG Wai-ting, Kelsey Executive Officer (District Council)4,  
Central and Western District Office

## **Opening Remarks**

(10:10 am)

1. The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the first meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) (2024-2025).

## **Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

(10:10 am)

2. Since Members did not have any comments on the agenda of the meeting, the Chairman announced that the agenda was adopted.

## **Item 2: Chairman's Report**

(10:10 am – 10:13 am)

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a Notification of Absence from Meetings submitted by Mr QIU Song-qing prior to the meeting, indicating that he was unable to attend the first meeting of the FEHC (2024-2025) held on 1 February 2024 as he had left Hong Kong to attend the third meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) 12th Zhaoqing Municipal Committee as a member of the Zhaoqing Municipal Committee. Since Members did not have any comment, the Chairman announced that in accordance with Order 64 of the C&WDC Standing Orders (the Standing Orders), the FEHC accepted Mr QIU Song-qing's application for absence from the meeting.

4. The Chairman, at the first meeting, drew Members' attention to the following matters relating to the meeting:

- (i) It was stipulated in the Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of the District Councils that the annual attendance rate of a DC Member at meetings of DC committees should not be lower than 80%.
- (ii) According to Order 81 of the Standing Orders, the minutes of meetings of a committee must record the discussion in a clear and concise manner as far as

practicable and on an anonymous basis unless otherwise concluded by the committee in exceptional cases (for example, by motion or ballot). The minutes and audio record of meetings should be uploaded to the website of the DC except for the closed-door meetings.

- (iii) According to Order 38(1) of the Standing Orders, without prejudice to the functions of DCs under section 4A of the District Councils Ordinance, any member of the DC committees and government departments who wished to raise an item or present a paper on an item for discussion at a meeting would be required to submit the paper with a notice in writing to the Secretary ten clear working days before the meeting.
- (iv) According to Order 38(3) of the Standing Orders, attendees should not discuss any item that had not been or was not approved by the chairman of a meeting for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting.

The Chairman asked Members to take note of the aforementioned matters.

5. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had circulated the following information papers to all Members earlier for their review:

No.	Title of Paper	Date of Circulation
1/2024	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department First phase of the Anti-rodent Campaign 2024	10 January 2024
2/2024	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department First phase of the Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024	10 January 2024

**Item 3: List of Government Representatives in Attendance at the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) under the Seventh Term of Central and Western District Council (C&WDC)**

**(C&W FEHC Paper No. 3/2024)**

(10:13 am – 10:15 am)

6. The Chairman said that the paper, submitted by the DC Secretariat, informed Members of the list of government representatives in attendance at the meetings. The representatives of government departments on the list would attend future meetings, provide relevant consultation papers and present information papers, etc. For instance, they would follow up on the situation of hygiene black spots and community recycling efforts in the district.

**Item 4: Market Management Consultative Committees of Public Markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

**(C&W FEHC Paper No. 4/2024)**

(10:15 am – 10:19 am)

7. A representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefly introduced the membership composition and terms of reference of the Market Management Consultative Committee, and invited Members of the C&WDC to join the Market Management Consultative Committees for various public markets in the Central and Western District.

8. The Chairman pointed out that a list of all the markets and the names of DC Members for the constituencies where the markets were located had been provided in the annex of the paper. He asked whether an additional DC Member should be recommended to join the Market Management Consultative Committee of a market with more than 150 stalls.

9. The representative of FEHD advised that the list of DC Members set out in the annex was for reference purpose and the FEHD had no particular intention to recommend specific Members to serve on the Market Management Consultative Committees of the public markets concerned. The DC could recommend suitable Members to participate in the Market Management Consultative Committees based on the suggested number of members.

10. The Chairman indicated that the list of participants would be sent to the FEHD later.

[Post-meeting note: The list of recommended participants has been sent to the FEHD on 26 February 2024.]

## **Item 5: Succession of the Fixed-Pitch Hawker Licence**

**(C&W FEHC Paper No. 5/2024)**

(10:19 am – 10:47 am)

11. The representative of the FEHD presented the background information for an application for the succession of the Fixed-pitch Cooked Food Hawker Licence mentioned in the paper, and invited Members to provide their views on the application.

