

Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
under Eastern District Council

Date : 24 March 2026 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny (Chairman)	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Ms LI Lee (Vice-chairlady)	Ms CHAN Hang, MH, JP	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Ms LEE Ching-har, MH	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr LAM Tsz-hung (Co-opted Member)
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Mr KWOK Wing-kin	Mr CHAN Kwan (Co-opted Member)
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph	
Mr LAM Wing-shing	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi	

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Mr WONG Tsz-wai, Adrian	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Eastern District Office
Ms TO Kit-ling, Caroline	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Eastern District Office
Mr CHEUNG Ki-lun, Alan	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) (Ag.), Eastern District Office
Ms LAI Sau-yan, Carol	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr KO Po-wai	Chief Health Inspector (Eastern)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHOW Kwok-chu, Tony	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LOO Wing-tsun	Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Eastern District Police Community Relations Office, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Yiu-cho, Joe	Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East/Land Control (District Lands Office, Hong Kong East), Lands Department
Ms CHENG Yin-yin, Emily	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)2, Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHOI Kai-bong, Martin	District Engineer /North Point, Highways Department
Ms LEE Wai-leung, Carol	Assistant Housing Manager/Yue Wan (2), Housing Department
Mr WONG Wai-chung	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Eastern)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

In Attendance by Invitation (Government Representatives)

Mr CHAN Cheuk-ming	Senior Engineer/Vehicle Maintenance Registration 2, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Mr NG Ka-wing, Arick	Building Surveyor/B5-4, Buildings Department
Mr FOO Chi-hung	Divisional Commander (Hong Kong East), Fire Services Department
Mr LAM Chun-fung, Peter	Senior Landscape Architect/Vegetation Maintenance (Urban & Islands), Highways Department
Ms LAW Lok-yung, Carol	Landscape Architect/Vegetation Maintenance (Hong Kong)1, Highways Department
Dr LAM Kin-san, Samuel	Senior Country Parks Officer (Technical Services), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Ms Karen LAI	Country Parks Officer (Vegetation Management), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Secretary

Ms LEUNG Mun-chee, Charlie	Executive Officer I (District Council)2, Eastern District Office
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members and government representatives to the meeting, and in particular welcomed Ms LAI Sau-yan, Carol, who succeeded Ms CHU Sui-yin as District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), and Mr LEE Yiu-cho, Joe, who succeeded Ms LIN So-kuen, Debbie as Principal Estate Officer of the District Lands Office, Hong Kong East (DLO/HKE).

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)

2. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda 2. Concerns over Potential Safety Issues Arising from Electric Vehicle Development on Vehicle Repair Workshop Operations in Residential Areas of the Eastern District
(FEHC Paper No. 5/2026)

3. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 5/2026.
4. Members' views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
 - (a) Members sought information on the respective numbers of unregistered vehicle maintenance workshops (VMWs) and vehicle mechanics (VMs);
 - (b) Members enquired whether the department would regulate VMWs or VMs that had not applied for the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance, and suggested that the department should consider making registration mandatory for VMWs and VMs;
 - (c) Members queried whether the department could ensure that registered VMWs or VMs possessed the necessary knowledge to repair vehicles safely;
 - (d) Members wanted to know the follow-up actions to be taken by the department if accidents occurred due to VMs' non-compliance with the Practice Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Maintenance;
 - (e) Members stated that the noise and odour generated by VMWs affected nearby residential buildings. They asked about the number of related complaints received and the follow-up actions taken by the department;
 - (f) Members indicated that vehicles were found parking indiscriminately outside a number of VMWs in the Eastern District, causing obstruction to the pavements. They therefore enquired whether the department had taken any regulatory measures and conducted regular inspections;
 - (g) Members enquired about whether electric vehicle (EV) batteries were regulated under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, what articles were subject to regulation under the Ordinance, and the standard definition of dangerous goods;

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- (h) Members proposed that the department should consider regulating EV parts;
- (i) Members suggested that the department step up inspections of VMWs, as well as update the inspection requirements and practice guidelines for maintenance, with a view to safeguarding the lives and property of the public and VMs; and
- (j) Members raised questions about the impacts of the installation of EV charging facilities in a VMW on the electrical installations of the same building.

