

**Southern District Council (2020-2023) (SDC)**  
**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the**  
**Environment, Hygiene and Healthcare Committee (EHHC)**

Date : 22 September 2020  
Time : 2:30 p.m.  
Venue : SDC Conference Room

**Present:**

Mr LO Kin-hei	(Chairman of SDC)
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	(Vice-Chairman of SDC)
Mr YIM Chun-ho	(Chairman of EHHC)
Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus	(Vice-Chairman of EHHC)
Mr CHAN Hin-chung	
Mr CHAN Ping-yeung	
Ms CHAN Yan-yi	
Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo	
Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin	
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH	
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun	
Ms LI Shee-lin	
Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael	
Mr POON Ping-hong	
Mr TSUI Yuen-wa	
Mr YU Chun-hei, James	
Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany	

**Secretary:**

Miss PANG Fuk-kwan, Carol	Executive Assistant (Election) 3, Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department
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**In Attendance:**

Mr CHENG Kong-chung, Francis, JP	District Officer (Southern), Home Affairs Department
Mr LEUNG Ying-kit	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny	Chief Health Inspector (Southern) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms LI Lai-ha, Liz	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) (Southern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 3, Environmental Protection Department
Mr FUNG Wai-yip, Wallace	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 34, Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHENG Ka-man, Gavin	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 31, Environmental Protection Department

**For agenda item 2:**

Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz	Assistant Director (Market Special Duties), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Wing-hong	Coordinator (Market Special Duties) 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr HON Ming-sau	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Southern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex	Senior Project Manager 335, Architectural Services Department
Mr WONG Sing-lam, Ken	Project Manager 360, Architectural Services Department
Mr CHU Yim-kwong	Senior Building Services Engineer/M1, Architectural Services Department
Mr LAU Tak-cheung, Vetus	Director, Percy Thomas Partnership (HK) Limited
Mr LAU Wai-hung, Terry	Architect, Percy Thomas Partnership (HK) Limited

**For agenda item 3:**

Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy	Chief Executive Officer, (Planning) 1, Social Welfare Department
Ms LAI Wai-man, Irene	Senior Executive Officer (Planning) Management, Social Welfare Department
Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Island) 3, Social Welfare Department

**For agenda item 4:**

Ms LAM Choi-ngan, Joyce	Hong Kong Southern District Community Women Association Activities Committee
Mr KO Cham-cheong, Leo	Manager, Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Community Centre
Ms YEUNG Ying-lai, Celia	Social Worker, Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Community Centre
Ms YEUNG Choi-ling	Officer, Southern Arisen
Ms LEUNG Wing-tung	Founder, Be Ho Yea Limited

**For agenda item 5:**

Mr LEUNG Siu-chee	Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (3), Marine Department
Mr CHEUNG Kai-ming, Lawrence	Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Habour Patrol Section (2), Marine Department
Mr TAM Wai-man	Senior Assistant Shipping Master/South, Marine Department
Mr LOUK Hon-ying	Senior Ship Inspector/Local Vessels Safety (2), Marine Department

**For agenda item 6:**

Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky	Principle Estate Officer/HKW & S (2) (District Lands Office, Hong Kong West and South), Lands Department
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**For agenda item 8:**

Ms CHAN Kit-ming, Grace	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department
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**For agenda item 10:**

Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei,                      Housing Manager/HKI 4, Housing Department  
Gloria

**Opening Remarks:**

The Chairman said that in view of the latest situation of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection, this meeting was not open to the public in order to reduce the risk of crowd gathering. Members and media were advised to bring their own masks and water. Before entering the venue, all persons were subject to checking of body temperature with the assistance of the staff of Southern District Office, and were required to complete a health declaration form and declare whether he/she was under the 14-day compulsory quarantine.

2.        Owing to the epidemic, the meeting would take a 15-minute break at the end of agenda item 4 for carrying out cleansing and disinfection of the conference room. To avoid prolonged congregation, members were reminded to speak as concisely as possible and government representatives needed not repeat the written replies in their response, so that the meeting might end by the estimated time, i.e. 6:40 p.m.

3.        The Chairman welcomed members and the following regular government representatives to the meeting:

- (i)        Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny, Chief Health Inspector (Southern) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (ii)        Ms LI Lai-ha, Liz, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) (Southern), FEHD;
- (iii)        Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 3, Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (iv)        Mr FUNG Wai-yip, Wallace, Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 34, EPD; and
- (v)        Mr CHENG Ka-man, Gavin, Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 31, EPD.

4.        The Chairman continued that in accordance with the Southern District Council Standing Orders, the quorum of a District Council and its Committees was half of their members. To avoid suspending the meeting due to the absence of a quorum, members should, as far as practicable, advise the Secretary of their early withdrawal in advance, and inform the Secretariat staff before leaving the meeting. Each member would be allotted a maximum of two three-minute slots to speak in respect of each agenda item, and members were reminded to

Speak as concisely as possible. The electronic timer would beep when it reached two minutes 30 seconds and three minutes of each speaking slot respectively.

## **Part 1 – Matters Discussed**

### **Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> EHHC Meeting Held on 7 July 2020**

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(Mr CHAN Ping-yeung, Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael, Mr TSUI Yuen-wa and Mr LO Kin-hei joined the meeting at 2:31 p.m., 2:33 p.m., 2:33 p.m., 2:39 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. respectively.)

5. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, the draft minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> EHHC meeting had been circulated to members for comments. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.

6. The Chairman asked members to confirm the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> EHHC meeting. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed by the Committee.

### **Agenda Item 2: Market Modernisation Programme project in Aberdeen Market (Item raised by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department) (EHHC Paper No. 35/2020)**

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7. The Chairman welcomed the following departmental representatives to the meeting:

#### **Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)**

- (i) Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz, Assistant Director (Market Special Duties);
- (ii) Mr LAM Wing-hong, Coordinator (Market Special Duties)2;
- (iii) Mr HON Ming-sau, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Southern);

#### **Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)**

- (i) Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex, Senior Project Manager 335;
- (ii) Mr WONG Sing-lam, Ken, Project Manager 360;
- (iii) Mr CHU Yim-kwong, Senior Building Services Engineer/M1;

**Percy Thomas Partnership (HK) Ltd (PTPL)**

- (i) Mr LAU Tak-cheung, Vetus, Director; and
- (ii) Mr LAU Wai-hung, Terry, Architect.

8. The Chairman invited the representatives to brief members on the agenda item.

9. Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz briefed members on the agenda item as follows:

- (i) Public markets were positioned to be one of the major sources of shopping fresh provisions for the general public, which should be kept reasonably decent, clean, neat and tidy without being unduly upmarket. Apart from upgrading hardware facilities of markets, FEHD would introduce a new market operation mode, which would mainly reform the leasing and management systems of public market stalls, with a view to enhancing business vibrancy and meeting the needs of residents; and
- (ii) The overhaul of Aberdeen Market was the pioneering project of the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). On 4 February 2020, FEHD and ArchSD briefed EHC on the details and work progress of the MMP, as well as listened to members' views on the proposed scope of works, key design features and measures to be taken during the works period, etc. Subsequently, FEHD conducted a district consultation on the MMP through the Southern District Office (SDO) in May 2020. In June 2020, the Legislative Council (LegCo) convened a tripartite case conference on the MMP among FEHD and ArchSD as well as SDC to exchange views on the works project. On the other hand, ArchSD engaged a consultant in May 2020 to carry out detailed layout design of the market. After carefully considering the views collected from various channels as mentioned above, a proposal on the detailed layout plan and preliminary view of the modernised Aberdeen Market was drawn up.

10. Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex said that ArchSD had engaged PTPL in May 2020 to carry out detailed design for the modernisation of Aberdeen Market. Upon due consideration of the views from different stakeholders, the detailed layout plan and artist's impression of Aberdeen Market after modernization had been drawn up.

11. Mr LAU Wai-hung, Terry, with the aid of PowerPoint presentation, briefed members on the current situation and issues of Aberdeen Market, architectural design considerations and unique features, and overall planning and design. Details were given in **Reference Paper 3**.

12. Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz provided supplementary information as follows:

- (i) As the MMP project in Aberdeen Market involved reconfiguration of the layout of stalls as well as enlargement of the stall area, widening of passageways as well as the

provision of additional facilities, the need for adjustment to the number of existing stalls is unavoidable. It was anticipated that the overhauled market would provide 151 stalls (including 35 large stalls, 107 small stalls and 9 cooked food stalls), with an increase in the average size by a range of about 30% to 200% (i.e. increased to 6.75 m<sup>2</sup> to 15 m<sup>2</sup>); and

- (ii) FEHD planned to consult the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the LegCo on the proposal of the MMP project in Aberdeen Market in the fourth quarter of 2020 and seek funding approval from the LegCo in the first half of 2021. Depending on the actual progress, FEHD aimed to commence the overhaul works in the third quarter of 2021. Tenants agreed earlier to the full closure of the market for 14 months for the works to proceed. FEHD would explore with ArchSD on whether there was room for further compressing the works schedule. During the works period, ArchSD would adopt appropriate measures to minimise the impact on stakeholders and nearby residents as far as possible. Besides, in taking forward the comprehensive review on the management of public markets, FEHD would consider how to introduce new management measures in Aberdeen Market, and would proceed in a prudent and reasonable manner during the process.

13. The Chairman asked members to raise comments or enquiries.

14. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN was delighted at a number of improvement measures to be put in place in Aberdeen Market, and raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) There was insufficient space in the refuse room of the overhauled market to accommodate containers for collecting waste paper, plastic, metal, polyfoam, food waste and general refuse, as well as the cold compactor. He opined that such containers should be placed in different parts of the market, with their locations being indicated on the floor plan, and that hand-washing facilities should be installed in the refuse room as well;
- (ii) To prevent people from touching the door handle again after washing their hands, it was suggested that hand-washing facilities should be installed outside toilets and drinking fountains be provided nearby as well;
- (iii) More public seating should be provided in different parts of the market;
- (iv) It was common for typical stall tenants to fully utilise wall space for storing goods with the use of wall-mounted hooks or shelves. Considering that low partition walls would mean a reduction in storage space, he expressed concern about such a design; and
- (v) Chairs fixed to the ground would undermine the flexibility of seating arrangement in the cooked food centre.

15. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa said that the comments raised by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN just then might coincide with those made by the majority of members during the workshop on Friday of the previous week, and suggested that to avoid the need to answer repetitive questions at the meeting, the Chairman could recapitulate matters of concern raised by members during the workshop, in a bid to expedite the progress of the meeting.

16. The Chairman recapitulated the major issues discussed during the workshop as follows:

- (i) To prevent people from touching the door handle, installation of toilet doors was not recommended;
- (ii) Increasing the height of partition walls would facilitate stall operations;
- (iii) Installation of fixed tables and chairs in the cooked food centre was not recommended;
- (iv) Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun was particularly concerned about the availability of breastfeeding facilities in the baby care room;
- (v) There had been enquiries about the measures to be adopted during the works period, including how to mitigate construction noise and handle skips;
- (vi) There had been enquiries about arrangements for allocation of stalls in view of a decline in the number of stalls in the future;
- (vii) Regarding the external appearance of the market, Mr LO Kin-hei had enquired about the possibility of designing a dedicated logo for Aberdeen Market and painting murals in public areas, etc.;
- (viii) Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH had enquired about the availability of tap water and drainage facilities in the stalls;
- (ix) Mr TSUI Yuen-wa had suggested extending the glass bottle recycling programme to the market;
- (x) Mr CHAN Ping-yeung had stressed the significance of the “dai pai dong” culture, and hoped that the existing round tables and shared tables, as well as the current mode of operation with respect to order and payment would remain unchanged;
- (xi) Ms LI Shee-lin had asked whether electronic payments would be accepted, and enquired about the anti-rodent arrangements during the works period;
- (xii) Mr TSUI Yuen-wa pointed out that given that the existing common rooms for cleansing workers were normally located inside or adjacent to toilets, the current situation was far from satisfactory. It was suggested that the design of common rooms should be improved on humanitarian grounds;
- (xiii) Mr YU Chun-hei, James had suggested using a foot-operated device to open toilet doors; and
- (xiv) Given that all of the above issues involved various contract details, he had asked the departments concerned to table the draft contract to the Committee for discussion in advance, and proceed to the open tender exercise only after the discussion, so that the new market management mode would better suit residents’ needs.



17. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He thanked the departments concerned for acceding to a number of recommendations put forward by members earlier, including the collection of foam boxes. Currently, quite many stall tenants would place foam boxes on the street. As such, he enquired about the availability of sufficient space for storing foam boxes in addition to the cold compactor in the recycling area; and
- (ii) As far as he knew, most of the existing stalls could return to the market after the overhaul project. He enquired about the number of stalls to be relocated to other markets and FEHD's current handling procedures. Besides, he raised an enquiry on the situation of vacant market stalls on behalf of a voluntary organisation.

18. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He stressed that baby care room and breastfeeding room were two different types of facilities. The former was intended for use by parents during diaper changing for their infants, while the latter was for the sole use of mothers. Therefore, it was not possible to combine the above two facilities into one. Besides, normally, it took time to complete the breastfeeding process, during which it was important to keep the place clean and well-ventilated. In this regard, he enquired about the provision of cleansing service and sufficient air conditioning facilities in a breastfeeding room if available; and
- (ii) He agreed not to install toilet doors to prevent people from touching the door handle. If not workable, he recommended the provision of alcohol-based hand rub outside toilets.

19. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH asked where grease traps would be installed in the nine cooked food stalls.

20. The Chairman said that at present, there was a newspaper stall near the entrance of Aberdeen Market on G/F; nevertheless, its location had not been incorporated into the design of the new market. According to its response during the workshop, FEHD would consider layout arrangements of stalls after finalising the trade mix in the overhauled market. The possible relocation of the newspaper stall concerned to 2/F might not necessarily dovetail with the shopping habits of residents. He suggested providing a newspaper stall near the entrance on G/F by making reference to the arrangements for the new market in Tsing Yi. The Chairman invited the representatives of FEHD to respond.

21. Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz gave a considered response as follows:

- (i) FEHD and ArchSD would actively consider the automatic door design and explore its feasibility;
- (ii) As for the cooked food centre, the photomontages shown at this meeting were a preliminary design. FEHD would liaise with the stall tenants concerned later and explore how to preserve the flavour of cooked food centres;
- (iii) The heights of low partition walls would be about 1.2 m to 1.5 m. The 1.5 m high partition walls would be erected in the rear of stalls, whereas those at the frontage of stalls would be lower. The design aimed to enhance visual permeability of the market, so as to facilitate patrons to go to the stalls of their choice more easily;
- (iv) Given that new stalls would be larger in size than the existing ones, there would be significant improvement in storage space, thereby enhancing the flexibility in storage of commodities;
- (v) When developing the design concept, the departments concerned had also made reference to the design and general trend of modern markets. The design of some stalls located near the wall would be different from those located in the central part of the market;
- (vi) FEHD and ArchSD would explore the feasibility of provision of a breast-feeding room at a suitable location;
- (vii) A few stall tenants had indicated their wish to relocate to other markets for continuing their operations. FEHD would set aside some vacant stalls in designated markets in Southern District to cater for the relocation needs of affected stall tenants; and
- (viii) FEHD would introduce a new market operation mode, including strengthening the market management role of the service contractor, for example formulating market promotion and development strategies and advising on the trade mix, etc., so as to enhance the business vibrancy and meet the needs of the public. Regarding the allocation of a newspaper stall, FEHD would finalise the exact trade mix at a later time. FEHD would take into account the nature of business of the stalls when arranging the stall locations.

22. Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex responded that the tender document have set out noise mitigation measures as well as transport control provisions that the contractor have to follow, e.g. stipulating the contractor to provide quality machineries, noise barriers, noise mitigating facilities as well as the proper placement of skips, formulation of noise management plan etc. Regarding traffic arrangements during the construction period, ArchSD would request contractor to control the time and frequency of construction vehicles with a view to minimising traffic and noise impacts.

23. Mr LAU Wai-hung, Terry gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Regarding the waste collection areas and recycling bins, he would advise members on the exact locations upon confirmation of arrangements with FEHD after the meeting;
- (ii) The adoption of low partition walls aimed to tie in with the operation mode of the new market, so as to enhance visual permeability and allow an unobstructed movement of patrons. In addition to low partition walls design, stall size would be increased to provide additional storage space. The low partition walls ranging between 1.2 m to 1.5 m high, while the stalls along the market peripheral would have higher partition walls for placing relatively tall objects;
- (iii) Regarding the need to separately provide a baby care room and breastfeeding room as pointed out by a member just then, PTPL would actively consider providing essential baby care facilities, including the installation of partitions inside the baby care room, the provision of facilities such as seating, air-conditioning and ventilation inside the breastfeeding room, as well as ensuring adequate number of power supply points for electric breastfeeding devices; and
- (iv) There were plans to apply anti-bacteria nanocoatings on doors and door handles. Also, consideration would be given to including the provision of automatic doors in the design proposal.

24. Mr CHU Yim-kwong responded that a grease trap would be installed underneath the sink of each kitchen in the cooked food centre. Wastewater would then be directed to the grease trap in the basement drainage pit for further grease interception before discharging to the outside of the building.

25. Mr WONG Sing-lam, Ken responded that ArchSD would explicitly indicate in the tender document that the contractor was required to conduct anti-rodent operations before the commencement and after the completion of construction works.

26. The Chairman asked members to raise comments or enquiries.

27. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He requested FEHD and ArchSD to provide substantive support for and respond to members' views, so as to boost the latter's confidence in the project;
- (ii) He stressed that what the member concerned had mentioned just then was that installation of toilet doors was not recommended, instead of advocating the use of automatic doors. He reiterated his earlier suggestion that hand-washing facilities should be provided outside toilets. He criticised the departments concerned for failing to squarely respond to his views after all;

- (iii) If the provision of outdoor stalls (e.g. newspaper stall) was not included in the design proposal, the departments concerned would be unable to meet the residents' daily needs; and
- (iv) He said that if funding approval for this project was to be sought from the LegCo direct without members' endorsement, the Committee could simply have a good grasp of the relevant design progress, obviating the need to further discuss this agenda item.

28. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa said that as explained by the department concerned, there would be little room for modifying the design of low partition walls. However, from the standpoint of stall operators, they wished to maximise space in their own stalls. For instance, fruit stall operators sought to hang their goods from the ceiling. The situation might get worse if stall tenants installed wire mesh shelves or increased the height of low partition walls on their own. Given that regular patrons of the market mainly comprised housewives who could readily locate their favourite stalls, it was incomprehensible to him why low partition walls were to be used. He agreed in principle that using low partition walls could achieve the objective of improving indoor air flow. However, he hoped that the departments concerned would introduce a number of improvement measures, including slightly increasing the height of low partition walls to allow greater flexibility for stall tenants to adjust the height between goods shelves themselves.

29. Mr LO Kin-hei raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He agreed with the suggestions made by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN. Members had reflected relevant comments to the departments concerned during the workshop in the previous week, thereby streamlining the discussion at the EHC meeting. While understanding that sufficient time might not have been allowed for the departments concerned to take follow-up actions or respond as it was only about two working days after the workshop, he considered that this work practice was conducive to enhancing communication between the departments concerned and members, enabling them to effectively respond to members' enquiries and comments;
- (ii) He had suggested during the workshop that to tie in with the artistic design of the market, a mural painting or feature wall design competition might be organised to encourage active public participation. He called on the departments concerned to explore the feasibility. He also suggested inviting entries of a logo design for the new market during the above competition to enhance the uniqueness of the community through a public engagement process; and
- (iii) He suggested compiling a list of members' views in a tabular format for FEHD's reference, and that FEHD should prepare a bimonthly update on action items arising from the meeting to facilitate monitoring of the related progress and improve the efficiency of communication between the departments concerned and members.

30. In closing, the Chairman thanked FEHD, ArchSD and PTPL for accepting a number of comments raised by members, including using the cold compaction technique, widening the passageways and improving the male-to-female toilet compartment ratio, etc. He was satisfied with the positive communication established and progress made at this meeting, as well as agreed with the directions proposed by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr TSUI Yuen-wa and Mr LO Kin-hei. The Committee supported in principle the aforesaid overhaul project; nevertheless, he called on the departments concerned to continue to maintain communication with members on how to progressively enhance the design of the market. Regarding Mr LO Kin-hei's suggestion that FEHD should prepare a bimonthly update on the progress of the project, he invited the representatives of FEHD to give their views on this.

31. Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz responded that in taking forward the project, FEHD would, as always, continue to maintain communication with members. As regards Mr LO Kin-hei's suggestion, FEHD welcomed the suggestion and would consider updating the progress of the project in a tabular format and contact the Secretariat later on.

32. The Chairman said that members might compile a list of their own views for submission to the Secretariat. He also asked the Secretariat to follow up on the matter.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat has not received comments from members.)

33. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa added that he agreed with Mr LO Kin-hei's suggestion of incorporating the public engagement element. The organiser and co-organiser of the activities, be it a mural painting competition, inter-school contest or territory-wide competition, might not necessarily be FEHD and SDC respectively.

34. The Chairman said that as the general public and stall tenants were the market users, he looked forward to carrying out more public consultation exercises on the project for enhancing public engagement during the entire process, the design of the market in particular. In view of the epidemic situation, it had been difficult to take forward the related work over the past few months. Subject to further relaxation of social distancing measures, the Committee would consider launching a public consultation. He envisaged that the public would be satisfied with the overall design of the new market, but they would still raise quite a number of comments on its details to seek improvements.

(Ms LEUNG Tsz-ying, Almaz, Mr LAM Wing-hong, Mr HON Ming-sau, Mr TSE Lok-man, Alex, Mr WONG Sing-lam, Ken, Mr CHU Yim-kwong, Mr LAU Tak-cheung, Vetus and Mr LAU Wai-hung, Terry left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.)

(Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy, Ms LAI Wai-man, Irene and Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina joined the meeting at 3:31 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 3: Purchase of Premises for the Provision of Welfare Facilities  
(Item raised by the Social Welfare Department)  
(EHHC Paper No. 36/2020)**

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35. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting:

- (i) Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy, Chief Executive Officer (Planning)<sup>1</sup>;
- (ii) Ms LAI Wai-man, Irene, Senior Executive Officer (Planning) Management; and
- (iii) Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)<sup>3</sup>.

36. The Chairman invited the SWD representatives to brief members on the agenda item.

37. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy briefed members on the agenda item with details given in the paper of EHHC Paper No. 36/2020.

38. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

39. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that the population distribution of the Southern District differed from other districts, and the distribution and concentration of population in each area were also different. He hoped that at the next meeting, SWD could provide a map of the Southern District which showed the existing locations of different government, subvented or private welfare facilities, so as to let members understand the demand and supply in the district and hold discussions on the site locations and types of welfare facilities.

40. Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He asked if SWD could provide sufficient reasons and concrete data, such as the figures of the projected population growth, to illustrate the justifications for the seven planned welfare facilities mentioned above. At the SDC meeting on 10 September 2020, members were highly concerned about the topic on mental health services, yet the seven planned welfare facilities which SWD listed in the paper had nothing to do with mental health services. He asked if SWD would consider providing facilities for mental health services in the district;

- (ii) He asked whether SWD would evenly distribute the seven planned welfare facilities among seven areas in the district or arrange the facilities to be concentrated in one area; and
- (iii) He expected that a large number of professionals, such as nurses and physiotherapists, would be involved in maintaining the operation of the seven planned welfare facilities. In view of the earlier incident at an elderly care home in Ho Man Tin, in which staff was suspected of giving wrong medicine, together with the rodent infestation problem in the care home, he asked how SWD would carry out supervision regarding manpower arrangements and training.

41. Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael pointed out that SWD had stated in the paper that it expected to start purchasing the first set of premises in the first quarter of 2021, which included seven premises planned to be purchased in the Southern District. He asked whether SWD could disclose the information of the premises identified at this stage, such as location, background, etc. Despite the fact that SDC was an advisory body, it still had to monitor the use of public money.

42. Mr POON Ping-hong raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He hoped that SWD could learn from the listing of The Link Real Estate Investment Trust (The Link) (which was renamed as Link Real Estate Investment Trust (Link REIT) in 2015) through capital raising of \$25 billion in 2005. When a large sum of public money was used to purchase premises in the private market for welfare uses, the major policy must be clearly set out to avoid wasting public money;
- (ii) Since the types of services and number of planned welfare facilities in each district were different, he requested SWD to provide clear and concrete data in support of setting up these welfare facilities, as well as the locations of the planned welfare facilities and related justifications, so that residents in the district and members would accept the purchase exercise; and
- (iii) It was estimated that by 2030, the problem of ageing population in Hong Kong would worsen; one out of four Hong Kong people would be an elderly person aged 65 years old or above. It was necessary to strengthen the support for caregivers and carers of elderly persons. At present, many family tragedies had occurred in the community, reflecting that caregivers and carers of elderly persons had nowhere to ask for help. He stressed that SWD must strengthen and enhance the support for the said people. With the availability of abundant resources, they must foresee the increasing demand for welfare services in the future.

