

(Translation)

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (4/2025-26)

Date: 22 October 2025

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH (Chairman)

Mr TSANG Tai (Vice Chairman)

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH

Mr NG Chun-yu

Ms LAM Yuen-pun

Mr CHOW Sum-ming

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH

Dr CHEUNG Man-ka, MH

Mr CHAN Chun-chung

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

Mr MOK Yuen-kwan

Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum

Ms WAH Mei-ling

Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH

Mr WONG Kai-chun

Mr LAU Chung-kong

Mr CHENG Chit-pun

Ms HA Wing-ka

Government Representatives

Mr CHEUNG Chak-ho, Alex

Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr SO Yeung-fung

Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)¹, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Miss PANG Choi-ling

Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)², Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)², Environmental Protection

Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHENG Nga-wai, Alice (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LI Hongfeng, Ken	Assistant Executive Manager (District Council)2, Tsuen Wan District Office

In Attendance:

For discussion of item 5

Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Ms LI Jieling, Nicole	Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1, Transport Department

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 11th meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee.

2. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether any Members had to make declarations of interests immediately. No Member made a declaration of interests immediately.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 10th Meeting held on 20.8.2025

3. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the minutes.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The Chairman stated that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

IV Item 3: Concern about the Pest Control Work of Licensed Restaurants in Tsuen Wan

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 20/25-26)

5. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Ms HA Wing-ka. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)¹ (CHI(TW)¹), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

6. Ms HA Wing-ka introduced the paper.

7. CHI(TW)¹ of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD was highly concerned about the recent reports widely circulated on the Internet regarding the spotting of rodent activities in the restaurants in the district, and had immediately deployed staff to conduct inspections to the restaurants concerned on the same day upon the receipt of the complaints, including two licensed restaurants on Yeung Uk Road and Chuen Lung Street. In addition to inspection of the areas with rodent activities as shown in the videos, the FEHD staff had thoroughly checked the seats, kitchen, food storage area, store room and all hidden corners of the restaurants concerned during the inspections. When the restaurants were found not in compliance with hygiene standards, the FEHD had immediately issued verbal warning to the persons-in-charge and requested that the hygiene problems be rectified at once. For contraventions which seriously affected the hygiene conditions of the restaurants, the FEHD had instituted prosecution already;
- (2) while the FEHD had not seen any rodents in the two restaurants, based on the rodent signs (such as rodent droppings) found on the spot, there should be frequent rodent activities. The FEHD had provided specific suggestions on pest and rodent control accordingly, as well as issued the Notice of Elimination of Vermin pursuant to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, requesting the restaurants to adopt measures (such as repair of openings in ceilings and replacement of suitable ventilation grilles) to block any potential entry points into the premises for rodents. Subsequently, the FEHD had deployed staff to conduct inspections again to ensure that the restaurants concerned had improved hygiene conditions and strengthened

anti-rodent measures;

- (3) the FEHD promoted a comprehensive rodent control strategy to eliminate the fundamental survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages. Food premises should eliminate their food sources by ensuring that refuse bins were covered and sealed, and unused food was properly stored. Moreover, restaurants should regularly inspect and repair the damaged facilities in the premises, such as fixing of defective pipes, clearance of dim corners and filling of cracks, with a view to eliminating hiding places of rodents;
- (4) the FEHD had launched a territory-wide anti-rodent campaign, under the slogan of “Eliminate Rodent Nuisance Take Preventive Measures”, in two phases from January to March and from July to September every year. The anti-rodent campaign aimed to increase anti-rodent awareness of the public and the food trade with a scope covering markets, streets, back alleys and food premises;
- (5) all licensed restaurants must appoint a qualified person to serve as Hygiene Supervisor under the licensing requirements for food premises, and the person concerned must complete the designated training course and maintain compliance with the requirements concerned. Subject to the risk category of the restaurants, some restaurants might be required to appoint a Hygiene Manager for comprehensive supervision of environmental hygiene and food safety; and
- (6) the FEHD had received a total of 28 signed complaint cases about poor hygiene in restaurants or rodent infestation in the district over the past 12 months. Following investigations, 12 of these cases had resulted in prosecution and all restaurants involved had subsequently taken improvement measures upon receipt of warnings.

