

**Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 16 May 2024 (Thursday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office

Present:

Chairman: Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH

Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Man-kong

Members: Mr TING Kin-wa
Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH
Mr LEE Chiu-yu
Mr NG Fan-kam, MH
Mr NG Po-keung, MH
Mr HE Huahan
Mr LAM Pok
Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting
Mr CHAN Chi-wah
Mr CHEUNG King-fan
Mr WONG Chi
Ms FUNG Mo-kwan
Ms LAU Yuen-yin
Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP
Mr KWAN Ho-yeung

Secretary: Miss KWOK Tsz-ying, Executive Officer II (District Council) 2, Kowloon City District Office
Karrie

In Attendance: Ms SO Lai-yee, Ivy Senior Liaison Officer (District Liaison) 3, Kowloon City District Office
Mr CHAN Chi-sing District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHAN Mei-chu	Chief Health Inspector (Kowloon City) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TAM Yiu-man, Jason	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East) 5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms CHAN Ling-man, Millie	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 6	Mr LI Ka-lok, William	Chief Technical Officer / Kowloon City, Highways Department
Item 8	Mr NGAI Che-kwong, Donald	Senior Property Services Manager / Kowloon City and Sai Kung, Architectural Services Department
	Mr WONG Chi-hung	Property Services Manager / Kowloon City - South, Architectural Services Department
	Mr CHUNG Kim-chuen	Senior Engineer / Municipal / Kowloon, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Item 10	Mr LEUNG Kwan-kit, Anthony	Engineer / Municipal / Kowloon 3, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
	Mr CHAN Tat-ming, Neil	Principal Tobacco and Alcohol Control Inspector, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, Department of Health
	Mr CHENG Shiu-kin, Simon	Chief Inspector of Police (Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office), Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, Department of Health
	Dr TSANG Ling-yin, Zephyrus	Medical and Health Officer (Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office) 2, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, Department of Health

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Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)** welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the third meeting of the FEHC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interest in accordance with Order 19 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and stated that, if the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with their personal interests such as property rights, profession or investment, they should make a declaration proactively at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

3. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Standing Orders, the quorum at any meeting of a committee shall be half of the total number of members of the committee. If the quorum was not present at the commencement of the meeting or in the course of the meeting, he would direct the Secretary to summon the absentees. If the quorum was still not present 15 minutes thereafter, he would adjourn the meeting. According to Order 13 of the Standing Orders, he then set out that each attendee was allowed to make a maximum of three speeches during a discussion on an agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to switch off their mobile phones or turn the ringers to vibration mode to avoid causing disturbances.

4. **The representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)** reported on the Department's follow-ups to the views and enquiries raised by Members at the second meeting with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had arranged for contractors to step up mosquito and pest control and anti-rodent work in Whampoa area, Kadoorie area and Ho Man Tin area;
- (ii) regarding the issue of dirtying public places due to feeding feral pigeons in Ho Man Tin area, the Department had deployed staff to conduct surprise inspections and successfully took out prosecutions against two offenders; and
- (iii) in respect to the littering issue in the vicinity of Peace Avenue and the hygiene issue in the vicinity of Man Tai Street, the Department had

deployed staff to carry out inspections in relevant locations and took out prosecutions against two and four persons who breached the cleansing legislations respectively.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting

5. **The Chairman** announced that the minutes of the second meeting were unanimously endorsed by the committee without amendments.

Item 2

Request for Allocating More Resources for the Provision of Food Waste Bins at the Lobby of all Public Rental Housing Blocks

(FEHC Paper No. 21/2024)

6. A Member presented the Paper.
7. Members raised the following views and enquiries:
 - (i) if the food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) placed under the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing Estates (Trial Scheme) would be removed after the installation of the FWSRBs under the GREEN@COMMUNITY;
 - (ii) the time and frequency of contractors in recycling food waste;
 - (iii) the seven FWSRBs in Tak Long Estate were always full before 9:00 p.m. and some of the FWSRBs occasionally experienced malfunctions. Members suggested the Department to provide additional FWSRBs and enhance their operation and management, as well as strengthen monitoring of the recycling work of contractors to ensure that the food waste could be recycled on time;
 - (iv) suggested the Department to consider strengthening the publicity and education work of the FWSRBs, including conducting demonstrations in the community, implementing reward schemes and carrying out promotion in the community through district organisations, Care Teams and district councilors to attract more residents to proactively and correctly use the FWSRBs; and

- (v) five FWSRBs were installed in Oi Man Estate. However, they were yet to make available for the use of residents at present. Members enquired about the service commencement time of the aforementioned five FWSRBs and suggested the Department to provide FWSRBs at every building in the estate in the future.