12. The Chairman invited comments and questions regarding the paper from Members. The main points of Members' comments and questions are summarised as follows:

- (i) “Dai Pai Dong” (on-street cooked food stall) was one of Hong Kong’s distinctive features, representing the local culinary culture. As Dai Pai Dongs had become increasingly rare in Hong Kong, it was crucial not to let the issue of licence succession deprive Hong Kong of this local characteristic. Moreover, in line with the initiative of Day x Night Vibes@18 Districts, it was considered that Dai Pai Dongs should continue to operate to attract more tourists and boost the economy of the Central and Western District. Therefore, the Dai Pai Dong in question should be retained, and the application should be approved.
- (ii) According to the paper submitted by the FEHD, no complaint relating to the Dai Pai Dong in question had been received in the past five years and there had been no record of prosecution so far, indicating that the hygiene condition of the Dai Pai Dong in question was good. The hygiene conditions of the Dai Pai Dongs on Stanley Street and its vicinity had also significantly improved after the installation of gas pipes. Therefore, it was considered that the application should be approved.
- (iii) A stall owner had informed Members that the FEHD had recently prosecuted and fined the owner for a slight extension of business. Members wished to know more about the enforcement guidelines adopted by the FEHD, as overly stringent enforcement would have an adverse impact on the viability of Dai Pai Dongs.

- (iv) It was hoped that the department would provide statistics on the successful cases of succession/transfer of “Dai Pai Dong” licence and the details of cases where applications for succession/transfer were rejected.
- (v) It was noted that the Dai Pai Dong in question only operated from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. To tie in with the Day x Night Vibes, it was considered that the department should request the stall owner to extend the business hours of the stall.
- (vi) “Dai Pai Dong” licence was not private property and therefore the concept of succession should not be applied to its issuance. Upon the expiry of the licence, it should be open to public bidding, so that interested parties could participate in the fair competition.
- (vii) It was enquired how the FEHD would deal with the hawker licence after the licence in question had been succeeded and operated for a restricted period of seven years. If there were no succession and transfer arrangements for the licence, Dai Pai Dongs would gradually disappear in the long run. It was enquired whether the FEHD would consider issuing new “Dai Pai Dong” licences.

13. In response to the questions and comments put forth by Members, the representative of the FEHD replied as follows:

- (i) The FEHD might take prosecution action against Dai Pai Tong operators for illegal extension of business. The approach to the regulation of other licensed hawker stalls was different. The hawkers concerned were allowed to place their goods outside the stalls during operation if the goods did not cause any obstruction. FEHD staff would issue advice and warnings to an operator if illegal extension of business was detected during routine inspections. However, repeated non-compliance might lead to prosecution.
- (ii) The FEHD currently did not have information on the number of successful cases of succession/transfer of “Dai Pai Dong” licences. In general, with effect from 21 May 2010, all newly issued hawker licences would not be

subject to any succession or transfer arrangement. However, the FEHD would examine and consider each application for succession or transfer on a case-by-case basis.

- (iii) The operating hours approved for the ten Dai Pai Dongs in the Central and Western District were from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Dai Pai Dongs could operate within these approved hours and the FEHD had not imposed any specific restrictions on the length of the operating hours. The FEHD would convey Members' suggestion for an extension of the operating hours to the applicant.
- (iv) Under the existing policy, there was no succession or transfer arrangement for all new hawker licences issued. Currently, the FEHD had not considered issuing new hawker licences or opening bidding for expired licences. However, the department would take note of Members' comments and relay them to the relevant colleagues for consideration.

14. In conclusion, the Chairman said that the majority of Members agreed that Dai Pai Dongs were a distinctive feature of the district and supported the application. In addition, it was hoped that the FEHD could review the licensing system for Dai Pai Dongs so that they could be preserved and continue to operate in Hong Kong in the long run.

**Item 6: Environment Protection Department's Introduction to Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging**

(10:47 am – 12:13 pm)

15. The representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) explained the details of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging policy and reported on the progress of the preparation work.