V Item 4: Enquiry on the Effectiveness of the Implementation of the Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 in Tsuen Wan District and the Related Promotional Work

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 21/25-26)

8. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr MOK Yuen-kwan, Mr NG Chun-yu, Mr CHOW Sum-ming, Ms WAH Mei-ling, Mr TSANG Tai and Mr CHAN Chun-chung. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Mr SO Yeung-fung, CHI(TW)1, FEHD.

9. Mr MOK Yuen-kwan introduced the paper.

10. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 (the “Amendment Ordinance”) had come into effect on 17 August 2025. The amendments aimed to further strengthen the statutory enforcement powers of the FEHD and raised the penalty levels to increase the deterrent effect. The amendments mainly covered three aspects, firstly, in terms of public health nuisances (including water seepage in buildings, water dripping from air-conditioners and “garbage apartments”), the permissible hours of entering premises for investigation of nuisance were extended from between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. At the same time, the Notice of Intended Entry which carried legal effects had been newly introduced. If the occupier of premises, without reasonable excuse, failed to allow an enforcement officer of the FEHD to enter within 14 days after the issuance of the Notice of Intended Entry for investigation, they committed an offence. In addition, when the FEHD verified that there were irregularities (such as water dripping from air-conditioners or water seepage), the department would issue the Nuisance Notice to request rectification within the specified time period. In the event of non-compliance, the FEHD would institute prosecution. The penalty, after amendment, had been raised from a fine at level 3 to level 4, i.e. from a fine at \$10,000 to \$25,000, and a daily fine of \$200 to \$450;
- (2) secondly, in relation to rodent and pest control in private premises, the Amendment Ordinance had expanded the scope of enforcement. The prosecution targets covered not merely individual owners or occupiers, but also the persons responsible for the management of the premises (such as property management companies and owners’ corporations). They were legally liable for rodent infestation in the common areas under their purview. When rodent infestation was found in the common areas of the premises (such as refuse collection chambers), the FEHD could issue the Notice of Elimination of Vermin which was legally-binding to the persons responsible for the management of the premises and order the parties concerned to adopt measures to address rodent infestation within a time limit. In the event of non-compliance, the FEHD would institute prosecution. The penalty, after amendment, had been raised from a fine at level 2 to level 4, i.e. from a fine at \$5,000 to \$25,000. In addition, the Amendment Ordinance empowered the FEHD to set up monitoring equipment in areas which were suspected to be infested with vermin (such as rodent surveillance cameras), tampering with such equipment constituted an offence and the enforcement officer

might institute prosecution;

- (3) thirdly, regarding cleanliness in the cityscape, the Amendment Ordinance increased the statutory enforcement powers of the FEHD in dealing with street obstruction and illegal affixation of bills. In the past, under the procedure for dealing with obstruction, the FEHD officers must wait for four hours upon the issuance of the Notice to Remove Obstruction before carrying out clearance work. After amendment, the FEHD could set out a flexible time limit of not less than 30 minutes subject to actual circumstances, which significantly shortened the time required for dealing with obstruction. The penalty concerned was also raised from a fine at level 2 to level 3, i.e. a maximum fine of \$5,000 to \$10,000. In respect of illegal affixation of bills, the Amendment Ordinance further empowered the FEHD to remove or dispose of display equipment like “easy-mount frames”, in addition to bills or posters as empowered by the law already, which increased the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of clearance operations;
- (4) in dealing with shopfront extension, after the Amendment Ordinance came into effect, the FEHD was empowered to take direct enforcement action and remove the unclaimed obstructing articles without requiring the authorisation from an on-site Police officer. The FEHD had conducted joint operations with the Police five times a month in the past, while the Police only needed to provide stand-by support at present, which significantly simplified the enforcement procedure and enhanced efficiency. The fixed penalty was maintained at the current level of \$6,000;
- (5) regarding publicity and promotion, the FEHD had commenced publicity work before the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance, including distribution of publicity leaflets to the shops and licensed restaurants in the district. The FEHD would attach the publicity leaflet for the Amendment Ordinance to the appointment notice issued to the households suspected of causing water seepage by the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints, with a view to reminding occupiers to comply with the new requirements. At the same time, the FEHD would step up publicity through multiple channels, such as newspapers, social media, websites, pamphlets and posters. The FEHD had also organised a briefing session at Sai Lau Kok Garden in June 2025 to explain the details of the Amendment Ordinance to DC Members, local residents and owners’ corporations. From August to October, the FEHD had carried out targeted publicity campaigns focusing on the operators of the shops in the district that were most frequently involved in shopfront extension; and