8. **The representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)** gave a reply with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department, together with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society, would expand the food waste recycling services to all the public rental housing (PRH) estates across the territory at the soonest. The Department anticipated that the installation of over 700 FWSRBs in 213 PRH estates across the territory would be mostly completed by August this year, covering around one-third of Hong Kong's population by then;
- (ii) as of April 2024, the Department had installed 12 FWSRBs in a total of 20 buildings in Tak Long Estate, Sheung Lok Estate, Hung Hom Estate and Ma Tau Wai Estate in Kowloon City District and it was expected that the FWSRBs would be installed in the remaining six PRH estates in the district in the second quarter of 2024;
- (iii) some of the FWSRBs installed in Ho Man Tin Estate under the Trial Scheme would be removed upon the completion of the installation of the FWSRBs under the GREEN@COMMUNITY;
- (iv) the FWSRBs in Oi Man Estate were currently under testing and anticipated to commence operation by the end of May this year;
- (v) the Department would closely monitor the usage volume of the FWSRBs and gradually install additional FWSRBs in the estates in need so as to further encourage the recycling of domestic food waste;
- (vi) sensors for "weight" and "capacity level" were installed in the FWSRBs. When the capacity of the FWSRBs reached 70 per cent, the system would automatically notify cleansing staff to replace the inner bins. There was no restrictions on the frequency of replacing the inner bins. Meanwhile, the participation rate of each building

varied. Based on the Department's experience, the number of the FWSRBs provided currently was sufficient for the use of residents;

- (vii) the Department noted the situation of frequent malfunction occurrence of the FWSRBs in Tak Long Estate and would relay to the relevant responsible section of the Department for follow up;
- (viii) the Department had provided additional resources to the HD to hire additional staff with a view to enhancing the cleansing services for the FWSRBs and the surrounding environment in all PRH estates participating in the scheme, including the replacement of inner bins; and
- (ix) the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2 (O•PARK2) started operation in March 2024. Its facilities were equipped with state-of-the-art technology that could separate impurities such as plastic bags and bones in the treatment process. The Department would transport all the domestic food waste to the O•PARK2 for treatment. If the public had to use plastic bags to store food waste, they could put the food waste together with the plastic bags into the FWSRBs. The Department would continue to carry out promotion and arrange the Green Outreach to introduce onsite and teach the public on the simplified ways to recycle food waste.

9. **Members** stated that cleansing staff did not timely replace the inner bins after the FWSRBs in Tak Long Estate reached full capacity so that residents were unable to use the relevant FWSRBs during the evening hours. Members would like the Department to follow up the situation.

10. **The representative of the EPD** responded that in order to further enhance the speed of notification, the Department had established a new alert system. If the FWSRBs malfunctioned or had reached full capacity for an hour, the alert system would automatically notify the management office of the estate or the recycling service contractors. A notification might be sent within half an hour after the aforementioned situation occurred during the evening peak hours.

11. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to furnish Members with the data regarding the recycling time and frequency of the FWSRBs as soon as possible. He would also like the Department to collaborate with

Members to jointly monitor the operation and management of the FWSRBs.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed the EPD's report on the situation of the FWSRBs in Tak Long Estate to Members on 12 June 2024.]