5. The representatives of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the Buildings Department (BD), the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

EMSD

- (a) The EMSD encouraged VMs and VMWs to participate in the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics and the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops. Studies were also being conducted to explore making registration mandatory for both VMs and VMWs;
- (b) The EMSD conducted inspections on registered VMWs at least once a year. Even for unregistered VMWs, departmental staff would visit them on a regular basis and encourage registration, and would remind VMWs with issues in a timely manner;
- (c) The EMSD, in collaboration with various training institutions (such as the Vocational Training Council), organised training courses for EV mechanics to help them acquire recognised qualifications;
- (d) The EMSD and the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee jointly developed the Practice Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Maintenance in 2024;
- (e) Regarding electrical load, VMWs were required to comply with the

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relevant electricity legislation by engaging registered electrical contractors and registered electrical workers to carry out the installation works, so as to ensure electricity safety;

BD

- (f) Upon receipt of complaints on VMWs reported by members of the public or referred by other departments, the BD would promptly deploy staff to conduct on-site inspections to identify any obvious hazard or imminent danger to life or property, or serious health or environmental nuisance caused by the VMWs concerned. If such issues were identified, the BD would, after consulting relevant departments, order the VMWs concerned to cease operations;
- (g) The BD primarily regulated private buildings and building works in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance. It would relay Members' suggestions on conducting VMW inspections and updating VMW inspection guidelines to the section concerned;
- (h) In 2025, the BD received 24 reports concerning changes of use on the ground floor of residential buildings in the Eastern District and inspected these cases. No obvious hazard, imminent danger or serious nuisance was found;

FSD

- (i) EV batteries were not classified as regulated dangerous goods on land under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance. Nevertheless, oxy-acetylene cylinders and flammable liquids, which might be used in the processes of metal cutting, welding and paint spraying, were regulated dangerous goods as stipulated in the Ordinance. Departmental staff would conduct regular inspections of VMWs to ascertain compliance with the Dangerous Goods Ordinance. Generally speaking, a storage and use licence was required for the storage and use of dangerous goods that exceeded the exempt quantity;
- (j) In 2025, the FSD conducted 56 inspections on 44 VMWs and 26 inspections on composite buildings with VMWs in the Eastern District;

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- (k) The FSD had introduced new equipment, including high pressure fog applicators and large fire blankets, to tackle fire hazards arising from EVs;

EPD

- (l) Upon receipt of environmental nuisance complaints regarding VMWs, the EPD would deploy staff to investigate the VMWs concerned. If environmental nuisances (e.g. air or noise pollution) were identified, departmental staff would issue verbal or written warnings requesting the VMWs concerned to rectify the situation, and would initiate prosecution where sufficient evidence was available. In addition, departmental staff would conduct regular inspections of VMWs and remind VMW owners that their operations must comply with relevant environmental protection regulations. In 2025, the EPD conducted a total of 48 inspections on VMWs in the Eastern District, either on a regular basis or in response to complaints; and
- (m) In the handling and disposal of retired EV batteries, VMW owners shall register and properly handle the EV batteries in accordance with the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

- 6. The FEHC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

Agenda 3. Concerns over Tree Management and Conservation in the Eastern District **(FEHC Paper No. 6/2026)**

- 7. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 6/2026.
- 8. Members' views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
 - (a) Members reported that residents near Sai Wan Terrace were concerned about the department's plan to remove a Chinese Banyan;
 - (b) Members enquired about the schedule of removing the Chinese Banyan

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and its subsequent impact on slope safety;

- (c) Members suggested that the department should post notices to notify residents of the reason for the removal and provide other relevant information;
- (d) Members proposed replanting a tree at the same location for landscaping purposes;
- (e) Members wanted to know the number of trees managed by the department in the Eastern District;
- (f) Members suggested that the department should inspect tree structures before the typhoon season to ensure the safety of pedestrians and drivers; and
- (g) Members asked about the department's application of technology in tree management.