- (6) regarding the effectiveness of law enforcement as a whole, taking the cases of water dripping from air-conditioners and water seepage as an example, given that non-compliance with investigation would constitute an offence, most occupiers were more co-operative upon receipt of the Notice of Intended Entry, which in turn increased the investigation efficiency of the FEHD's staff.

11. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) a Member pointed out that the problem of shopfront extension was serious at the entrance of MTR Tsuen Wan Station near Nan Fung Centre and around Dah Sing Bank Tsuen Wan Branch, including shops occupying pavements for selling goods and foreign domestic helpers gathered there placing their belongings on pavements. As a result, the pedestrian passageways were obstructed. The Member suggested that the FEHD should step up inspection and enforcement at weekends and during public holidays; and
- (2) a Member suggested that the FEHD should provide the updates on the Amendment Ordinance to Members in writing after the meeting, so Members could explain to the stakeholders their rights and responsibilities more clearly when following up on cases. Meanwhile, the Member enquired whether the long-standing cases of water seepage in buildings or water dripping from air-conditioners before the Amendment Ordinance came into effect would also be processed under the procedures set out in the Amendment Ordinance.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had forwarded the supplementary information on the "Major Amendments to the Existing Ordinance" to Members on 24 November 2025 for Members' perusal.)

12. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) in respect of the obstruction at the entrance of the MTR Tsuen Wan Station near Nan Fung Centre and around Lik Sang Plaza, the FEHD would continue to discuss with the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) and the Hong Kong Police Force the arrangements for joint operations during holidays under the prevailing inter-departmental collaboration mechanism; and
- (2) regardless of whether the contravention occurred before or after the amendments to the Ordinance, the new penalties would apply to any legal proceedings commenced on or after 17 August 2025. The specific sentences for individual cases were determined by the Judiciary. For cases involving water seepage in buildings or water dripping from air-conditioners,

the prosecution criteria of the FEHD remained unchanged before or after the amendments. In terms of enforcement procedure, the Amendment Ordinance mainly enhanced enforcement efficiency by extending the time periods for entering the premises concerned for investigation and streamlining the work flow. The fundamental principles for investigation of the FEHD remained consistent with those in the past.

VI Item 5: Concern about the Problem of Illegally Parked Bicycles and Abandoned Bicycles at Hoi On Road in Tsuen Wan

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 22/25-26)

13. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr WONG Wai-kit, Ms WAH Mei-ling and Mr CHOW Sum-ming. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr SO Yeung-fung, CHI(TW)1, FEHD;
- (2) Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (AA/Lands (DLO, TW&KT)), Lands Department (LandsD);
- (3) Ms LI Jieling, Nicole, Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1 (E/TW1), Transport Department (TD); and
- (4) Mr CHEUNG Chak-ho, Alex, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)), TWDO.

14. Mr WONG Kai-chun and Mr WONG Wai-kit introduced the paper.

15. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that bicycles which were apparently damaged (such as punctured tyres, lack of rider seat) would be deemed abandoned and the FEHD would deal with them according to the procedure for refuse removal. As property rights issues were involved in the handling of bicycles in a fairly good condition, they must be dealt with by other departments based on the power given under the relevant legislation. The FEHD would take up a supporting role in these cases and co-ordinate the efforts of other departments in the removal of bicycles during joint operations.