16. The Chairman invited comments and questions regarding the agenda item from Members. The main points of Members' comments and questions are summarised as follows:

- (i) Members pointed out that the elderly might need more assistance in adapting



to MSW charging and developing the habit of handling food waste and separating waste for recycling. Members, therefore, considered that the EPD should make special arrangements for the elderly, such as providing door-to-door collection service for the elderly with mobility issues. In addition, Members suggested that the EPD should provide training and materials, such as briefing notes and publicity leaflets, to DC Members and the Care Teams, to make it easier for DC Members to explain the MSW charging policy and its implementation details to residents and assist in publicising the policy.

- (ii) Recently, there had been a lot of discussions in various sectors of the community on how waste charging would be implemented and the relevant details. Many citizens had relayed to DC Members that while they did not object to the policy of waste charging, they were not clear about the charges and the related operational details, and were therefore confused and worried. Members were of the view that the EPD should ramp up positive publicity efforts to reward those who did a good job in waste reduction and recycling, instead of strictly enforcing the requirements of the relevant legislation. At the same time, the department should step up education on clean recycling to enhance the quality of recyclables.
- (iii) Members noted that the EPD had made a lot of publicity efforts to help the public prepare for the introduction of waste charging. However, the promotional content lacked specific implementation details and there was relatively little explanation on the original intent of the entire waste charging policy. Additionally, there was a lack of supporting data and examples to explain the problems currently faced by Hong Kong. Members suggested that the EPD should give priority to explaining the original intent of the policy in its publicity to make the policy more acceptable to the public.
- (iv) Members pointed out that some owners' corporations (OCs) had expressed their views that the waste charging policy was very complicated, and the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders had yet to be clarified. Although the EPD had put in place a reporting mechanism, it was impossible for the OCs to know which households had not used the designated bags, nor was it possible to deploy staff to the garbage collection points in buildings for

monitoring purpose for an extended period of time. Requiring management companies and cleaners to use extra bags to cover up for the incompliant was unfair to law-abiding citizens and violated the principle of “polluter pays”. Therefore, Members hoped that the EPD could provide more explanations to address the concerns of various parties.

- (v) Members enquired whether the enforcement work at the enforcement points would be undertaken by EPD staff, whether property management companies and cleaners would be required to identify and report the non-compliant households, and how various stakeholders should deal with garbage from unknown sources found at the enforcement points.
- (vi) Members were of the view that the EPD should strengthen its support for the collection of household food waste. Currently, only public housing estates in the Central and Western District were equipped with food waste recycling facilities. To facilitate food waste recycling for residents in the district, Members suggested that the EPD should set up food waste recycling facilities in the community recycling network and various residential areas.
- (vii) Some citizens had expressed their worries to Members. As chronic patients, they needed to perform haemodialysis at home every day and used a large amount of clinical consumables that could not be recycled. They were very worried about their situations. Members enquired how the EPD could provide assistance to the chronic patients.
- (viii) The EPD required private and public housing estates with a total of 100 or more housing flats and single-block residential buildings with a total of 100 or more housing flats to set up a recycling system for the separate collection of five specified recyclables. However, Members noted that many buildings did not have sufficient space in their lobbies to set up the new recycling systems. In addition, the estates or buildings in the Mid-Levels had fewer than 100 flats, and there were no GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling points in the area. The EPD had also removed most of the three-colour waste separation bins in recent years. Therefore, residents in the Mid-Levels were at a loss as to how they could participate in recycling.

- (ix) Apart from the “three-nil” buildings, many buildings in the Central and Western District had set up owners’ corporations but had not engaged the services of property management companies or cleaning companies. These buildings might need more support to adapt to waste charging. Members suggested that the EPD should distribute free plastic bags to these buildings at the initial stage of the implementation of waste charging. Some Members believed that designated bags should be distributed uniformly to all residents in Hong Kong to facilitate adaptation to waste charging.
  
- (x) Some Members pointed out that many families in the district employed foreign domestic helpers to assist with household chores, so the promotional materials should be available in languages other than Chinese. Members suggested that whenever the EPD released related Chinese promotional materials, it should release versions in English and other languages, such as Indonesian, at the same time. Additionally, the EPD could take the initiative to publicise and educate the public in places where many foreign domestic helpers gathered during weekends and holidays.
  