9. The representatives of the Highways Department (HyD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Housing Department (HD) and the DLO/HKE noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Regarding daily tree management, relevant departments would, in accordance with the Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement ("the Guidelines") issued by the Tree Management Office of the Development Bureau (DEVB), conduct tree risk assessment in areas with high pedestrian and vehicular flow, and would formulate appropriate mitigation measures for trees with health and/or structural problems so as to reduce the risk of tree failure;

HyD

- (b) The HyD reported on the condition of the Banyan tree, which was infected with irreversible brown root rot disease, as well as the subsequent removal and risk mitigation measures to be taken, with public safety as the priority. Engineers would ensure that the works

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would be carried out without compromising slope safety, and would notify residents near Sai Wan Terrace in advance;

- (c) The HyD was responsible for the maintenance of trees on registered slopes/retaining walls and within the expressway boundary under its management. It had engaged contractors to arrange for qualified personnel to conduct regular inspections every six months, and to carry out tree risk assessments in areas of intensive use or with high pedestrian and vehicular flow at least once a year in accordance with the Guidelines, so that the necessary vegetation maintenance work could be arranged in a timely manner, including pest and disease prevention and control, crown pruning, and the removal of branches or entire trees that posed a threat to public safety;

LCSD

- (d) The LCSD conducted annual inspection and risk assessment on trees under its management in accordance with the Guidelines every year. It would take risk mitigation measures (including crown pruning, clearing and removal of dead branches) as necessary based on the assessment results. For trees confirmed to have a failure risk upon assessment, the LCSD would promptly arrange for their removal to ensure public safety;

AFCD

- (e) The AFCD would conduct annual examination and inspection on trees under its management in accordance with the DEVB's Guidelines prior to the typhoon season every year to examine the health conditions of the trees. If departmental staff identified any trees with abnormalities, they would follow up immediately;
- (f) The AFCD utilised resistograph and sonic tomograph technology to assist in examining the health conditions of trees;

HD

- (g) Frontline management staff of public housing estates conducted routine

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tree inspections and would refer any abnormalities identified to the Tree Management Unit of the department for further follow-up. The Tree Management Unit would also arrange for contractors to inspect trees in public housing estates on a monthly basis; and

DLO/HKE

- (h) The DLO/HKE would inspect the 20 fenced government land managed by the Lands Department at least once a month. Upon identifying fallen trees or trees requiring pruning, the department would arrange for contractors to assess the trees concerned and take follow-up actions as appropriate.

10. The FEHC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

Agenda 4. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous FEHC Meetings under Eastern District Council

(FEHC Paper No. 7/2026)

- (i) ***“Requesting the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for Expeditionary Adoption of Humane and Technological Approach for Controlling Feral Pigeons
Requesting Government Departments to Follow Up on Feral Pigeon Nuisance in Braemar Hill”***

AFCD/FEHD

11. The agenda items would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

- (ii) ***“Concern over Street Obstruction and Environmental Hygiene Problems caused by Loading/Unloading Activities in City Garden Road”***

FEHD/Hong
Kong Police
Force/Eastern
District Office
(EDO)

12. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

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- (iii) ***“Suggestion for Provision of Food Waste Recycling Facilities at Refuse Collection Points Managed by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in Eastern District”***

FEHD/EPD

13. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

- (iv) ***“Concern over Low Occupancy Rate and Business Environment of Quarry Bay Market”***

FEHD

14. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

- (v) ***“Concern over Serious Rodent Infestation at King’s Road, North Point in Eastern District and Suggesting the Government Enhance Anti-rodent Measures”***

FEHD

15. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

- (vi) ***“Concern over Environmental Hygiene Problem under Fuk Yuen Street Footbridge in Fortress Hill”***

FEHD/EDO/
Social Welfare
Department

16. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

- (vii) ***“Suggesting the Government Set Up an Additional GREEN@NORTH POINT Recycling Store”***

EPD/FEHD

17. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

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(viii) *“Improvement Plan for Illegal Smoking Problem in Cooked Food Markets in Eastern District”*

FEHD/Department
of Health

18. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

(ix) *“Mitigation Measures for Redevelopment Site at 56-76 Kai Yuen Street, North Point”*

EPD/Progressive
Building &
Foundation Co.
Ltd

19. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

(x) *“Concern over the Sewage Problem on the Slope at No. 60 King’s Road”*

20. Members noted the written replies from the HyD and BD.

BD/Drainage
Services
Department/HyD

21. The FEHC agreed that the agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

Agenda 5. Any Other Business

22. There was no other discussion item for the FEHC.

Agenda 6. Date of Next Meeting

23. The fifteenth FEHC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 19 May 2026 (Tuesday).

24. The meeting ended at 4:35 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
May 2026