43. Ms CHAN Yan-yi raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) She was concerned about the locations of the premises planned to be purchased and hoped that SWD would provide detailed information;
- (ii) According to the paper, SWD would consider making use of vacant school premises. She asked whether SWD would consider converting the former site of St. Peter's Secondary School in Aberdeen for welfare uses; and
- (iii) As regards Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs), she asked whether SWD had any plan to extend the service of some existing community centres (CCs) in the Southern District to the above service area. Taking her constituency, Lei Tung I, as an example, a small CC was available. She asked whether SWD would relocate the CC concerned to a larger premises, or whether a new NEC would be set up to provide the service.

44. Ms LI Shee-lin said that apart from the locations of various welfare facilities, she would also like to know the details of the three undersized NECs. Moreover, Parents and Relatives Resource Centre (PRC) was currently operated in the premises made available by the operator. She asked whether SWD had adopted the mode of operation through an outright purchase, or whether the operating expenses of the PRC were provided by means of lump sum grant subvention mode.

45. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that the new campus of St. Peter's Secondary School in Aberdeen had been in use for quite a number of years, but the old campus had been left vacant and the site had not been returned to the Government for a prolonged period of time. This case reflected the Government's improper use of public money and inconsistency with its principle in the prudent use of land. He hoped that inter-departmental communication would be strengthened for early resumption of land. He further said that community-based elderly care services and residential care homes for persons with disabilities in the Southern District were inadequate at present. He hoped that SWD would improve welfare planning in the Southern District.

46. Mr LO Kin-hei asked how SWD would identify the welfare service needs in the district. For example, SWD mentioned that a District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSC) and a standalone child care centre (CCC) were planned to be set up to address service shortage in the district. He asked SWD whether the proposal was supported by relevant statistical data on demand and supply. Members were more concerned about mental health service in the Southern District. He opined that despite the keen demand for the service, SWD had not attached any importance to the service needs in the Southern District. He hoped that SWD would provide more relevant information for the reference of SDC and provide the latest progress of purchase of premises for the planned welfare facilities.



47. The Chairman highlighted the importance of welfare services. Nevertheless, members did not have the latest figures for the relevant welfare services, including those provided to disabled persons, the elderly, mentally-ill persons and persons with daytime home care needs, etc., in the Southern District or in its various areas. The elderly welfare facilities were currently more concentrated in Wong Chuk Hang and its vicinity. He requested SWD to provide figures on the total area and average area per user of the facilities to assess whether there was any difference in the standards of SWD and the Architectural Services Department. With a lack of data, the Committee had difficulty in making assessment and review of the needs of various welfare services or discussing how to address the needs with existing resources. He hoped that SWD would provide the relevant figures for members' discussion on the related issues in a rational and scientific manner.

48. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) In regard to site selection, SWD would provide a set of requirements such as type of premises, quantity, floor area, operational and technical requirements, as well as service commencement date, etc. to the Government Property Agency (GPA) which would identify suitable premises by different channels based on the said requirements mentioned above. GPA had also conducted preliminary assessments on the availability of suitable premises in various districts earlier on. SWD would require and ensure that the premises purchased would be located within the respective service boundary of the concerned welfare services to facilitate service users;
- (ii) GPA would identify suitable properties through different channels, such as considering property information provided by owners or real estate agents, approaching the property owners directly, identifying suitable properties from advertisements of newspapers, developers/owners or property agents, conducting site visits at targeted districts, etc. GPA would also invite through the Government's website sale proposals from owners in due course;
- (iii) Regarding NECs, SWD planned to purchase premises for the establishment of sub-bases for three undersized NECs in the Southern District, and one of locational considerations was the proximity to the concerned main-bases;
- (iv) In regard to PRC, PRC in Southern District was accommodated in the premises made available by the operator. SWD planned to identify a suitable permanent premises in Southern District for running the service;
- (v) As residential care homes for the elderly/persons with disabilities would take up significant floor areas with more stringent layout and technical requirements, these facilities were not included into the premises purchase exercise. SWD would continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach with long-term and medium-term strategies for the provision of the residential care homes through purpose-built

premises in various types of development projects, such as public housing development projects, private land development projects, development projects of Urban Renewal Authority, redevelopment/conversion projects of vacant school premises, and development projects on Government, Institution or Community sites, etc. At the same time, the Government had made intensive efforts to increase the provision of welfare facilities through the Land Sale Programmes and the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses;

- (vi) GPA would seek to identify more than one set of suitable premises for consideration for every one set to be purchased as far as practicable. The sub-committee comprising professional surveyors of GPA at various ranks would determine a ceiling price in accordance with the established mechanism for each set of suitable premises. The purchase price of the premises must not exceed the ceiling price in order to ensure that the premises would be purchased at a reasonable price level and in line with the prevailing market value of the premises concerned. No premises with jacked up price would be purchased;
- (vii) In general, the Planning Department (PlanD) would conduct review of vacant school premises (VSP) in accordance with the Central Clearing House mechanism. If a VSP site was considered suitable to be put to alternative long-term use i.e. Government, Institution or Community use, and subject to the Government's prioritisation of uses, SWD would actively review the suitability of redeveloping the VSP site for the provision of welfare facilities having regard to factors including location and accessibility of the VPS site, usable floor area, and the compatibility of the VSP site with the requirements of different welfare facilities etc;
- (viii) Currently, SWD was converting a total of three vacant school premises (situated in Sai Kung, Tai Po and Tuen Mun respectively) into welfare services complexes. Based on relevant experience, the redevelopment of vacant school premises would take at least five years. In contrast, the purchase exercise was a short-term measure under which the first set of premises would be purchased in the first quarter of 2021 at the earliest to help meet the imminent need for premises for the earlier provision of welfare facilities;
- (ix) Regarding information disclosure, taking NEC as an example, one of the locational requirements was the proximity of the potential premises as a sub-base to the main base of NEC concerned. Given the fast-changing nature of the property market, the purchase price would be affected if the location of the premises to be purchased were disclosed before the purchase;

49. Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) LegCo's FC approved a funding of \$20 billion to the Government in June 2020, but the details of the purchase exercise and the process involved, including the tender

process, relevant stakeholders (including agents) and the fees involved, etc., had not been disclosed to the public. Therefore, LegCo members queried that the exercise was suspected of boosting the market. He stressed that public money should be used under supervision, and although there might be no collusion between the Government and the business sector, the actual behaviour of the Government did not seem to be subjected to any regulation. Besides, the lack of community involvement would only raise suspicions from the public; and

- (ii) He criticised the uneven distribution of the welfare premises as a whole. For instance, in the aspect of promoting youth development, he questioned why there was no plan to purchase youth service facilities in the Southern District; while the Support Centre for Persons with Autism on Hong Kong Island was planned to be set up in the Central and Western District only. He requested SWD to explain the criteria for selecting sites and the justifications for purchasing welfare facilities, or else the public would find it difficult to accept an unregulated financial policy.

50. Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin said that due to the lack of information, he hoped that SWD could provide more information in the next meeting, including the justifications and criteria for the planned welfare facilities in the district, so as to facilitate members' discussions.

51. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) St. Peter's Secondary School in Aberdeen had been deserted for over ten years but it had not been put to good use by the Government. This reflected the failure of governance to which he expressed dissatisfaction. Although PlanD was responsible for reviewing vacant school premises, the Government had never made good use of this vacant school premise with a fixed structure; and
- (ii) Members must monitor how the Government used its resources, yet no overall data was available for reference. He pointed out that SWD had provided relevant data of the district at other meetings, for example, the ratio between the number of disabled persons and the population was comparatively higher on Hong Kong Island. He hoped that SWD could increase the provision of welfare facilities for persons with disabilities and provide more data, including the specific locations of premises to be purchased in the first quarter of 2021, and the planned welfare facilities in those locations for members' reference and facilitate discussion.

52. Mr CHAN Hin-chung asked SWD when the capacity of the seven premises planned to be purchased would be saturated if calculation was made based on figures such as population growth or the ratio of elderly people.

53. Mr POON Ping-hong said that an increase in care homes or welfare facilities should be welcomed by the society. As introduced by SWD, the purchase of the first set of premises would start from the first quarter of 2021, and there was only half a year left. He asked if SWD had any follow-up arrangements and in what way SDC was expected to support this agenda item. Since SWD provided insufficient information, the Committee was baffled.

54. The Chairman said that he could not agree with SWD's view that the disclosure of information of the premises to be purchased would boost up the price. In the past, the Government had also publicly disclosed the locations for infrastructure constructions and new town developments, thus he believed the above view was not a usual consideration of the Government. SWD only reported to the Committee at the meeting that it would purchase seven premises in the Southern District but was unable to provide relevant information; hence members could only raise vague questions and could hardly give any comments on the purchase exercise. He hoped that SWD could provide more information to members to facilitate an effective discussion.

55. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Regarding monitoring, SWD had undertaken to report the progress of the purchase exercise and the premises purchased to the LegCo on a regular basis. Moreover, all public officers participating in the purchase exercise were required to declare their interests (for the avoidance of any conflict of interest). They were also required to comply with the confidentiality and non-disclosure of information requirements. Having consulted ICAC, SWD had put in place a proper operation mechanism with a system of checks and balances, with a view to ensuring the conduct of the purchase exercise in a fair and impartial manner;
- (ii) As for land optimisation, SWD would review available government accommodation including vacant school premises from time to time. If a vacant school premises site could be made available and were considered suitable for conversion into welfare facilities, SWD would endeavor to take necessary follow-up actions. As said, conversion of vacant school premises would often take at least five years. In contrast, the premises purchase exercise was a short-term measure, under which the first set of premises would be purchased as early as the first quarter of 2021 for the early provision of welfare facilities and services which were in acute demand;
- (iii) On the one hand, SWD aimed to provide the necessary welfare facilities at the earliest possible time through this premises purchase exercise as a short-term measure; on the other hand, SWD would continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach with long-term and medium-term measures to take forward various development projects for the provision of welfare facilities;

- (iv) For 158 welfare facilities, as detailed at the Annex to the Paper, they were prepared after thorough consideration and would be purchased with priority. SWD would optimise the use of the allocation to purchase as many premises as possible. SWD noted members' views on the welfare facilities to be purchased;
- (v) In preparing the Annex, SWD had taken into account five considerations to determine the welfare facilities to be purchased in various districts. First of all, taking into account new day services which were in acute demand, SWD planned to provide a CCC and a Day Care Centres for the Elderly (DE) in Southern District;
- (vi) Besides, consideration was given to the existing welfare facilities facing area shortfall or requiring reprovisioning, e.g. providing suitable premises for the establishment of sub-bases in the Southern District for 3 undersized NECs; and
- (vii) SWD had also taken into account considerations such as district profiles, preliminary assessment of the availability of suitable premises, and the number of planned projects of welfare facilities in specific districts. SWD had taken into account the above-mentioned considerations in determining the planned welfare facilities to be purchased in various districts. As the actual conditions in different districts varied, the number of planned welfare facilities in various districts at the Annex were different accordingly.

56. Mr LO Kin-hei expressed grave dissatisfaction with the department's approach. He opined that SWD attended this meeting simply to inform members of the purchase exercise, and disregarded members' comments on the details of welfare services and site selection. He found it incomprehensible that SWD did not disclose the relevant information to members out of the concern that GPA's negotiation with owners would be affected. He pointed out that under the purchase exercise, monitoring measures including secrecy provision and declaration of interests were put in place, it seemed that SWD only had trust in the ethics of civil servants and belittled other public officers such as DC members, LegCo members, etc. In fact, the related monitoring measures were also applicable to other public officers. SWD should allow them to obtain the related information after they had signed declaration of secrecy and declared interests, so as to facilitate effective discussion by members. Over the years, members had been concerned about site selection. However, SWD only planned to notify the Committee after purchase of premises, as a result, members would be unable to comment on the matter. He could not agree to an approach which was procedurally wrong. He hoped that after the meeting, SWD would provide information on the welfare facilities in the Southern District, including demand and supply and service shortage, etc.

57. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN agreed with the comments of Mr LO Kin-hei. He hoped that after the meeting, SWD would provide information on the welfare facilities in the Southern District, including distribution of welfare facilities in the Southern District displayed on a map,

and demand and supply and the present situation of service shortage, for members' discussion at the next meeting.

58. Mr CHAN Hin-chung said that he would like to know whether the short-term strategy of purchase of seven premises under the purchase exercise could tie in with the medium and long-term strategies, and whether the seven premises planned to be purchased could meet the demand in the Southern District without purchase of additional welfare premises a few years later. He requested SWD to provide related information at the next meeting for further discussion.

59. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Under the premises purchase exercise, all public officers concerned were required to declare their interests in accordance with the system of declaration of interests to prevent conflicts of interests. This did not mean that only the relevant officers were ethical;
- (ii) Established procedures had all along been in place in the Government for dealing with purchase of premises for provision of public services. Such procedures were implemented by the GPA and relevant government departments, with a view to ensuring that the entire process was fair and just. The implementation of the premises purchase exercise in question was in line with this well-established mechanism. Moreover, it was not the first time SWD purchased premises through GPA. SWD noted the members' views;
- (iii) As regards service provision, the Paper had listed the figures of existing welfare facilities in the Southern District, such as DEs, etc. As regards service demand, while SWD had the relevant data in hand, including the number of applicants on the waiting lists for welfare services in various districts, it was difficult to project the demand with precision due to numerous factors mentioned in the Paper, such as ageing population, etc.; and
- (iv) The purchase exercise was a short-term measure with a view to purchasing suitable premises for the earlier provision of welfare facilities to help meet the imminent need for welfare premises.

60. The Chairman enquired whether SWD would provide the relevant information after the meeting.

61. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy said that SWD would carefully consider the views of members and give a consolidated reply as soon as possible.

62. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN enquired whether SWD could undertake to provide a map showing the existing supply and demand of welfare facilities and shortage of services in the Southern District at the next meeting.

63. Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy said that SWD would provide a reply as soon as practicable after due consideration of members' views.

64. The Chairman said that the Committee had stated its stance clearly that it welcomed any additional welfare facilities in the Southern District. However, in the absence of any basic information, the Committee was unable to discuss the agenda item, and expressed strong dissatisfaction with SWD's approach. The Committee would be able to discuss this agenda item again only if SWD could provide further information in future.

65. Mr LO Kin-hei said that in the absence of the relevant information, the Committee was unable to discuss the matter and there were merely empty talks between members and SWD at the meeting, wasting the meeting time of SDC.

66. Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina responded that the premises purchase exercise was planned according to the overall demand of welfare services in various districts. It was expected that the required welfare facilities could be purchased as soon as possible through this exercise for operating the related welfare services. For example, in the case of CCC, SWD, with reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines regarding the planning ratio of 100 subsidised places per 25 000 general population and having considered the service provision in the district, planned to set up one aided standalone CCC in the Southern District. In addition, according to the planning standard, there were currently eight NECs in the Southern District. SWD planned to purchase premises to set up sub-bases for three undersized NECs in the district as soon as possible so as to benefit people in the district.

67. The Chairman said that the Committee understood that the decision was made after careful consideration, yet it still expected SWD to prepare the figures and the map mentioned above by the member to show the demand for various welfare facilities or the undersized premises in the Southern District to facilitate discussion at the next meeting.

68. Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina asked whether the Chairman would obtain the required information from SWD through the Secretariat, and said that SWD could reply in writing later.

69. The Chairman said that the basic information required included various welfare service needs in the Southern District, distribution of welfare services in the Southern District areas with actual figures, development paths for welfare services in the Southern District in the past few years for members' assessment of the trend in such needs, existing number of premises

provided based on various welfare service needs and their sizes, extent of service shortage at present based on the standards set by departments such as SWD or PlanD, etc.

70. Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He hoped that SWD would have a clear understanding of members' comments. DC members' enquiries raised at different DC meetings, such as the meeting of Kwun Tong District Council this morning, were similar to those raised at this committee meeting. These were matters of concern to the general public;
- (ii) The arrangement of declaration of interests mentioned by SWD was a negative approach. He hoped that SWD would establish a proactive anti-corruption mechanism, including proactive disclosure of information to members or the general public. Various members behaved in an emotional manner just now simply because SWD announced the exercise only after completion of the entire process;
- (iii) Currently, there was a lack of trust in the Government about its policies. The policy on the purchase of a total of 158 premises at \$20 billion was tilted in favour of real estate developers to prop up the market;
- (iv) It was not necessary for SWD to disclose all information. However, he hoped that SWD would provide the planning blueprint or map for this exercise and the selection process of premises to be purchased for members' discussion; and
- (v) He further said that there were a number of idle sites in the Southern District. He hoped that SWD would respond in writing whether it would consider setting up welfare premises at those sites.

71. The Chairman concluded that SWD was believed to have the relevant information, including welfare service shortage situation, etc. He hoped that SWD would provide the above information for discussion at the next meeting.

(Mr LIU Hon-wah, Andy, Ms LAI Wai-man, Irene and Ms CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina left the meeting at 4:36 p.m.)

(Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH left the meeting at 4:36 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 4: Follow up the Fund Applications with respect to Promotion of Women's Activities**

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72. The Chairman asked whether members needed to declare their interests for the fund applications under this agenda item. Members made no declaration of interests.



73. The Chairman said that the Committee had earlier on agreed to accept a provision of \$53,000 from the Women's Commission (WoC) to support the women's groups and non-governmental organisations in the district for organising district level activities conducive to women's development. By the application deadline, the following two fund applications had been received with details given at documents No. 1 and 2 of **Annex 2**:

- (i) Document No. 1 – “Bright and Health Life Scheme for Women 2020” to be organised by the Hong Kong Southern District Community Women Association Activities Committee (the Activities Committee) with an applied amount of \$53,000; and
- (ii) Document No. 2 – “Be a Fabulous Lady 2020” to be organised by Southern Arisen with an applied amount of \$44,868.

(Ms LAM Choi-ngan, Joyce, Mr KO Cham-cheong, Leo and Ms YEUNG Ying-lai, Celia joined the meeting at 4:37 p.m.)

74. Mr YU Chun-hei, James enquired whether the existing vetting practice of the Finance and Vetting Committee would be adopted, so that fund applications supported by this Committee would be deemed to be endorsed.

75. The Chairman responded that the decisions of this Committee were final decisions.

76. The Chairman invited representatives of the Activities Committee to briefly introduce the project.

77. Ms LAM Choi-ngan, Joyce and Ms YEUNG Ying-lai, Celia said that the project was to be co-organised with Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Community Centre (AKA) between October and December 2020. They briefed members on the purpose, activity details and forms, expected number of participants, target participants as well as the ways to evaluate the project effectiveness, with details given at document No. 1 of **Annex 2**.

(Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun left the meeting at 4:41 p.m.)

78. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

79. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus enquired how the Activities Committee would attract participation of young women in the project given the different age groups of women.

80. Ms YEUNG Ying-lai, Celia responded that Elective Course (1) “Exercises for Better Health” included a laughter yoga class, which could attract participation of young women.

81. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN enquired about the information of the Activities Committee including its background, financial source, budget, income and expenditure, etc.

82. Mr KO Cham-cheong, Leo responded that apart from applying for an amount of \$53,000, the organiser intended to charge a fee of \$50 from each of the 40 participants, which meant that a total fee of \$2,000 would be received from the participants. It was expected that there would be a total income of \$55,000 for implementing the project.

83. The Chairman supplemented that the allocation was granted by WoC.

84. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany enquired about the aims and meaning of the activities organised by the Activities Committee as well as the number of young women who had participated in its activities.

85. Mr KO Cham-cheong, Leo responded that AKA had organised different types of women's activities in which participants were able to develop their own potentials and talents and serve the community. The activities were more actively participated by retirees and housewives. AKA would try to reach out to young women through its after-school care group, primary school group and community network, etc.

86. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany said that women were now facing various problems, including allocation of family roles, domestic violence and women's rights. She enquired whether the Activities Committee would be concerned about these problems as well as the objectives of its activities.

87. Ms LAM Choi-ngan, Joyce responded that it was hoped that women's physical and mental health could be promoted by gathering the women participants in the activities.

88. The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Activities Committee for attending the meeting.

(Ms LAM Choi-ngan, Joyce, Mr KO Cham-cheong, Leo and Ms YEUNG Ying-lai, Celia left the meeting at 4:50 p.m.)

(Ms YEUNG Choi-ling and Ms LEUNG Wing-tung joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.)

89. The Chairman invited the representatives of Southern Arisen to briefly introduce the project.

90. Ms YEUNG Choi-ling said that the target participants of the project were young and middle-aged women. Through brand new artistic therapeutic activities, participants would have a better understanding of their mind and body and find balance in their lives.

91. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

92. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany enquired about Southern Arisen's views on women's rights and the objectives of its activities.

93. Ms YEUNG Choi-ling responded that Southern Arisen supported the protection of women's rights. Women with any standpoint could participate in its activities.

94. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN enquired about the background of Southern Arisen.

95. Ms YEUNG Choi-ling responded that Southern Arisen had been serving the residents in the Southern District since 2014. Its activities were organised by young people and volunteers. Southern Arisen had successfully applied for SDC funds to organise community activities including basketball matches, design competition and community affairs activities in 2019. Southern Arisen would provide community services in relation to different issues, including the women's activities in this application.

96. Mr YU Chun-hei, James enquired about the way of recruiting instructors and the relevant qualification.

97. Ms YEUNG Choi-ling responded that recruiting advertisements would be placed on social media. The instructors must have the relevant certificates and experiences as social workers.

98. Mr CHAN Hin-chung and Mr YU Chun-hei, James enquired about the details of small gifts for participants.

99. Ms YEUNG Choi-ling responded that the small gifts were Christmas-themed gifts produced by participants outside the classroom sessions. They were to be exchanged among participants during the sharing session cum graduation ceremony.

100. The Chairman thanked the representatives of Southern Arisen for attending the meeting.

(Ms YEUNG Choi-ling and Ms LEUNG Wing-tung left the meeting at 5:02 p.m.)

101. The Chairman said that in view of the limited provision and the comparable applied amounts, he suggested that members select one applicant organisation by ballot. Members raised no objection.

102. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN suggested selecting the younger organisation.

103. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany said that women's organisations should undertake to protect women's rights and take care of women's daily needs.

104. The Chairman asked members to vote.

105. The Chairman concluded that the members present at the meeting unanimously endorsed that Southern Arisen would be granted the provision of WoC.

(Post-meeting note: Southern Arisen has decided to withdraw the fund application on 12 October 2020.)

(Mr LEUNG Siu-chee, Mr CHEUNG Kai-ming, Lawrence, Mr TAM Wai-man and Mr LOUK Hon-ying joined the meeting at 5:24 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 5: Request to Control Light Pollution in the Southern District**  
**(Item raised by Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun)**  
**(EHHC Paper No. 37/2020)**

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106. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the Marine Department (MD) to the meeting:

- (i) Mr LEUNG Siu-chee, Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (3);
- (ii) Mr CHEUNG Kai-ming, Lawrence, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/ Harbour Patrol Section (2);
- (iii) Mr TAM Wai-man, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/South; and
- (iv) Mr LOUK Hon-ying, Senior Ship Inspector/Local Vessels Safety (2).

107. The Chairman invited Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun to brief members on the agenda item.

108. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun said that during the fishing operation of some fishing boats, beams of light were shed directly towards the residential buildings, affecting the residents in the Bays Area and Stanley. According to MD's response, the control of light pollution was

not under MD's purview. However, he opined that apart from regulation by law, the Department should also consider other possible means to deal with light pollution. He mentioned an example about the Ocean Park, in which a night show "Gala of Lights" it launched earlier on was using strong lights with impact on the residents living in Shouson Hill. Subsequently, with the assistance of EPD which had communicated with the Park, remedial measure had been put in place to minimise the impact accordingly. He hoped that MD could communicate with the boat owners with a view to making improvement to the situation.

109. The Chairman invited the representatives of MD to respond.

110. Mr LEUNG Siu-chee said that MD regulated bright light fishing in accordance with the relevant maritime legislation in order to ensure navigational safety and safety of vessels. When a complaint was lodged with MD on bright light fishing, MD would take immediate action to follow up and advise the person involved to make an improvement for mitigating the nuisance to the nearby residents or vessels. He asked the Harbour Patrol Section to explain to members how MD usually handled the problems about bright light fishing.

111. Mr CHEUNG Kai-ming, Lawrence said that recently, MD had received a complaint lodged by Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun against the light pollution problem in the Bays Area. Under normal circumstances, MD would assign a patrol launch to the scene for inspection after receiving a complaint about light pollution. If it was confirmed that the light emitted from the vessel in question caused nuisance to the nearby residents, MD would advise the owner to adjust the light angle of the vessel to avoid any impact on the nearby residence as far as possible. Upon receipt of complaints against noise nuisance from fishing boats, MD would remind the vessel holders or vessel owners to close the engine hood or shut down unnecessary idle engine of the vessels involved so as to minimise the noise produced.

112. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

113. Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin said that he received complaints from residents of South Horizons Phase I, saying that in the early morning from 4:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. some fishing boats were using strong lights for fishing operation which had affected the sleeping quality of the residents. He asked whether EPD would add a complaint hotline or raise the penalties with a view to reducing light pollution. He mentioned a case about a Chinese restaurant in Wah Kwai Estate as an example. Owing to a high illumination level of the lighted plaque put up by the restaurant and its impact on the South Horizons residents, complaint had been lodged to the department. The situation was improved afterwards. He hoped that in dealing with maritime light pollution, an equally effective action would be taken by department as well.

114. Mr YU Chun-hei, James said that he had received many complaints from the South Horizons residents about bright light fishing. Yet, due to the limitation of the relevant legislation, MD could only give advice to the persons involved. In this connection, he agreed with Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun on his proposed direction, and hoped that MD could consider establishing a communication bridge between members and the vessel owners involved, which would also help members to understand their situation and thus work out a solution to the problem.

115. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that in the past EPD was able to establish its communication work promptly and effectively for handling complaints on light pollution. However, with a lack of compulsory measures to regulate light pollution in Hong Kong, especially during the night time and weekends, coupling with a lack of manpower to carry out enforcement action, the problem of light pollution had not been fixed so far. To illustrate his point, he cited several cases of nuisance affecting local residents in the district, which included an advertising sign displayed by a Legislative Councillor, upward emission of lights from a Chinese restaurant and lights produced by massage shops. He hoped that amendment could be made to the existing legislation so as to regulate lighting system in terms of the time of use and beam direction.

116. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun said that the “Charter on External Lighting” (the “Charter”) currently implemented by the Environment Bureau (ENB) was neither compulsory nor legally binding. Legislation should be introduced to regulate light pollution without delay. Before commencement of the legislative procedure for regulation of light pollution, he hoped that MD could communicate with the vessel owners involved and let them know clearly the problem of direct lighting and make a report to the members regarding the progress. EPD should also step up its efforts in the coordination work.

117. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH said that earlier on she had provided information of a case to the EPD concerning complaints lodged by residents in Ap Lei Chau Estate against strong lights emitted from the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market and directly shed towards Ap Lei Chau Estate, and hence affecting the sleep of residents. However, the problem remained unsolved. She opined that there was light pollution all over Hong Kong and that EPD should have the responsibility to deal with it. She hoped that EPD could listen to members’ views by proposing new legislation for regulation of light pollution.

118. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He hoped that the legislation to control light pollution could be introduced as early as possible;

- (ii) He learned that the “Charter” was put under review in the first half year of 2020 and asked about the progress of review, conclusion and legislative timetable; and
- (iii) In recent years, quite a number of factory buildings in Wong Chuk Hang had been converted into commercial buildings. He received many cases of complaints about the curtain walls or advertising signs of those buildings. Residents of the affected areas included the “Fifteen Houses” of Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau. Under the circumstances where there was no stipulation, he suggested that EPD should have a good grasp of the changes in the district and deal with the light pollution problem of commercial buildings proactively, for example, distribution of information leaflets to the tenants of those commercial buildings, encouraging them to join the “Charter” with a view to maintaining good rapport with neighbours in the community.

119. Mr POON Ping-hong said that the residents living in the area had been suffering from the nuisance caused by noise and light pollution for a prolonged period of time, with impact on their daily routine. In view of the fact that currently no legislation could serve to address the current situation, he hoped that MD could strengthen its efforts in coordination and liaison and advise the persons involved to improve the situation or minimise the impact as far as possible.

120. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Tin Wan residents had been affected by light pollution and the source of which included the lights of fishing boat and security lights of construction sites;
- (ii) While she understood that it was difficult to exercise control over functional lighting system, she considered it possible to regulate advertising signboards by specifying a lights-out period for those advertising signboards; and
- (iii) Currently, Hong Kong was in lack of a formal channel to regulate light pollution. Only advice was channelled through the “Charter” on a voluntary basis. She enquired EPD about the findings of its review on the “Charter” and the future direction. She further proposed that EPD consider incorporating clauses or guidelines in the “Charter” to govern the flash frequency, colour, beam spread angle of the lights emitted from advertising signboards.

121. Mr YU Chun-hei, James said that members agreed to regulate light pollution through legislation. As stipulated in Part II of Schedule 11 of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Cap 313A), vessels were allowed to use a bright light for the purpose of fishing within the specified areas. According to his understanding, the above legislation had never been amended. With an increasing number of newly completed residential buildings, the Government should take up the responsibility to make the relevant legislative amendment and conduct a review on the waters concerned to ascertain whether these areas were still suitable for bright light fishing in order to keep the legislation abreast of the latest developments.

122. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Earlier on, a forum was held by ENB and EPD on external lighting and its public consultation was closed on 31 October 2019. He hoped that the department could give an account to members in respect of the findings of the review as well as the regulatory measures to be taken in future;
- (ii) If EPD had no plan to introduce the relevant legislation, he enquired whether details of the light pollution complaints could be published on the homepage of EPD in the form of a list, including such information as the locations under complaint, the organisations involved and follow-up status, in order to encourage the public to lodge their complaints proactively and urge the parties involved to make improvement. This could help increase the transparency of the whole complaint mechanism while achieving a higher effectiveness; and
- (iii) The public should be entitled to have good rest and good sleep which ought not be exploited by any commercial activities producing light pollution.

123. Mr CHAN Ping-yeung said that in January and February 2020, he was handling a complaint case with Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus concerning light pollution caused by the lightings of the Aberdeen Promenade affecting Marina Habitat in Ap Lei Chau. After communication between the department concerned and the parties involved, the problem was settled afterwards. The incident reflected that the department concerned was capable of handling light pollution problem, such as advising the parties involved to adjust the angle of the light beam and install a power switch with timer.

124. The Chairman invited the representatives of EPD to respond.

125. Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) EPD noted members' comments and requests. The same would be relayed to her colleagues of the relevant section;
- (ii) Upon receipt of complaints against nuisance caused by external lighting, EPD would usually relay the complainants' concerns and requests to persons responsible for the lighting installations, invite them to sign the "Charter", and advise them to observe the Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations (the Guidelines on Practices) by taking appropriate measures. EPD would provide advice on the brightness, time controls, flash velocity and frequency, and distance, etc. to persons responsible for the lighting installations. According to the past experience, persons responsible for the lighting installations would put in place measures to reduce the impacts of the lighting on the nearby residents after receiving the advice. In most



- cases, persons responsible for the light installations would make significant improvement upon receipt of complaints;
- (iii) Regarding the external lighting problem in the district, it was mainly about the illuminated advertising signs on the properties and shops in Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau. In the first half year of 2020, EPD received four complaints about external lighting in the Southern District, involving four premises, namely the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, Wu Nam Street and two properties on Tsung Man Street, whereas the lightings involved rooftop illuminated sign, advertising light box and lighting installations for renovation works. After giving advice, the situation of the above four cases had been improved;
  - (iv) ENB was now reviewing the work effectiveness of the “Charter”, such as the public response on the “Charter” and impact on the shop tenants, etc; otherwise, no objective data would be available to form a basis of assessment for the department to gauge whether there was a need to introduce other new measures. ENB would consider the next step of work, including whether legislation should be introduced having regard to the review findings;
  - (v) The advertising signs on the external walls of buildings were subject to regulatory control under the Buildings Ordinance which was administered by the Buildings Department (BD). All along, EPD and BD had kept communicating with each other. If application for erection of an advertising sign was submitted, the BD would issue the Guidelines on Practices and requirements to the trade for reference; and
  - (vi) If there was a case involving a fishing boat or a vessel which required the use of lights for operational need or navigational safety, the case would be referred to MD accordingly.

126. The Chairman invited the representatives of MD to respond.

127. Mr LEUNG Siu-chee gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Harbour Patrol Section of MD would strengthen its effort on patrols and keep in view the situation of light pollution at sea. Upon receipt of a complaint, MD would deploy MD officers to handle the case as soon as practicable;
- (ii) MD would regularly target its publicity and education work on the owners and crew of fishing boats. For instance, during the fish moratorium, information leaflets would be distributed to the fishermen, educating them on how to minimise the pollution to the neighbourhood, including light or noise pollution; and
- (iii) MD would meet with the representatives of fishermen’s groups and explain to them the regulations in regard of bright light fishing. The fishermen were also reminded to show consideration for other people in the vicinity and residents in the coastal areas.

They were also advised to avoid shedding lights directly towards the residential area and thus causing nuisance.

128. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

129. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany said that there seemed to have no definite date for the Government's enactment of legislation for regulating light pollution. While the subject matter was related to the fishing industry and according to her knowledge, there were a good number of fishing societies under the Hong Kong Southern District Community Association, namely Aberdeen Fishery & Seafood Merchants Association, Hong Kong Liner & Gill Netting Fisherman Association, Hong Kong Fisheries Development Association, Hong Kong Fishermen's Association, Stanley Fishermen's Recreation Club, Aberdeen Fishermen Friendship Association, Hong Kong & Kowloon Floating Fishermen Welfare Promotion Association, and Hong Kong Southern Fishermen Recreation Committee, she suggested that the problem be addressed by way of mutual help in the community. She invited Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH to convey members' suggestion to the aforesaid organisations.

130. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He asked EPD when the department would complete its review work on the "Charter"; and
- (ii) Regardless of whether it was about the complaint cases on light pollution in the Southern District or in Hong Kong, both figures had dropped significantly as compared with those of last year. He asked EPD what action it had taken to produce a lower figure of complaints.

131. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He enquired about the follow-up situation of the "Charter" and when the relevant information could be provided; and
- (ii) Under the prevailing circumstances where no legislation had been put in place for regulatory purpose, the persons in charge of fishing boats or advertising signs might not be aware of the problem or understand the impacts and nuisance being brought on the residents. What really mattered was whether the parties involved had responded to the reconciliation and follow-up action initiated by the department concerned. He opined that both the commercial sector or the fishing industry would suffer if the Government was unable to carry out regulatory control by law. Therefore, he considered it important to have enactment of the legislation rather than a review on the "Charter". The Government should have the responsibility to complete the legislative work in order to facilitate handling of the problem in a fair manner.

132. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said he hoped that EPD could respond to the questions he raised in the first round of speech.

133. The Chairman invited the representatives of EPD to respond.

134. Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Since the launch of the “Charter” by ENB, there was a slight decrease in the number of light nuisance complaint cases in the Southern District in recent years; the overall complaint figures in 2016 and 2017 were similar. The complaint figure rose in 2018 but went down in 2019. About 60% of the complaints involved external lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes. An increase in complaint figures might possibly reflect a trend of deterioration in the problem of external lighting or an enhanced public awareness; and
- (ii) ENB had conducted its public opinion survey and was studying the regulatory arrangements adopted by other cities for external lighting installations and considering whether there were any outside experiences, measures and standards that Hong Kong could learn from. ENB had also measured the changes of illumination level in different districts in Hong Kong in order to assess the effectiveness of the “Charter”. ENB would consider the next step of work, having regard to the review findings.

135. In conclusion, the Chairman said it was hoped that there would be enactment of the relevant legislation and introduction of light pollution standards in detail for all downtown, rural areas or operational settings, so as to create a more comfortable living environment and help ease the persistently unresolved situation faced by EPD.

136. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN suggested that the Chairman incorporate the following items into his conclusion, viz. request for a timetable from EPD and response to the above members’ enquiries. He hoped that EPD could disclose the complaints to the public, such as the locations under complaint and the progress of departmental investigation.

(Post-meeting note: According to EPD, the Working Group on External Lighting (“Working Group”) is reviewing the effectiveness of the Charter, and will advise the Government on more effective measures in managing external lighting. The Government will consider the next step of work, having regard to the review findings and recommendations of the Working Group.

For the complaint figures, EPD has briefly introduced the problems of external lighting in the Southern District, including the complaint cases

received in the first half of 2020, at the meeting. The relevant data is at EHHC Paper No. 37/2020. Moreover, EPD has announced the breakdown of light nuisance statistics on its website. It is inappropriate to disclose the details of the complaint cases.)

137. The Chairman agreed to the above proposal of Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN and requested the departments concerned to note the proposed items. The items were also included as part of his conclusion.

138. The Chairman thanked the representatives of MD for attending the meeting.

(Mr LEUNG Siu-chee, Mr CHEUNG Kai-ming, Lawrence, Mr TAM Wai-man and Mr LOUK Hon-ying left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.)

(Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 6: Follow up the Removal of Abandoned Vehicles in Southern District as discussed at the Meeting on 12 May (Item raised by Mr CHAN Hin-chung) (EHHC Paper No. 38/2020)**

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139. The Chairman welcomed Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky, Principal Estate Officer/HKW & S(2) (District Lands Office, Hong Kong West and South) of the Lands Department (LandsD), to the meeting.