Item 3

Proposal for Providing More Smart Food Waste Bins, Recycling Spots and Lowering the Threshold for Application for Housing Estates

(FEHC Paper No. 22/2024)

12. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
13. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
 - (i) since the number of households in single-block buildings was less than 1 000, they were unable to apply for the installation of FWSRBs via the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates (Pilot Scheme). Members enquired about the feasibility of installing the FWSRBs in government facilities or buildings in the district (such as Peace Avenue Refuse Collection Point or the Public Library at Pui Ching Road) to facilitate the use of residents of single-block buildings;
 - (ii) no recycling stations of the GREEN@COMMUNITY was set up in Ho Man Tin area at present. Nearby residents could only carry out recycling by using the irregularly set mobile recycling points. Yet, the working people were unable to use relevant mobile recycling points as they were only opened during office hours on weekdays.
 - (iii) Members received complaints from residents indicating that the mobile recycling points of the GREEN@COMMUNITY located near Cambridge Court at Waterloo Road often occupied the road area. Members requested the Department to follow up; and
 - (iv) due to a lack of publicity, most of the residents were not notified of the Department's arrangements for the installation of mobile food waste recycling points near locations that were more concentrated with single-block buildings, "three-nil buildings" and restaurants in the district. As a result, the utilisation rates of some mobile

recycling points were relatively low. Members suggested the Department to step up publicity on the opening hours and locations of the mobile food waste recycling points and maintain communication with the local stakeholders (such as management companies, cleansing companies, owners' corporations, district councillors and the persons in charge of restaurants) so that more residents were notified of the relevant arrangements.

14. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department had currently set up food waste recycling points at eight refuse collection points under the purview of the FEHD in Kowloon City District (including the refuse collection points at Lung Kong Road, Peace Avenue, Kowloon City Road, Baker Street, Hok Yuen Street, Kwei Chow Street, Kowloon City Municipal Services Building and Sung On Street). The Department also planned to set up a food waste recycling point at Broadcast Drive Refuse Collection Point in June 2024;
 - (ii) the Department would continue to monitor the situation of food waste recycling and consider the provision of mobile food waste recycling points at other suitable locations in the community when necessary to facilitate residents to carry out food waste recycling;
 - (iii) the Department noted Members' suggestions on strengthening the promotion of mobile food waste recycling points and would convey the views to the responsible section;
 - (iv) in terms of the suggestion for the installation of the FWSRBs at public venues, the Department had a number of considerations such as locations of venues, space, electricity supply and convenience. The Department would pay close attention to the degree of participation of the public in food waste recycling and timely evaluate the effectiveness, as well as continue to explore the feasibility of the provision of static or mobile food waste recycling points at other suitable venues;
 - (v) the Pilot Scheme launched at the end of December 2023 under the collaboration between the Department and the Environmental

Campaign Committee had adopted a simplified application procedures. The representatives of housing estates were only required to fill in simple information about the housing estates on the application forms, including the number of FWSRBs applied, the proposed placing locations and the estimated quantity of food waste. Submission of supporting documents from residents were not required. The Scheme currently accepted applications from housing estates with more than 1 000 households. The Department stated that it was considering the enhancement of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with less than 1 000 households and the details of the arrangement would be announced later; and

- (vi) the Government had established the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund to mainly support the installation of the FWSRBs in private residential buildings. The scope of the funding covered the rent of the FWSRBs and the associated systems, wages of additional workers, expenses on promotion and education and audit fees. The Department would also render daily food waste collection services to the subsidised housing estates.

15. **Members** had further enquiries and suggestions as follows:

- (i) the methods adopted by the Department in monitoring the performance of food waste recycling service contractors;
- (ii) the current mobile food waste recycling point at Fuk Lo Tsun Road was further away from the more densely populated streets in Lung Shing area (such as Lung Kong Road, South Wall Road, Kai Tak Road and Tak Ku Ling Road). Therefore, it was inconvenient for the use of nearby residents. Members suggested providing additional mobile food waste recycling points in the area or relocating the mobile food waste recycling point at Fuk Lo Tsun to a more central location in the Lung Shing area;
- (iii) suggested the Department to compliment the housing estates with an outstanding performance in the Pilot Scheme and invite them to share their experiences regarding the use and management of the FWSRBs;

- (iv) Members would like the Department to announce the timetable of the Pilot Scheme covering private housing estates with less than 1 000 households at the soonest so as to tie in with the implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste Charging;
- (v) suggested the provision of additional mobile food waste recycling points in Kowloon Tong and Prince Edward areas to facilitate residents in those areas to carry out food waste recycling;
- (vi) the information about the mobile recycling point at the location near South Asian Lutheran Seminary at Broadcast Drive was not shown on the website of the Department or the GREEN@COMMUNITY. Members suggested the Department to add the relevant information on the websites; and
- (vii) the locations of some mobile recycling points were not ideal. Some people even moved the locations of the FWSRBs without authorisation. Members requested the Department to step up monitoring.