16. AA/Lands (DLO, TW&KT) of the LandsD responded that the LandsD was mainly responsible for taking enforcement action against the bicycles having been confirmed to involve unlawful occupation of government land in joint operations. The LandsD would invoke the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and affix statutory notices on the bicycles unlawfully occupying government land. The notice period of such notices would not be less than one day. If the bicycles had still not been removed

upon expiry of the notice period, the LandsD would conduct clearance operations together with the FEHD, and the confiscated bicycles would be delivered to a designated storage facility of the LandsD.

17. E/TW1 of the TD responded as follows:

- (1) in inter-departmental joint operations, the TD was responsible for making traffic announcements to inform the public of the arrangement for the suspension of use of public parking spaces for bicycles and remind them to remove the bicycles parked there in a timely manner. If the bicycles were still parked at the parking spaces during the closure period, the department concerned would remove the bicycles in the clearance operations; and
- (2) the TD had received public reports from time to time on the prolonged occupation of public parking spaces for bicycles. The TD would refer the views collected and the information on the locations concerned to the TWDO for follow-up action, in order to include those locations in the subsequent joint clearance operations. In addition, the TD would also take the initiative to inspect the usage of public parking spaces for bicycles to improve the management of public parking spaces for bicycles.

18. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) as the co-ordinator of district affairs, the TWDO co-ordinated the efforts of various departments in dealing with district affairs primarily through the District-led Actions Scheme. In addition to dealing with illegal parking of bicycles, the TWDO would also co-ordinate the efforts of departments in addressing environmental hygiene issues in the district such as following up vermin problems and combating shopfront extension. Regarding illegal parking of bicycles, the TWDO would regularly organise inter-departmental joint operations not less than twice a month. Upon the receipt of public complaints, the TWDO would carry out inspection at the illegal parking locations and promptly coordinate the efforts of the FEHD and the LandsD to arrange regular joint clearance operations;
- (2) in respect of illegal parking of bicycles on Hoi On Road, only a handful of public complaints had been received at this stage. Despite so, the TWDO had accepted the advice provided by the departments concerned and was actively making preparation for the joint operations at the road section, which was expected to be conducted by end of 2025 at the latest; and
- (3) the TWDO agreed that there were limitations in the enforcement mechanism under which clearance action could only be taken 24 hours after the notice

was posted. To effectively rectify the problem, the TWDO had adopted targeted engineering measures at illegal parking blackspots (such as the areas around MTR Tsuen Wan West Station). These measures involved the use of physical barriers (such as installation of shielding screens at railings), with a view to rooting out the problem of illegal parking of bicycles.

19. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) a Member suggested that the departments concerned should streamline the enforcement procedure, formulate a regular clearance mechanism, study long-term improvement measures including making good use of innovative technologies (such as introduction of geo-fencing technology to public parking spaces for bicycles and installation of real-time digital monitoring devices) as well as set up a bicycle registration system to identify the owners of bicycles with a view to facilitating the effective monitoring of the number, distribution and usage patterns of bicycles by the departments concerned; and
- (2) a Member suggested the time between posting a notice and commencing clearance work should be reduced in order to increase enforcement efficiency. The Member also enquired whether the public parking spaces for bicycles under the TD were included in inter-departmental joint operations, including the clearance of bicycles that were apparently damaged or abandoned.

20. AA/Lands (DLO, TW&KT) of the LandsD responded that regarding the arrangement for the time of inter-departmental joint operations, if the LandsD posted a statutory notice effective for 24 hours on site on 28 October, the effective date would be calculated from the next day (29 October) and the departments concerned would conduct joint clearance operations on 30 October.

21. E/TW1 of the TD responded that if public parking spaces for bicycles managed by the TD were occupied for a long time, the TD would carry out clearance work through inter-departmental joint operations. The TD noted the Member's suggestion of introducing digital management measures and would discuss the feasibility with the departments concerned. For clearance of illegally parked bicycles, the TD was mainly responsible for issuing relevant traffic notices during inter-departmental joint operations.

22. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the frequency of clearance operations carried out at public parking spaces for bicycles was relatively lower than that for

addressing illegal parking on the street. This was primarily because most public complaints were related to illegal parking of bicycles on the street at present. If Members found any old or abandoned bicycles at public parking spaces for bicycles, they could contact the TWDO at any time. The TWDO would arrange clearance operations as soon as possible based on actual circumstances.

VII Item 6: Concern about the Problem of Relatively High Vacancy Rates of Public Markets in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 23/25-26)

23. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Dr CHEUNG Man-ka. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Miss PANG Choi-ling, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)² (CHI(TW)²), FEHD.

24. Dr CHEUNG Man-ka introduced the paper.

25. CHI(TW)² of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) in view of demographic changes and intensifying competition, some older markets were facing the challenges of decrease in patronage and high vacancy rates. The FEHD would continue to evaluate the utilisation of markets and cooked food markets. After taking into account the vacancy rates, surrounding environment and community views, the FEHD would consider consolidating or closing venues with persistently low utilisation, in order to vacate the land for other purposes;
- (2) in terms of publicity and promotion, the FEHD had attracted patronage by adopting a diversified approach such as festive decorations and thematic activities. For example, the FEHD had organised “School of Life” activities at Citywalk for promotion of green burials in March 2025, and carried out promotion at Yeung Uk Road Market nearby to attract visitors. The FEHD also continued to organise activities during festive occasions, such as putting up decorations and distribution of souvenirs in Lunar New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-autumn Festival and Christmas, distribution of gifts on the National Day, as well as distribution of calendars, spring scrolls and red packet envelopes during Lunar New Year to immerse residents in the festive atmosphere;
- (3) the FEHD was actively discussing with the contactless payment service providers to strive for a reduction or exemption from service charges for electronic payment in order to lower the operating costs of market stall operators and provide the public with more convenient payment methods;

- (4) regarding stall management, given that there were about 50 vacant stalls in Tsuen Wan Market at present, the FEHD would consider adjusting its leasing strategy, including consolidation of adjacent stalls to expand the size of individual stalls to increase their appeal. In addition, the FEHD planned to convert poultry stalls with lower demand into frozen meat or fresh meat stalls, which were in higher demand. At the same time, the FEHD considered leasing individual stalls that were vacant for a long time at reduced upset prices from the last open auction on a “first-come-first-served” basis; and
- (5) regarding revitalisation of fundamental facilities in markets, the FEHD had completed a number of upgrading and transformation projects. Following the completion of the community living rooms on the 3/F and 4/F of Tsuen Wan Market, the FEHD planned to install new signage and upgrade the existing facilities to improve the market environment and attract patronage. As regards Yeung Uk Road Market, the FEHD had completed the upgrading works for the ventilation system in February 2025, as well as the installation of non-slippery flooring and replacement of railings of staircases in September, followed by the large-scale repair project in the loading bay in mid-October. The aforementioned works had comprehensively improved the safety standards of the market and enhanced its user experience.

26. A Member supported the market improvement measures put forth by the FEHD and agreed that the promotion of electronic payment methods could facilitate transactions by members of the public. The Member also welcomed the flexible arrangement in which the restriction on the types of business of market stalls was relaxed. The Member suggested that some vacant stalls or spaces should be allowed to be used for storage purpose to further optimise the space utilisation in markets.

27. CHI(TW)2 of the FEHD responded that public markets mainly focused on retail business. The current approach to relaxing restrictions on the use of market stalls would still be premised on maintaining their retail nature, for instance the introduction of services closely related to the daily life of the public like hairdressing or alteration of clothing. The proposal of converting market stalls into storage purpose would not be considered for the time being as it would change the original positioning of markets.

VIII Item 7: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025)

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 24/25-26)

28. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

IX Item 8: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 25/25-26)

29. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

X Adjournment of Meeting

30. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 10 December 2025 (Wednesday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 25 November 2025 (Tuesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

6 November 2025