140. The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Hin-chung to briefly introduce the agenda item.

141. Mr CHAN Hin-chung said that he had mentioned the problem of abandoned vehicles in the district several times in previous meeting. Using his constituency, Shek Yue, as an example, there was a white abandoned motor cycle parked near the “hundred-step staircase” connecting Yue Fai Road of Shek Pai Wan to Aberdeen for a long time. He had reported the situation by email to the Highways Department (HyD) and LandsD between February and March 2020. But the departments replied that the handling of abandoned vehicles did not fall within their purview. Later, he raised the problem of abandoned vehicles again at the EHHC meeting held on 12 May 2020, during which SDO promised to ask the relevant departments to follow up the issue. He had enquired of SDO about the issue after the meeting. But SDO replied that it was still following up the issue with the relevant departments. He said the relevant department had earlier pointed out that it had to ascertain whether the vehicles concerned had been abandoned by contacting the vehicle owners first. But the white

abandoned motor cycle had been parked at the said location for half a year. He requested the relevant department to reply definitely whether it would remove the abandoned motor cycle and the time limit for the removal, or whether it could not handle the abandoned vehicles.

142. The Chairman invited Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky to respond.

143. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky responded that LandsD would assist in handling abandoned vehicles found on unleased and unallocated Government land based on the practical situation. LandsD had in fact taken relevant actions in respect of the cases concerned in 2020. According to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28), LandsD would post notices on the vehicles concerned. It would also request the Transport Department (TD) to provide information of the vehicle owners and then issue letters to the owners requesting them to cease illegal occupation of Government land before the specified date, after which the vehicles concerned would be confiscated. The abandoned vehicles found at Yue Kwong Road and Wong Chuk Hang Kau Wai Village near Nam Fung Path were parked on public roads. According to an internal guideline of LandsD, abandoned vehicles parked on public roads (including public pavements, public parking spaces, etc.) were a traffic issue, which did not fall within the scope of land control action to be taken by LandsD.

144. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

145. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus showed a picture of an abandoned vehicle parked on a pavement to Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky and enquired whether LandsD would remove the abandoned vehicle.

146. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky responded that public roads (including public pavements, public parking spaces, etc.) referred to roads maintained by HyD. LandsD would handle abandoned vehicles that were not parked on public roads. For example, as the road section in the vicinity of Mount Davis was not maintained by HyD, LandsD had all along been handling the abandoned vehicles on that road section where was unleased and unallocated Government land. He further said that the internal system of “HKSAR Geospatial Information Hub” had recorded the extents of the roads maintained by HyD. According to his preliminary observation, the vehicle in the picture shown by Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus was located on a public road.

147. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that he had issued a letter to LandsD reporting the vehicle in the picture which had obviously been abandoned for a long time and requesting for assistance. LandsD referred the case to HyD on the grounds of internal deployment and administrative procedures. But then HyD replied that the issue was not to be handled by HyD. In view of this, he urged LandsD to carry out clearance as soon as possible. Moreover, there

were insufficient roadside parking spaces for motor cycles, which were often occupied by other people. As a result, motorcyclists often could not use the parking spaces. As shown in the picture, the vehicle registration plate of an abandoned vehicle had been removed. He enquired whether LandsD would handle the abandoned vehicle. He asked LandsD to take note of the issue. He would provide LandsD with the picture after the meeting to facilitate timely handling of the issue by the department.

148. Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael said that he had reported the problem of abandoned vehicles at a number of locations in Shek O and Big Wave Bay to the relevant departments. But the departments either shirked responsibilities to each other, or said that abandoned vehicles should be handled by LandsD. As such, he wished to know the difficulty in arranging for clearance of the vehicles. Besides, he enquired whether LandsD had carried out regular inspection, and requested the number of abandoned vehicles previously cleared by LandsD in the Southern District. He further said that SDC had once invited LandsD to discuss another issue at other committee meeting. But LandsD failed to deploy representatives to the meeting. He wished to know LandsD's procedure for deploying representatives to meetings.

149. Mr CHAN Ping-yeung said that based on his past experience, three departments were involved in handling abandoned vehicles in the district. Aberdeen Police Station and TD would provide information of the vehicles concerned, while LandsD would post notices on the vehicles concerned and remove the vehicles depending on the land boundary. He suggested that the said departments could deploy representatives to form a permanent liaison group on abandoned vehicles in the Southern District. SDO could play the role of a coordinator under the District Administration Scheme to help resolve the problem of abandoned vehicles in the district.

150. Supporting Mr CHAN Ping-yeung's suggestion, Mr CHAN Hin-chung reiterated that he had mentioned the white abandoned motor cycle parked near the "hundred-step staircase" several times since early 2020, and SDO had promised to contact the relevant departments. But no progress was seen so far. He hoped that the relevant departments would cease shirking responsibilities to each other and state definitely which department would be responsible for handling abandoned vehicles so as to resolve the problem. He looked forward to knowing a definite schedule for clearance of the abandoned vehicles.

151. Mr YU Chun-hei, James said that the written responses from LandsD and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) contradicted each other. On the one hand, LandsD stated that the handling of abandoned vehicles on public roads did not fall within the scope of LandsD. On the other hand, HKPF stated that if it was confirmed that the vehicles concerned was an abandoned vehicle, it would be referred to LandsD for follow-up. He asked LandsD to give a response.

152. With the aid of PowerPoint presentation, the Chairman showed two pictures of an abandoned vehicle taken at the same location on 25 May 2020 and 22 September 2020. After a lapse of several months, there was no change in the abandoned vehicle at the location. He expressed regret about this. He pointed out that at the meeting on 12 May 2020, District Officer (Southern) (Acting) agreed to coordinate the issue and forward the locations and maps of abandoned vehicles provided by members to the relevant departments for follow-up actions after the meeting. But according to the situation reported by fellow members, there was obviously not much progress. He asked SDO to reply later whether it had encountered any difficulty in the process.

153. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) According to an internal guideline of LandsD, District Lands Offices (DLOs) would undertake the clearance of abandoned vehicles on unleased and unallocated Government land (i.e. not public roads (including public pavements, public parking spaces, etc.) maintained by HyD). Upon receipt of complaints, LandsD would post notices on the abandoned vehicles concerned in accordance with the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) and remove the abandoned vehicles when appropriate;
- (ii) DLO had removed three abandoned vehicles in the Southern District in 2020. For the time being, LandsD did not have the number of abandoned vehicles previously handled by the department in the Southern District;
- (iii) On receiving a case of abandoned vehicle referred by HKPF, the DLO would first ascertain whether the location of the abandoned vehicle fell within a public road. DLO would take land control actions against the abandoned vehicle on unleased and unallocated Government land (i.e. not public roads (including public pavements, public parking spaces, etc.)) according to the internal guideline of LandsD;
- (iv) Since the suggestion of setting up of a permanent liaison group involved all 18 districts in Hong Kong, DLO would first forward the suggestion to the headquarters for consideration; and
- (v) Judging from the picture shown by Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus just now, he believed that the location should be a roadside parking space which fell within HyD's purview. Therefore, the abandoned vehicle at that location relating to traffic issue did not fall within the scope of the DLO.

154. The Chairman quoted HyD's written response as saying that HyD was mainly responsible for construction and maintenance of public roads and road facilities. Control of land use and traffic management on public roads were not under the purview of this department. But at the meeting, LandsD pointed out that HyD was responsible for handling abandoned

vehicles in public road areas maintained by it. He urged LandsD to clarify the contradictory statements of different departments.

155. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky responded that DLOs would handle abandoned vehicles according to the internal guideline of LandsD, whereas abandoned vehicles on public roads maintained by HyD would be handled by HyD in accordance with the relevant transport ordinances. The handling of such vehicles was not within LandsD's purview.

156. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that the abandoned vehicles in the picture shown by Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus just now was located on a Government land rather than a public road as suggested by LandsD. Since the Committee could not figure out which department was responsible for handling abandoned vehicles, SDO should take up the coordinating work and contact the relevant departments so as to handle the issue.

157. Mr LEUNG Ying-kit responded that as he had just assumed the office on 14 September 2020, he needed times to understand the details. He apologised that he could not respond to members' enquiries at the meeting because there was no further guideline or measure for the time being. He would follow up the issue and respond to members' enquiries by providing supplementary information after the meeting.

158. Mr LO Kin-hei said that even if District Officer (Southern) or Assistant District Officer (Southern) attended the meeting, he believed that they could not squarely respond to members' enquiries. Even if SDO was tasked to follow up the issue, fellow members should not expect that the issue could be handled immediately. He considered that the only practical way to resolve the problem was that HKPF, LandsD and SDO arranged for a joint operation. This could also set a precedent for handling the relevant issues in future.

159. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that according to his previous experience of handling abandoned vehicles on Mount Davis, fellow members could take photos first and then lodge a complaint via the Government hotline 1823 by submitting the photos and reporting the locations of the abandoned vehicles. Normally, the vehicles concerned could be removed by the relevant departments within one month. All complaints lodged via the Government hotline 1823 would be recorded to see whether the service fulfilled the Government's performance pledges.

160. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa said that according to his previous successful experiences, fellow members could carry out joint site inspections with HKPF, LandsD, SDO or other relevant departments. Although it was difficult to ascertain whether the vehicles concerned were abandoned vehicles, the relevant departments could take follow-up actions and quickly arrange for clearance of the vehicles if it was determined that the vehicles concerned were illegally



parked. He further said that as abandoned vehicles were a common nuisance in the district, he suggested including the handling of abandoned vehicles in the list of follow-up items so that a dedicated person or the relevant department could be assigned to follow up the issue effectively in future.

161. Mr POON Ping-hong enquired how LandsD would handle the abandoned vehicles that had been removed.

162. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky responded that abandoned vehicles that had been removed would be treated as confiscated stores and placed in Government depots pending auction.

163. Mr POON Ping-hong further enquired whether the relevant Government depot was located near Hing Wai Centre in Wah Kwai Estate, where there were over a hundred motor cycles and other vehicles. In August 2019, he enquired of Mr Damien CHAN, District Lands Officer/HKW & S (District Lands Office, Hong Kong West and South) and confirmed that the location concerned was a Government depot. However, the location had been full of vehicles and overgrown with weeds over the years. He suggested that the location should be optimally used for storing abandoned vehicles that had been removed. Besides, auctions should also be arranged to clear the abandoned vehicles placed there.

164. Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky responded that LandsD would arrange for auctions of abandoned vehicles regularly, during which suitable buyers had to be identified. If the buyers' bidding prices did not meet the Government's reserve prices, the vehicles concerned would remain in the Government depot. Besides, in response to Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN's query concerning the location of the abandoned vehicle, he said that the location shown in the picture was indeed Government land. However, Government land would be further classified as being managed by HyD or other departments according to the internal system of "HKSAR Geospatial Information Hub".

165. Mr CHAN Hin-chung said that he had lodged a complaint about abandoned vehicles via the Government hotline 1823, but to no avail so far. He requested that a joint site inspection be arranged as soon as possible. He hoped that HKPF, LandsD and SDO would deploy representatives to participate and clearly delineate the responsibilities so that vehicles that had been left abandoned for a long time could be removed as soon as possible.

166. The Chairman concluded that SDO should report the follow-up actions taken concerning abandoned vehicles. Since the problem of abandoned vehicles had not been resolved at the meeting, he enquired whether members agreed to include the issue in the list of follow-up items for the next meeting. Members raised no objection. He further asked the Secretariat to send a list of locations of abandoned vehicles to members for updating their

information. After updating the list of locations of abandoned vehicles, he asked the Secretariat to arrange for a site inspection to be participated by representatives of HKPF, LandsD, HyD and SDO to determine which department was responsible for handling the abandoned vehicles on the site. He hoped that the arrangement could set an example for appropriately handling any issue in future.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding the follow-up actions taken after the meeting on 12 May 2020, SDO has asked the relevant departments to follow up according to the information of abandoned vehicles provided by members. Regarding the vehicle at Sandy Bay Road reported by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, after HKPF contacted the owner, the vehicle left Sandy Bay Road on 12 June 2020. The vehicle under the bridge at Nam Fung Path reported by Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun was removed on 23 June 2020. The vehicle at Mount Davis Path reported by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN was removed on 23 July 2020. Besides, the Secretariat had collected information from members regarding the latest locations of abandoned vehicles in the district and the list was forwarded to the relevant departments for follow-up action.)