16. **The representative of the EPD** gave a reply as follows:

- (i) the Department noted the suggestions on strengthening the publicity of the mobile food waste recycling points and increasing the number of recycling points. The Department would relay the views to the responsible section;
- (ii) the Department would timely review the locations of mobile food waste recycling points according to the actual operation situation of the mobile food waste recycling points and with reference to Members' views; and
- (iii) Members could notify the Department concerning the situation on street obstruction caused by the recycling points or poor performance in recycling. The staff of the relevant section would follow up.

17. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to maintain close liaison with Members and suggested the display of an enquiry or complaint hotline at conspicuous places near food waste recycling facilities so that the

public could jointly monitor.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had relayed the EPD's report on the follow-up issues of this item to Members on 12 June 2024.]

Item 4

Request for Following up the Serious Problem of Rodent Infestation nearby Redevelopment Sites in Kowloon City District

(FEHC Paper No. 23/2024)

Item 5

Proposal for Strengthening Rodent Control Work at Dock Street in Hung Hom

(FEHC Paper No. 24/2024)

18. **The Chairman** stated that Items 4 and 5 were both related to rodent infestation. He declared that the two items would be discussed together after consulting Members.

19. **Members** introduced Paper No. 23/2024 and Paper No. 24/2024.

20. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) if the four offenders prosecuted in May mentioned in the written reply by the Department were related to the food premises in the vicinity of Dock Street;
- (ii) the two large-scale redevelopment projects in Lung Shing area (Kai Tak Road / Sa Po Road Project and Ngai Tsin Wai Road / Carpenter Road Project respectively) were about to commence. It was expected that there would be a large amount of waste and miscellaneous items at the relevant locations. Members would like the Department to step up inspections and conduct clearing if necessary to eradicate rodent infestation;
- (iii) several redevelopment projects in the vicinity of Wing Kwong Street and Ngan Hong Street would commence soon, which would likely lead to the problem of rodent infestation by then. Members requested various departments and stakeholders such as the Urban Renewal Authority and private developers to jointly conduct anti-

rodent operations to prevent the spread of rodent infestation; and

- (iv) some shops considered the penalties as one of their operating costs. Members suggested the Department to continuously take out prosecutions against the long-term offending shops so as to enhance the deterrent effect.

21. **The representative of the FEHD** gave a reply with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department would conduct anti-rodent operations in public places at least once a week;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately sent staff to inspect the aforementioned locations and their vicinity. Traces of rodent activities were discovered in some locations. The Department had immediately strengthened the anti-rodent measures in the surrounding public places, including increasing the volume of baits used, arranging rodent control teams to place rodent traps there during the small hours and placing Ekomille at the refuse collection points under the Department's purview with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of anti-rodent work;
- (iii) the Department had also stepped up the cleansing of the relevant locations such as the clearing of silt, waste and miscellaneous items in the drains. In the past three months, the Department had issued a total of 114 "Notices to Remove Obstruction" in the vicinity of the above locations and removed 15 unattended objects placed in public places;
- (iv) the staff of the Department had distributed promotional leaflets to the residents of nearby buildings at the relevant places and arranged staff to regularly inspect the construction sites in the area and nearby public places, as well as provided technical advice on rodent control to the relevant persons in charge with the aim of enhancing their anti-rodent awareness;
- (v) the staff of the Department had stepped up inspections nearby Dock Street and taken out prosecutions against four persons who breached

the cleansing legislations in May. One of the offenders was suspected of disposing a large quantity of cardboard. It was believed that the offender was associated with the vegetable stalls in the vicinity of Dock Street; and

- (vi) the Department was willing to coordinate with other departments to jointly conduct inter-departmental anti-rodent operations.