- (xi) Members suggested that the EPD should focus on strengthening the promotion of waste charging and recycling concepts to kindergarten, primary and secondary school students. The students could then influence their parents, thereby establishing a culture of waste reduction and recycling from an educational standpoint. This approach would make the promotion of waste charging more effective and have impact on the whole family.
  
- (xii) Members suggested that the EPD should carry out periodic reviews every few months during the initial implementation phase of waste charging. This would involve collecting feedback from various sectors and making adjustments to the implementation details, rather than waiting for a few years after implementation to conduct a major review.
  
- (xiii) Members believed that waste reduction and recycling were mutually reinforcing. They suggested that the EPD should focus on encouraging recycling instead of emphasising the punishment in respect of waste charging.

Members suggested that EPD should enhance the community recycling network by extending the operating hours of the existing GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling points and setting up convenient recycling points in MTR stations, to meet the needs of the public.

- (xiv) Some Members pointed out that many buildings in the Central and Western District were situated on slopes or next to steps. It was very difficult for the residents, especially the elderly, to walk to the designated refuse collection points every day. As a result, some residents might dispose of their garbage on the roadside. Therefore, Members suggested that the EPD should provide large garbage bins near these buildings for residents to dispose of their garbage.

17. In response to the questions and comments raised by Members, the representative of the EPD replied as follows:

- (i) The EPD would incorporate information and advertisements about waste charging into radio programmes targeting the elderly, aiming to help them better understand the operational details. The EPD would also collaborate with the Green Outreach and the Care Teams to explain waste charging to the elderly and residents of “three-nil” buildings through home visits and other community activities. In addition, the EPD would produce easy-to-understand “For Dummies” and short videos to ensure that members of the public could easily receive concise and clear information.
- (ii) The first six months after the implementation of waste charging would be a phasing-in period for citizens to get used to the use of designated bags for waste disposal. Some property management companies were concerned that residents might have difficulties adapting to the use of designated bags, so they planned to apply to the EPD to bulk purchase the designated bags and distribute them to residents, to facilitate their adaptation and improve compliance rates. The EPD understood that waste charging would be a new policy. Therefore, starting from 1 April 2024, the EPD would demonstrate the implementation of waste charging in government buildings and other premises for publicity and education purposes, so that various sectors of the community could have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of

the waste charging scheme. It would also provide an opportunity for the EPD to sort out in advance the various teething problems that might arise during the early stages of implementation.

- (iii) In the future, the EPD would focus on explaining the policy concepts and objectives of waste charging and would provide more data for the purpose of explanation.
- (iv) The EPD understood there were concerns from various sectors regarding the enforcement work and the division of responsibilities. Therefore, for promotion and education purposes, a demonstration scheme would be conducted in government buildings first, to demonstrate the implementation of waste charging to the public. It aimed to make it easier for various sectors to have a clear understanding of the operation and details of waste charging. The EPD was currently working with the Property Management Services Authority in organising ongoing professional development seminars on waste charging, to enhance the understanding of practitioners to meet the needs of their property management duties. The EPD believed that the primary direction for the implementation of waste charging in Hong Kong was to encourage citizens to adopt habits of waste reduction and recycling, thereby reducing the amount of waste charges payable, rather than strictly enforcing the relevant statutory requirements.
- (v) Communal waste reception areas of the premises would be enforcement points under the waste charging regulations. When residents/operators of business disposed of waste at these locations, they must use designated bags or affix designated labels to the waste. During the initial period of implementation, property management companies might need to use extra designated bags to properly package the non-compliant waste before handing it over to waste collectors. The EPD suggested that property management companies should closely monitor the situation in their housing estates. If residents had developed the habit of using designated bags for waste disposal, management companies should stop using large designated bags to cover up for the incompliers.