167. The Chairman thanked Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky for attending the meeting.

(Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 7: Request to Review the Service Quality of FEHD's Outsourced Contractor's Vehicles Deployed for Large Waste Collection in the Southern District**  
**(Item raised by Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany and Mr CHAN Hin-chung)**  
**(EHHC Paper No. 39/2020)**

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168. The Chairman invited Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany to briefly introduce the agenda item.

169. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany briefed members on the agenda item as follows:

- (i) This agenda item was mainly concerned with the long-standing problem of bulky household waste, such as sofas, cabinets and the like, at Tin Wan refuse collection point (RCP), which had given rise to problems such as stagnant water, mosquito breeding, rodent infestation, etc. The estate management company said that it had

been two weeks since it notified FEHD, but FEHD had yet to arrange for grab lorries to remove the items;

- (ii) According to FEHD's written response, the frequency at which FEHD's outsourced contractor collected household waste should meet the needs. She queried why the aforesaid problem still arose and whether it was due to insufficient manpower, drivers or vehicles of the contractor;
- (iii) According to the estate management company, Tin Wan Estate was the last stop of the grab lorry. When it arrived, it was almost full and could only remove some of the bulky items. She hoped that FEHD could consider adjusting the route of the grab lorry or reserve more room for the bulky items in Tin Wan Estate; and
- (iv) As the RCP had long been full of bulky waste, the solution to the problem was to promote waste reduction. She suggested that the relevant departments should carry out education in collaboration with members and appeal to the public to reduce waste and handle disposed items properly so as to improve environmental hygiene.

170. The Chairman hoped that FEHD would respond whether the collection of refuse and miscellaneous items was undertaken by the same outsourced contractor or department. In view of the frequent failure of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) in a number of districts recently which had affected the progress of refuse collection, he enquired about the responsive measures that would be taken by FEHD or the contractor, as well as the relevant arrangements in the contract.

171. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The arrangement of refuse collection services was slightly different among districts. The household refuse collection service in the Southern District was mainly conducted by refuse collection vehicles of the department. In case of junk which RCVs were unable to handle, FEHD would deploy tail-lifts or grab lorries for refuse/junk collection. Depending on the locations of RCPs in the district and the daily refuse amount collected, FEHD would make timely deployment of suitable vehicles for collection services; and
- (ii) According to record, FEHD deployed RCVs to collect household refuse/junk in Tin Wan Estate. A grab lorry was also arranged to clear the junk in Tin Wan Estate on 6 August 2020. As requests of junk collection from EHC members were received on 20 August and 26 August 2020, FEHD had arranged for a tail-lift and two grab lorries to clear the junk collection on 26 August and 28 August 2020 respectively. The said issues arisen recently may be due to communication breakdown between staff and relevant departments.

172. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

173. Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany thanked FEHD for its timely arrangement of vehicles to clear the miscellaneous items. She hoped that FEHD would take the initiative to clear bulky waste in the district and improve its arrangements for handling bulky refuse in future.

174. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny responded that, in general, the junk and household refuse were handled in different ways. Not every RCPs would have junks pending disposal. FEHD would continue to liaise closely with management company and the estate manager for appropriate arrangement of waste collection services at the soonest possible.

175. In closing, the Chairman requested FEHD to maintain close contact with members so that timely arrangements could be made.

**Agenda Item 8: Existing Problems of the Notification Mechanism on Wuhan Pneumonia**  
**(Item raised by Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo)**  
**(EHHC Paper No. 40/2020)**

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176. The Chairman invited Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo to brief members on the agenda item.

177. Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo first expressed his disappointment at the Department of Health (DH) for not sending a representative to attend the meeting. He hoped that SDO or SDC Secretariat would forward his view to DH. He then briefed members on the agenda item as follows:

- (i) For more than half a year, Hong Kong had been affected by the epidemic of Wuhan Pneumonia and the death toll of confirmed cases had reached 103 people in Hong Kong. This should be attributed to the failure of the HKSAR Government to promptly shut down the border before the outbreak of the epidemic. Through the agenda item, he hoped to ask the department concerned to carry out a review on the existing problems of the notification mechanism, so as to learn a lesson and reflect on the problems. In case there was unfortunately a fourth wave of the epidemic in Hong Kong, it should be well-prepared to implement contingency measures properly;
- (ii) Regarding the notification mechanism, he intended to ask SDO about the purview of the District Building Management Liaison Team, say in Pok Fu Lam Village, he would like to know if there was a confirmed case in a certain place with no property management company or owners' corporation, what arrangement the department

concerned would make to give notifications and carry out cleansing work accordingly;

- (iii) With regard to dissemination of information, DH mentioned in its written response that it would promptly disseminate information on confirmed cases to the public through press releases. However, the latest updates of diagnosed cases were not uploaded onto the relevant government website until around 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Under this circumstances, he queried how the relevant parties could arrange for cleansing and disinfection work accordingly. He hoped that DH could make improvement on this aspect;
- (iv) In terms of information transparency, the public could receive the epidemic information from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) during the period between March and April 2020. However, starting from July to August 2020 onwards, information transparency had significantly declined, and the public could no longer check the latest situation of confirmed cases. As such, he requested the department concerned to make improvement accordingly; and
- (v) While FEHD was responsible for carrying out cleansing and disinfection work at the residences reported by diagnosed patients, he enquired whether FEHD would only go to the reported residence but not the school's hostel for cleansing and disinfection work if a diagnosed patient residing in a campus hostel reported his / her residence as the residential address. He worried that there was a loophole under the relevant arrangement.

178. The Vice-Chairman asked whether FEHD had anything to add apart from its written reply given at Annex 2 to the EHHC Paper No. 40/2020.

179. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny said that he would give a consolidated reply after other members had raised their enquiries.

180. The Vice-Chairman invited the SDO representative to respond.

181. Ms CHAN Kit-ming, Grace responded that upon receipt of a report of confirmed case in the district, SDO would immediately notify the SDC member of the constituency concerned and the relevant building organisation, as well as requesting FEHD to carry out street washing near the building with the confirmed case. Regarding Pok Fu Lam Village or the "three-nil" buildings in the district, SDO would give notification to the FEHD and the department would provide assistance by carrying out cleansing work and disinfection in the public places concerned.

182. The Vice-Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

183. Mr CHAN Ping-yeung said that since the 1<sup>st</sup> EHHC meeting, he had repeatedly put forward the proposal of setting up a “Southern District information network for epidemic prevention” to provide the latest updates on epidemic. However, he did not understand why the proposal had not been realised so far. Now the only first-hand information about diagnosed patients was from the news circulated in the local community instead of being notified by government departments. For example, as in the case of a resident of Yen Ching Building in his Ap Lei Chau Constituency, he was informed of the confirmed diagnosis by the caretaker of the building where the patient resided and the relatives of the patient in the first instance. At the time of receiving SDO’s notification, he had already arrived at Yen Ching Building arranging for epidemic prevention supplies as well as the cleansing and disinfection work at the lobby of the building. He criticised that the notification process was slow and not in place.

184. Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin said that his South Horizons Constituency had recorded seven confirmed cases by now. He had sent a letter to CHP about the relevant cases, requesting them to carry out disinfection work in the residential units of the diagnosed patients and provide details on their close contacts as soon as possible. However, CHP had not given him any response so far. Although he had made telephone enquiries to CHP, but the Centre was not able to provide the relevant details or only repeated the information given in Annex 2 of the EHHC paper. He hoped that DH could increase its transparency and disseminate information instantly, assign representatives to attend the Committee meetings as well as establishing a regular and effective notification mechanism with the Committee members, in order to combat the epidemic with concerted efforts.

185. Ms LI Shee-lin opined that the existing mechanism still had room for improvement. To address the manpower shortage in DH, she had proposed that the department might ask the Home Affairs Department (HAD), the Housing Department (HD) or other departments to provide assistance with a view to speeding up the dissemination of information. She believed that HAD could provide assistance accordingly.

186. Mr CHAN Hin-chung mentioned a confirmed case in Shek Pai Wan Estate earlier on as an example. He said that although the workers of FEHD responsible for carrying out cleansing work in the residential unit of a confirmed case were well prepared at that time, FEHD still had to wait for DH’s instruction prior to the commencement of cleansing work in accordance with the relevant procedures. While he understood the procedures stipulated by FEHD, he opined that the departments should inform the SDC member of the constituency concerned about the arrangement for cleansing work as soon as practicable, such that it would be easier for him to explain the situation to residents.

187. Mr LO Kin-hei was discontented that the Food and Health Bureau and DH were unable to send a representative to the meetings for different reasons. He pointed out that DH should disseminate the relevant information as soon as possible, which could serve to fulfill public demand while ensuring the reliability and authenticity of information, and thereby preventing the public from receiving information that had not been verified.

188. The Vice-Chairman said that in his Aberdeen Constituency, for example, there had been three confirmed cases in the third wave of the epidemic. During the process of case notification, many people expected to know about the pathological information as well. He hoped that DH could consider disseminating the relevant information. In addition, he cited a confirmed case in Yue Kwong Chuen in which the diagnosed patient disclosed that he had visited Aberdeen only when he provided supplementary information afterwards. However, even after receiving repeated notifications, DH and FEHD had postponed the relevant cleansing work one week later, which was not a desirable arrangement. He hoped that SDO would forward the above comments to DH, and asked the Secretariat to put on record that DH was unable to send a representative in attendance at the meeting.

189. Ms CHAN Yan-yi cited a confirmed case in the district and said that Wah Fu Estate was originally given as the registered address of the case but it was not until one week after the case had been confirmed that the diagnosed patient was reported to be a resident of Tung Sing House in Lei Tung Estate. It took another week for DH to verify that the diagnosed patient had visited other places in the district. Although FEHD had immediately carried out cleansing and disinfection work in the Lei Tung Estate and the nearby shopping malls afterwards, the deferred cleansing work would have had no effect on epidemic prevention. Hence, she urged DH to check the particulars of diagnosed patients carefully, and notify the SDC member of the constituency concerned or SDO of the details.

190. The Chairman invited the FEHD representative to respond.

191. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) Upon notified by CHP regarding the residence information of the confirmed patient, FEHD would conduct household disinfection to the premises with confirmed cases of COVID-19. If the confirmed patient resided in a public housing estate, HD would be responsible to conduct cleansing and disinfection work in the public areas concerned. In addition, FEHD would nominate Health Inspectors for standby duties every day to facilitate cleansing and disinfection work once receipt the request from CHP;
- (ii) FEHD had all along alerted the updated news on COVID-19 infection announced by CHP and also maintained effective communication with HAD in transmission of

information about confirmed cases in the district in order to arrange cleansing and disinfection work; and

- (iii) In some cases, even though FEHD had received CHP's request to carry out cleansing and disinfection work at the residences of the confirmed cases, no entry could be made to the residential units for carrying out the work immediately as the diagnosed patients concerned were still under quarantine. In this circumstance, FEHD had to wait for the quarantined persons to arrange for their relatives to get the keys of the units before gaining access for carrying out the cleansing and disinfection work.

192. The Chairman invited the SDO representative to respond.

193. Ms CHAN Kit-ming, Grace responded that according to the prevailing mechanism, DH did not provide real-time information on confirmed cases, SDO had to visit the "news.gov.hk" website every night. Upon verification of the confirmed cases in the Southern District, SDO would certainly disseminate the information to the SDC members concerned at once.

194. In conclusion, the Vice-Chairman said that DH should send representatives to attend meetings in future in order to establish a sound communication mechanism and maintain close collaboration with the district, for the purpose of making good on the anti-epidemic measures. Moreover, the Committee opined that it was important for DH to enhance its information dissemination and transparency, in order to provide the public with more updates and ensure that cleansing and disinfection work was carried out at the residences of the diagnosed patients as soon as possible. Amidst the on-going epidemic crisis, DH should provide the relevant information to members and the departments concerned in a timely manner, as well as strengthening communication with them.

(Post-meeting note: SDC Secretariat has forwarded the above comments to DH after the meeting.)

**Agenda Item 9: Waste Reduction Measures amid the Epidemic  
(Item raised by Mr YIM Chun-ho)  
(EHHC Paper No. 41/2020)**

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195. The Chairman asked the Vice Chairman to preside over the meeting for this agenda item.

196. The Vice Chairman invited Mr YIM Chun-ho to briefly introduce the agenda item.



197. Mr YIM Chun-ho briefed members on the agenda item as follows:

- (i) Since the outbreak of the epidemic, members of the public had opted to use disposable tableware and other related items for convenience and hygiene. As a result, the amount of waste had greatly increased. He cast doubt on the effectiveness of the waste reduction promotion carried out by EPD amid the epidemic;
- (ii) Between July and August 2020, a restaurant which accepted customers bringing their own food containers had been warned by FEHD. This showed the inconsistent policies adopted by different departments. He hoped that EPD and FEHD would enhance coordination. They should also issue waste reduction guidelines amid the epidemic to restaurants and allow the use of self-carried food containers by the public; and
- (iii) Given that EPD had set up an outreaching team in early 2020, he wished to know the scope of work of the outreaching team. He suggested that the outreaching team should introduce waste reduction methods and promote waste reduction lifestyle to the public directly in the communities and markets.