22. **The representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)** gave a reply with the main points as follows:

- (i) apart from conducting daily cleansing work, the Department would also arrange for horticultural service contractors to regularly trim plants and replenish the soil in flower beds in order to prevent the hiding of rodents. The Department had also arranged cleansing service contractors to strengthen the clearing of waste to eliminate food sources for rodents;
- (ii) the Department had hired professional service contractors to regularly conduct rodent control work at the key venues under its purview such as Station Lane Sitting-out Area, Fat Kwong Street Park, Hutchison Park, Pet Garden at Hung Ling Street and Winslow Street Playground. The rodent control work included placing rodenticides at venues, tracking the routes of rodent activities to block the hideouts of rodents and carrying out relief cleansing work; and
- (iii) the Department conducted inspections at Hutchison Park and exchanged views with the FEHD on 17 April 2024. Since April 2024, the Department had requested the anti-rodent service contractors to install more rodent traps and bait boxes at leisure venues with a more serious rodent infestation problem to further strengthen anti-rodent work.

23. The Chairman made a conclusion and he would like the relevant departments to take note of Members' suggestions and strengthen law enforcement and rodent prevention work in the future.

Item 6**Call for Strengthening Control Measures against Mosquitoes and Biting Midges in Kowloon City District****(FEHC Paper No. 25/2024)**

24. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
25. **The Member** stated that apart from the problems mentioned in the Paper, some locations in the district, such as Kai Tak Station Square, were also infested with ants. He enquired with the relevant departments as to whether the mosquito and pest control work included the eradication of ants.
26. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) apart from regular control work of mosquito / biting midge infestation, the Department would also reduce the number of breeding places for mosquito / midge larvae through environmental improvement measures, such as the removal of fallen leaves and other decaying vegetation as well as blockages including silt in sand traps and surface drainage channels. If necessary, the Department would conduct fogging at relevant locations to ameliorate mosquito / midge infestation;
 - (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had sent staff to inspect the relevant locations in the district and strengthened the mosquito / midge control work in the vicinity of such locations;
 - (iii) the Department would conduct large-scale anti-mosquito campaigns for three times every year at potential breeding places for mosquitoes in the district such as human residences, schools, construction sites, the PRH estates, hospitals, typhoon shelters and cross boundary ferry terminals. The first operation in 2024 had been completed and the second operation was underway;
 - (iv) the species of biting midges found in Hong Kong were not documented carriers of transmitting diseases. They were not considered as important vectors of vector-borne diseases and their impacts were mainly causing nuisances. Moreover, the World Health Organisation had not published guidelines for systematic

surveillance of biting midges. The Department would make reference to the anti-midge measures in neighbouring areas;

- (v) the Department would publish the Gravidtrap Index monthly to notify the public of the severity of mosquito infestation in the survey areas and the mosquito control and anti-mosquito measures to be taken; and
- (vi) since ants would not transmit viruses, the anti-pest work of the Department did not include the eradication of ants.

27. **The representatives of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the cleansing service contractors of the Department would clear waste, leaves and stagnant water daily at various leisure venues in the district, including Fat Kwong Street Garden No. 1, Hutchison Park, Kai Tak Avenue Park, Ko Shan Road Park, Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground, as well as the parks and playgrounds in the vicinity of Ho Man Tin. They would also regularly clear fallen leaves, sand traps and surface drainage channels in places such as inside these venues and on the slopes, as well as spray mosquito larvicidal oil in the manholes to prevent mosquitoes and pests from breeding;
- (ii) the Department had placed mosquito trapping devices at the venues to enhance the anti-mosquito effectiveness. To further strengthen the anti-mosquito work, the Department had arranged professional service contractors to carry out mosquito fogging work at venues under its purview between April and November, while increasing the frequency from once bi-weekly to weekly;
- (iii) the Department conducted inspections and joint operations with the FEHD on 17 April and 9 May at some venues under its purview, including Hutchison Park, Kai Tak Avenue Park, Ho Man Tin East Service Reservoir Playground and Sheung Lok Street Garden. The Department also stepped up mosquito control measures at other venues under its purview; and
- (iv) the Department would conduct inspections and joint operations with the FEHD in mid-May at other leisure venues in the district, including

Hutchison Park, Hoi Sham Park, Ko Shan Road Park, Sheung Shing Street Park, Fat Kwong Street Garden No. 1, Man Fuk Road Garden, Carmel Village Street Garden, Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground, Pui Ching Road Playground and Perth Street Sports Ground.