- (vi) With the implementation of MSW charging, the EPD anticipated an increasing demand for food waste recycling among the public. The EPD aimed to install smart recycling bins for food waste collection in all public housing estates across Hong Kong within this year. Additionally, the EPD was assisting private residential buildings in installing smart recycling bins for food waste through the Recycling Fund and Environment and Conservation Fund.
- (vii) Clinical waste was not subject to waste charging. The EPD understood that chronic patients used a large amount of non-recyclable clinical consumables. The department, therefore, would maintain communication with the Social Welfare Department regarding the matter.
- (viii) With regard to the regulation of proper collection and handling of domestic recyclables, the EPD understood that most private residential buildings already had simple recycling systems in place. The EPD did not require the private residential buildings to install completely new recycling equipment. The department would continue to communicate with the industry and jointly formulate guidelines to assist them in better understanding the related mandatory requirements. Furthermore, due to the undesirable quantity and quality of recyclables collected by the three-colour recycle bins, which often contained waste that was difficult to separate and sort, the EPD had removed most of the three-colour recycle bins in urban areas. The department encouraged residents to use community recycling facilities instead. The EPD would continue to expand the community recycling network to enhance local recycling infrastructure.
- (ix) For the prudent use of public resources, the EPD would focus on assisting households that needed extra help adapting to waste charging. Management companies of private residential properties could apply to the EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags for distribution to the residents to facilitate their adaptation to the waste charging arrangement.
- (x) The EPD had produced promotional videos in different languages for foreign domestic helpers and would publish such promotional materials on the social media channels they commonly used. Additionally, the EPD would

collaborate with the Labour Department to distribute publicity materials in places where foreign domestic helpers frequently gathered.

- (xi) The EPD would distribute leaflets and short videos about waste charging electronically to nearly 700 000 primary and secondary school students across Hong Kong. Furthermore, approximately 350 000 primary school students would each receive a 15-litre designated bag. It was anticipated that they would bring home information about waste charging to enhance publicity.
- (xii) The demonstration scheme served as a rehearsal for the Government, helping the EPD to proactively address various issues that might arise during the initial phase of implementation. The EPD would conduct a comprehensive review three years after the introduction of MSW charging, including a review of the pricing levels for the designated bags and designated labels.
- (xiii) The EPD planned to develop a network of Recycling Stores in public housing estates to facilitate clean recycling for public housing tenants and residents in nearby areas and to improve the cost-effectiveness of the recycling network. The operating hours of these stores in public housing estates had been extended to 8:00 pm. The EPD had communicated with the operating organisations of GREEN@COMMUNITY to examine the possibility of extending the operating hours of the Recycling Stores. However, considerations had to be given to the resources and manpower of these organisations. The EPD would continue to maintain communication with these operating organisations. The first Recycling Store located at an MTR station, which was a recycling store of GREEN@TSING YI, had been launched in the first quarter of 2024. In the future, the EPD would continue to identify suitable locations to set up additional Recycling Stores for the convenience of the public. Additionally, to encourage citizens to actively participate in recycling, after the implementation of waste charging, citizens could earn GREEN\$ by depositing specific quantities of recyclables at any recycle collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY, which could be used for the redemption of designated bags.
- (xiv) Regarding “three-nil” buildings, considering that the amount of waste disposal

might increase before the implementation of waste charging, the EPD had coordinated with the FEHD to install large garbage bins in areas with a higher number of “three-nil” buildings in urban areas. Furthermore, the EPD would collaborate with the Green Outreach and the Care Teams to display promotional materials near these large garbage bins, to educate the public on how to comply with waste charging regulations and how to conduct clean recycling. The EPD stressed that there was no grace period for littering. Illegal disposal of waste in public places, whether packaged in designated bags or with designated labels, would still be prosecuted during the phasing-in period.

18. The Chairman thanked the representative of the EPD for the explanation, and further suggested that the EPD should consider distributing promotional leaflets about waste charging along with Government bills, such as rates demands and water bills, to enhance publicity.

19. The representative of FEHD thanked the Chairman for his suggestion.

**Item 7: Any Other Business**

(12:13 pm)

20. The Chairman indicated that there was no further business for discussion.

**Item 8: Date of the Next Meeting**

(12:13 pm)

21. The second meeting of the FEHC would be held on 28 March 2024 and the paper submission deadline would be 13 March 2024.

22. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm on 1 February 2024.

The minutes were confirmed on 28 March 2024

Chairman: Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH



Secretary: Ms CHEUNG Wai-ting, Kelsey

Central and Western District Council Secretariat

March 2024