198. The Vice Chairman invited the EPD representative to respond.

199. Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Environment Bureau had been maintaining liaison with FEHD. Regarding self-carried food containers, to strike a balance between food safety and environmental protection, if a customer requested to use self-carried food container for takeaway, the person-in-charge of the restaurant could decide whether to fulfil the request provided that the environmental hygiene requirements were met. The relevant requirements included the condition that the container was clean and the process of placing food in the container was done inside the food preparation room; and
- (ii) The work direction of the outreaching team had been briefly introduced at earlier meetings of the Committee and its Working Group. She had nothing to add for the time being. Owing to the home office arrangement for some civil servants amid the epidemic, the work of the outreaching team had been affected.

200. The Vice Chairman invited the FEHD representative to respond.

201. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny responded that the containers provided for takeaway must be clean and hygienic if the restaurants sell food to customers for consumption off the premises. Those containers must be kept at dust-free, rodent-free and pest-free places before use. During the period when dine-in services were prohibited, upon request by the customers which using the containers brought by themselves for takeaway, those containers must be clean and hygienic. The process of placing food in the containers brought by customers themselves must be done inside the food preparation room by the restaurants before giving to customers for consumption off the premises.

202. The Vice Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

203. Mr YIM Chun-ho hoped that FEHD and EPD would issue the aforesaid guidelines to the restaurants in the Southern District and encouraged the trade to participate. Understanding that the work of the outreaching team had been affected by the epidemic, he hoped that EPD would strike a balance and plan for waste reduction and environmental protection activities having regard to the specific situation of the district.

204. The Vice Chairman invited the EPD representative to respond.

205. Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally responded that EPD's outreaching team in the Southern District would contact housing estates and residential buildings in the district in phases to introduce the works of the outreaching team and conduct field inspections to understand the current recycling work and the difficulties encountered, helping them to improve and set up an efficient recyclable collection system as well as identifying appropriate outlets for recyclables. The way handling recyclables by frontline cleansing contractors in housing estates and their awareness of clean recycling would affect the effectiveness of recycling. When visiting the housing estates, outreaching team would understand how the cleansing contractors handled recyclables. Where necessary, the outreaching team would provide them with on-site guidance and hands-on demonstration and help them resolve problems in recycling to ensure that correct separation of recyclables and clean recycling were practised. The outreaching team would promote waste reduction at source by inspecting and carrying out promotion work in single-block buildings. The outreaching team would also disseminate up-to-date information and provide a good practice guide on waste reduction and recycling to large-scale event organisers in events of the Southern District, and monitor their performance in implementing clean recycling.

206. The Vice Chairman invited the FEHD representative to respond.

207. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny responded that FEHD would brief all staff concerned on the latest guidelines as well as remind the catering sector to comply with the new requirements.

208. The Vice Chairman concluded that the use of disposable tableware and other related items had increased amid the epidemic, while the waste reduction measures were ineffective. He hoped that the relevant departments would implement effective waste reduction measures and policies with the public and carry out promotion and education on waste reduction at source in housing estates and restaurants.

(Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 10: Follow up the Flooding and Management of Yue Fai Court Podium  
(Item raised by Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus)  
(EHC Paper No. 42/2020)**

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209. The Chairman welcomed Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria, Housing Manager/HKI 4 of HD to the meeting.

210. The Chairman invited Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus to brief members on the agenda item.

211. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that every time after a downpour of torrential rain, the podium of Yue Fai Court would be severely flooded, affecting the access of residents to and from the residential estate. In its written reply, HD said that there was no obvious sign of inadequate fall at the podium causing drainage problems. However, after the heavy rain on 5 August 2020, the drainage flow was still very slow at the podium, without any improvement to the flooding problem. He hoped that HD would formulate a long-term plan to carry out drainage improvement works and address the problem of inadequate fall properly for the podium, with a view to improving the podium flooding problem.

212. Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria responded that the flooding problem at the Section A of the podium belonging to Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA Podium) was mainly caused by heavy rainfall and blockage of drainage by fallen leaves and debris, etc. Upon receipt of notification of the flooding at the podium on 5 August 2020, the party responsible for managing the HA Podium, Shek Pai Wan Estate Office (Estate Office), had deployed staff from the works team to conduct a site inspection. Upon evaluation, the flooding was believed to be

caused by heavy rainfall. A targeted works was thus carried out afterwards. When the red rainstorm warning signal was in force on 5 and 21 September 2020, the flooding problem had been significantly improved. She showed the relevant pictures accordingly. As the works team would carry out deep drainage works again by the end of September 2020, she believed that the said flooding problem would be greatly improved. In addition, HD would deploy manpower to clear stagnant water after heavy rain.

213. The Chairman invited members to raise comments or enquiries.

214. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that upon clearance of the drainage, the problem of stagnant water at the podium was slightly improved. He enquired of HD about the arrangement for deep drainage works.

215. Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria responded that a deep drainage works had been carried out earlier on. Pending observation of its effectiveness, HD would arrange to carry out the drainage works again at a later time in September 2020. Moreover, HD had deployed security guard stationing at the HA Podium to carry out patrol and monitor the condition and ensure clearance of water after raining.

216. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus hoped that HD would improve the problem of inadequate fall at the podium so as to address the problem of stagnant water in the long term, and arrange for a site inspection.

217. Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria responded that though no obvious sign of inadequate fall was detected by the works team at the podium, arrangement could be made for a site visit separately with Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus. Unless there was a ceaseless rain, HD would deploy staff for clearing the pool of water from time to time. The relevant work was also recorded by taking photos, coupling with close surveillance of the situation and patrols to protect safety of the public.

Post-meeting notes: Site inspection among HD (including Estate Office and works team), Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus and staff of Yue Fai Court Management Office was conducted on 5 October 2020.)

218. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus hoped that HD would provide the job records of the work on clearance of stagnant water for the period from August to September 2020 after the meeting.

219. Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria responded that the relevant record was an internal document. Members could contact HD to make a request for the information on an individual incident. Arrangement would be made in response to the request as far as possible.

220. In conclusion, the Chairman advised that HD and the member concerned should maintain communication after the meeting and the relevant information on the work for clearance of stagnant water should be provided accordingly.

221. The Chairman thanked Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria for attending the meeting.

(Mrs KWOK YONG Sau-mei, Gloria left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.)

#### **Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business**

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##### **(a) Follow up the Funding Applications for Public Education Activities on Rehabilitation in the Southern District for 2020-21**

222. The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Hin-chung, the Chairman of the Working Group on Rehabilitation and Age-friendly Community in the Southern District (WGRAC), to briefly introduce the agenda item.

223. Mr CHAN Hin-chung said that at the meeting on 19 March 2020, WGRAC endorsed earmarking \$2,000 among the provision granted by the Labour and Welfare Bureau for organising promotional activities in support of the “International Day of Persons with Disability” (IDPD). Owing to the epidemic, the Organising Committee for the IDPD decided to cancel the activity at its meeting on 2 September 2020, and so the \$2,000 provision had to be reallocated. Upon consideration, members of WGRAC decided to invite the relevant institutions and schools to submit applications for public education / promotional programmes on rehabilitation in the district. If no application was received by the deadline on 24 September 2020 noon, the \$2,000 provision would be used for procuring additional light meal coupons for the Ocean Park Fun Month.

224. The Chairman asked whether members consented to the aforesaid arrangements. Members raised no objection.

225. The Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed inviting the relevant institutions and schools to submit applications for public education / promotional programmes on rehabilitation in the district. If no application was received by the deadline on 24

September 2020 noon, the \$2,000 provision would be used for procuring additional light meal coupons for the Ocean Park Fun Month.

**(b) Invitation to SDC to be the Supporting Organisation of the Event “Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project – “Safe Household in Southern District” Community Education Project”**

226. The Chairman said that SDC had become a partner of the Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project in 2017. Under the project, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust would allocate funds to local non-governmental organisations or district organisations to support their district programmes. In 2019, Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association obtained an allocation of \$500,000 from the Hong Kong Jockey Club again for organising the “Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project – ‘Safe Household in Southern District’ Community Education Project”, which was planned to commence in November 2019. Owing to the epidemic, the completion date of the project would be postponed to the end of 2020. Details of the project were given at Reference Paper 1. Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association invited SDC to be the supporting organisation of the project.

227. The Chairman asked whether members endorsed that SDC would be the supporting organisation of the project. Members raised no objection.

228. The Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed that SDC would be the supporting organisation of the project.

**(c) Invitation to SDC to be the Co-organiser of the Event “Occupational Safety and Health Promotional Campaign 2020-21”**

229. The Chairman asked whether members needed to declare their interests for the activity. Mr CHAN Hin-chung and Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany indicated that they had declarable interests. The Chairman said that according to the decision made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Finance and Vetting Committee on 15 September 2020, since the two members were recommended by SDC to join the relevant organisation, the declaration of interests belonged to tier 1, and so they could still take part in the discussion and decision-making relating to the activity.

230. The Chairman asked whether members agreed that SDC would be a co-organiser of the activity. Members raised no objection.

231. The Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed that SDC would become a co-organiser of the activity and agreed to accept the allocation of \$40,000 which would be followed up by the Southern District Healthy & Safe Association Limited.

## **Part II – Items for Information**

### **Facelifting of Yip Fat Street Public Toilet**

#### **(EHHC Paper No. 43/2020)**

232. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa welcomed the project. He had conducted a site inspection with FEHD earlier on. He hoped that signs could be provided during the implementation of the project to indicate the locations of the public toilets nearby. He further said that there was stagnant water in the car park opposite Yip Fat Street Public Toilet and insufficient parking spaces for motor cycles in the nearby area. He hoped that the problems could be referred to HyD or TD for follow-up.

233. Ms LI Lai-ha, Liz responded that the project would commence in October 2020 and expected to be completed in January 2021. Owing to the site constraints, no mobile toilets could be provided. During implementation of the project, FEHD would provide suitable signs to indicate the locations of the nearest public toilet and assist to refer the problems such as stagnant water in the aforesaid car park, etc. to the relevant departments for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD has relayed member's comments to HyD and TD on 30 September and 20 October 2020 respectively.)

234. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus enquired about the progress of refurbishment of Wu Nam Street Public Toilet.

235. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny responded that FEHD planned to carry out an enhancement project for Wu Nam Street Public Toilet between 2021 and 2022. The details of the project would be announced in due course.

236. The Chairman concluded that as the relevant member had expressed grave concern about the issue, it was hoped that FEHD would notify the member of the latest status as soon as possible.

**Street Management Report (as at 31.8.2020)**

**(EHHC Paper No. 44/2020)**

237. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that the number of prosecutions in the report was relatively low and was incompatible with the actual severity of the shop front extension (SFE) problem. He enquired whether the number of prosecutions was the number of enforcement taken by FEHD or inter-departmental enforcement. He called on FEHD to step up its enforcement.

238. Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny responded that the number of prosecutions included the routine inspection taken by FEHD and inter-departmental enforcement actions. FEHD adopted different strategies and actively participated in carrying out joint departmental operations to improve the situation of the concerned locations. Furthermore, FEHD worked together with concerned DC member to issue advisory letters to stall operators. FEHD would take prosecution by issuing fixed penalty notice or summons if situation warrants. FEHD had stepped up enforcement action against SFE at Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau, Stanley in the Southern District.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD advised that SFE involves street management issues that fall within the purview of a number of government departments, including FEHD, HKPF, LandsD, HyD, etc. District Office will coordinate joint operations involving several departments, if necessary. The main duties of FEHD are to keep the environmental hygiene and take actions against illegal hawking activities causing obstructions on the street. FEHD adopts different strategies and actively participate in carrying out joint departmental operations to improve the situation of the concerned location.)

239. The Chairman said that the report showed zero case of abandoned vehicles, which was incompatible with the situation reported by members at the meeting. He asked the Secretariat to clarify with LandsD.



(Post-meeting note: Three abandoned vehicles on unleased and unallocated government land were removed by DLO on 26 June 2020.)

**Report on Recycling Bins and Recyclables (as at 31.7.2020)**

**(EHHC Paper No. 45/2020)**

240. The Committee noted the content of the paper.

**Date of Next Meeting**

241. The Chairman advised the meeting that the 6<sup>th</sup> EHHC meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 10 November 2020 (Tuesday).

242. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

November 2020