28. **The representative of the Highways Department** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately notified the contractors under its purview to carry out anti-mosquito work;
- (ii) during the rainy season, the Department would decide whether anti-mosquito work needed to be carried out depending on the Gravidtrap Index published by the FEHD;
- (iii) the Department would arrange for the contractors to clear the road drainage facilities nearby the locations mentioned in the Paper as well as to spray mosquito larvicidal oil or place larvicidal sand in those locations. After inclement weather, the Department would also send staff to the relevant locations to spray mosquito larvicidal oil or place larvicidal sand again to ensure that the anti-mosquito effectiveness would not be affected by inclement weather; and
- (iv) the Department was willing to jointly conduct inter-departmental anti-mosquito operations with other departments.

29. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the various departments to strengthen cooperation and conduct anti-mosquito and anti-midge work in the district properly and report the progress to Members in a timely manner.

Item 7

Concern over Situations of Dog Fouling in the Vicinity of Peace Avenue, Emma Avenue, Victory Avenue, Waterloo Road and Liberty Avenue
(FEHC Paper No. 26/2024)

30. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

31. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
- (i) the identity of the two persons prosecuted as mentioned in the written reply;
 - (ii) the time and frequency of the inspections conducted by the Department; and
 - (iii) requested the Department to submit regularly the number of prosecutions taken out every month with regard to dogs fouling the streets to Members.
32. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the FEHD sent plain-clothes officers to inspect the relevant locations for multiple times, during which prosecutions were taken out against two littering offenders. However, the Department did not find situations that the dog owners allowed their dogs to foul and dirty the streets during the inspections;
 - (ii) the Department had put up posters at conspicuous places of the relevant locations to remind dog owners to keep public places clean;
 - (iii) the Department had also installed dog excreta collection bins at the relevant locations and arranged for cleansing service contractors to step up cleansing work in these places to maintain street hygiene;
 - (iv) the Department would continue to monitor the relevant situation and take appropriate actions to enhance dog owners' awareness of hygiene and change their undesirable habit of allowing dogs to foul the streets through continuous publicity and law enforcement; and
 - (v) the previous inspections and operations were conducted during daytime on weekdays. The Department was planning to conduct inspections in the evening or the small hours.
33. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and suggested the Department to invite Members to conduct surprise inspections together and submit the statistics on prosecutions on a regular basis to Members.

Item 8**Call for Timely Replacement and Regular Inspection of Equipment in Public Toilets in Kowloon City District****(FEHC Paper No. 27/2024)**

34. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
35. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) there were a total of 15 public toilets in Kowloon City District. Dedicated toilet attendants had been arranged to put on duty and were responsible for maintaining the hygiene of public toilets, replenishing the supplies and reporting situations of damages to the facilities;
 - (ii) staff of the Department would inspect each public toilet at least twice a day to monitor the performance of the contractors and ensure that their management services provided were up to standard. The contractor would carry out minor repairs or replacement within 24 hours in respect of minor defects or damages in facilities. For more serious situations, staff of the Department would notify the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) or the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) for repairs;
 - (iii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department inspected the four public toilets mentioned in the Paper jointly with the ArchSD, and the operation of the toilets was normal in general;
 - (iv) regarding sewage backflow at the accessible toilet of the public toilet in Hung Hom Municipal Services Building earlier, the follow-up actions taken by the Department were as follows:
 - (a) the Department had immediately notified the ArchSD and the Drainage Services Department to conduct emergency repairs. The facility was now operating normally;
 - (b) the Department conducted an investigation into the relevant problem and found that the contractor failed to properly clear the channels in the manholes in the market in accordance with the requirements of the contract, which resulted in the accumulation

of greasy wastes in the channels, causing blockage of the channels and sewage backflow. The Department had issued a Default Notice and a warning letter to the relevant contractor and would closely monitor its performance;

- (c) the Department found discarded clothes and personal belongings in the blocked channels and suspected that some members of the public had misused the toilet, resulting in the blockage of pipes. The Department had posted a notice at the relevant locations to remind the public as well as shop operators the proper use of public facilities and installed large rubbish bins in the accessible toilet for public use.
- (v) in view of the frequent service suspension of the male toilet at the cooked food centre on 3/F of Hung Hom Market due to blockage, the Department had contacted the ArchSD to conduct an investigation to understand the causes of the problem and explore solutions; and
- (vi) the ArchSD adjusted the automatic sensor soap dispensers in the female toilet on 1/F of Hung Hom Municipal Services Building earlier according to the request by the Department to a more convenient position for public use.

36. **The representative of the ArchSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the FEHD's repair request, the Department would normally arrange for a contractor to carry out repairs within three days. If the situation involved the blockage of pedestal type water closets and pipes, the repairs could normally be completed within 24 hours;
- (ii) the Department confirmed that the sewage backflow at the accessible toilet of the public toilet in Hung Hom Municipal Services Building in April was caused by the blockage of channels by miscellaneous items and had arranged for the contractor clear onsite on the same day;
- (iii) the Department would increase the frequency of cleansing work for underground pipes in Hung Hom Market to once a month to reduce

sewage backflow; and

- (iv) the frequent blockage at the male toilet on 3/F of Hung Hom Market was originated from the clogging up of relevant pipes by crystals. The Department had replaced the relevant pipes, hoping to solve the problem of frequent blockage.

37. **The representative of the EMSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department checked the maintenance records of the electrical and mechanical (E&M) equipment over the past 12 months and did not found situations of irregularities; and
- (ii) the Department provided repair and maintenance services for E&M equipment in public toilets under the purview of the FEHD, including electric fans, power supply systems, hand dryers and water pump systems. Upon receipt of the FEHD's repair request, the Department would handle immediately with a view to restoring the E&M equipment to normal at the soonest. The Department would continue to maintain close communication with the FEHD.

38. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the various departments to cooperate more in the future to step up the equipment inspection in relevant public toilets as well as to tackle the problem at source to prevent the situations of sewage backflow and channel blockage from happening.

Item 9

Concern about the Random Burning of Offerings at the Junction between Shin Lun Lane and Shing Kai Road in Kai Tak **(FEHC Paper No. 28/2024)**

39. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

40. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members enquired with the LCSD about the feasibility of replanting plants at locations where the ground was burnt or erecting a fence in front of the trees to prevent residents from burning offerings under large banyan trees;

- (ii) suggested the relevant departments to set up a temporary zone for residents to burn offerings;
- (iii) the relevant location was a public place where fires had broken out in the past due to the burning of offerings. Therefore, the Department was advised to post notices at conspicuous locations and deploy additional manpower for inspections at relevant places to prevent the public from burning offerings at inappropriate places; and
- (iv) the HD would set up designated zones for burning offerings in housing estates. Members suggested the Department to step up the cooperation and publicity with the HD as well as to encourage the public to perform ancestral rituals in the designated zones for burning offerings.

41. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) performing ancestral rituals in public places did not contravene the cleansing legislations. However, the public should burn joss paper and offerings in metal containers and clean up the remains of ashes from burning offerings upon completing the ancestral rituals, otherwise they would commit an offence and could be liable to a fixed penalty of \$3,000;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had deployed staff to conduct inspections in the vicinity and did not find people that burned joss paper during the inspection. However, ashes from suspected burning of joss paper were found on part of the government land at the location. Staff of the Department had immediately arranged for the contractor to clean it up and posted notices at conspicuous locations of the relevant places to remind the public to clean up the ashes by themselves after performing ancestral rituals;
- (iii) as trees were planted at the location involved, the burning of joss paper might set the location on fire. The Department had notified the Fire Services Department for follow up; and
- (iv) the Department would step up inspections and had requested the estate office to advise residents not to burn offerings in public places.

42. **The representative of the LCSD** replied and stated that Members' views on replanting plants and erecting fences were noted and would be conveyed to the related section for follow up.

43. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to handle the aforementioned issues at the soonest and maintain communication with Members.

Item 10

Concern about the Problem of Smoking at Exit H of Kowloon Tong Station, Adjacent Footbridge and its Entrance of at True Light Lane (FEHC Paper No. 29/2024)

44. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

45. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately sent staff to conduct inspection at the relevant location and found five members of the public discarded cigarette butts everywhere. The Department had taken out prosecutions immediately and arranged for the contractor to step up the cleansing work for the streets nearby;
- (ii) the Department had reduced the number of litter containers and cigarette butt containers near True Light Lane and relocated some of the litter containers to locations further away from Kowloon Tong Station to minimise the impact on pedestrians; and
- (iii) Exit H of Kowloon Tong MTR Station and part of the footbridge connecting to True Light Lane were under the purview of Sham Shui Po District. The Department had notified the Sham Shui Po district office to follow up.

46. **The representative of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) of the Department of Health** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the TACO received a total of 18 300 complaints against smoking offences, conducted over 27 300 inspections across the territory and issued more than 10 200 Fixed Penalty Notices (FTNs) in 2023.

Among the complaints, about 930 were related to Kowloon City District. The Department conducted over 1 000 inspections in the district and issued more than 420 FPNs;

- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the TACO had sent staff to inspect the relevant locations and come to the conclusion as follows:
 - (a) Exit H of Kowloon Tong MTR Station: since the total enclosed area on all sides at the relevant location did not exceed 50 per cent, the relevant location was not designated as a no smoking area published in the Gazette. Therefore, the location was not a statutory no smoking area (SNSA);
 - (b) the section of the footbridge connecting Festival Walk: as the walls were high there with the total enclosed area on all sides exceeded 50 per cent, the location was a SNSA; and
 - (c) the section of the footbridge and its entrance connecting True Light Lane: as the total enclosed area on all sides did not exceed 50 per cent, the location was not a SNSA.
- (iii) to improve the efficiency of law enforcement, the TACO would send plain-clothes officers to conduct inspections and take out prosecutions against smoking offenders. The Department sent staff to inspect twice last week and no offenders were found; and
- (iv) the TACO would continue to step up inspections. However, since some of the aforementioned locations were not SNSAs, other measures were required to be taken to reduce the number of smokers in the relevant locations.

47. **Members** raised further enquiries and views as follows:

- (i) the time spent by the TACO in conducting inspections and staying onsite;
- (ii) Members stated that a large number of schoolchildren used the footbridge and suggested the relevant departments to step up publicity to spread the message of avoid smoking on the footbridge;

- (iii) suggested relevant departments to designate specific locations on the footbridge as smoking areas;
- (iv) suggested the FEHD to step up law enforcement by taking out prosecutions against offenders who discarded cigarette butts improperly so as to reduce the number of smokers at the relevant locations; and
- (v) suggested to step up publicity in the SNSAs on the footbridge and add warnings against smoking in the non-SNSAs to minimise the impact of second-hand smoke on users of the footbridge.

48. **The representative of the FEHD** replied that the Department would target at taking out prosecutions against offenders for their behaviour of discarding cigarette butts improperly as well as step up inspection and law enforcement at the relevant locations jointly with the staff of Sham Shui Po district office.

49. **The representative of the TACO** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the TACO would contact the management personnel of the footbridge and urge them to step up publicity on the message of no smoking in the SNSAs on the bridge;
- (ii) the TACO would conduct inspections according to the time provided by the complainant. The time stayed onsite depended on the location of the site involved in the complaint and the effectiveness of law enforcement. For example, TACO staff would stay for a longer time at traffic interchanges as the effectiveness of law enforcement was more significant there. However, since the TACO was unable to conduct law enforcement by hiding from a concealed position for a long time, it could not stay at locations such as footbridges for a long time;
- (iii) apart from legislation and enforcement, the Government adopted a multi-pronged approach to conduct tobacco control, including the regular use of mass media and public transport to promote smoke-free messages;

- (iv) starting from 2023, the Department had organised the “Quit in June” campaign annually to provide persons who had a smoking habit with one week of smoking cessation drugs free of charge at community pharmacies, smoking cessation clinics, District Health Centres and District Health Centre Expresses. Through subsidising the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health and cooperating with non-government organisations (NGOs), the Department organised activities such as talks, training programmes and theatre programmes in schools to familiarise students with tobacco products, including the hazards of alternative smoking products and master the skills to resist peer pressure; and
- (v) besides providing an Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline and operating smoking cessation clinics, the TACO also collaborated with NGOs to provide a series of community-based and free smoking cessation services targeting different groups of people, which included counselling as well as Chinese and Western medical treatments.

50. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and expressed that he would like related departments to work together and consider stepping up publicity on no-smoking messages at the relevant locations.

Item 11

Any Other Business

51. No items were further raised by **Members**.

Item 12

Date of Next Meeting

52. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 11 July 2024 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 25 June 2024.

53. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 11 July 2024.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat
July 2024