

The minutes were confirmed on 10.6.2025 without amendment.

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
under Yuen Long District Council in 2025**

Date: 8 April 2025 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

Present

Chairman: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman: Mr TANG Che-keung, MH

Members: Mr MAN Yick-yeung
Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH
Mr MAN Ka-ho, Donald, JP
Mr WONG Wai-leung
Mr WONG Hiu-shan
Ms HO Hiu-man
Mr YU Chung-leung
Ms LI Ching-yee
Mr LAM Chung-yin
Mr LAM Wai-ming
Mr LAM Tim-fook
Ms LAM Wai-ming
Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH
Mr CHUI Kwan-siu
Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH
Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin
Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP
Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie
Mr CHING Chan-ming
Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH
Mr WONG Siu-chung
Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan
Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH
Ms LAU Kwai-yung
Mr TANG Ho-nin, MH
Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie
Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie
Mr SO Yuen

Co-opted

Members: Mr MAN Kwai-sau
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-choi
Mr TSANG Ka-yiu
Mr YEUNG Siu-fai
Mr TANG Cheuk-lun
Mr TANG Ngar-lok
Ms TAM Kam-lin, MH

Secretary: Ms LEUNG Hiu-wai, Christine Executive Officer (District Council)5, Yuen Long District Office

In attendance

Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi	
Mr SEI Chun-hing	
Mr Hubert CRUZ	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long)1,
Mr CHEUNG Ho-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long) Lands Department
Mr KWOK Ming Gon	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHEUNG Shui Kit	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)1 (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr MOK Ka-chun	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Yun-kwan	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss KWAN Ching-kei	Contract Project Coordinator/Yuen Long 5, Drainage Services Department
Dr FAN King Wai, Keith	Agricultural Officer (Livestock Farm Licensing), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr LEUNG Cho-shing, Joe	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)2, Environmental Protection Department

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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and departmental representatives to the second meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) under the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2025. He also welcomed Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi and Mr SEI Chun-hing to attend the meeting.

Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the first meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) in 2025 held on 11 February 2025

2. Members confirmed unanimously the minutes of the first meeting of the FEHC in 2025 held on 11 February 2025.

Discussion Item:

Item II: Cleaning pedestrian walkways to improve cityscape (FEHC Paper No. 9/2025)

3. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 9.

4. Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) introduced the content of the programme.

5. Members’ views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:
 - (1) As mentioned in the paper, the FEHD had selected three locations in Yuen Long Town for regular pedestrian walkway cleaning under the relevant programme. Members suggested that the Department expand the programme to Tin Shui Wai and establish a regular street cleaning plan to improve environmental hygiene in the district;
 - (2) Members enquired whether the programme was only targeted at specific hygiene black spots, and whether the Department would conduct regular cleaning of areas that had not been included in the black spots;
 - (3) Members pointed out that residents had reported poor pedestrian walkway hygiene conditions near Fu Cheung Building on On Ning Road, and refuse accumulation was often found at nearby fruit shops. The FEHD was requested to follow up;
 - (4) In regard to the fact that previously frontline cleaners of FEHD had not immediately included the newly altered pedestrian walkway at Chestwood Light Rail Station in their daily cleaning scope, Members suggested that the Department strengthen coordination with relevant departments to update the cleaning scope of the Department’s cleaners in a timely manner according to the latest road conditions;
 - (5) Members suggested that relevant departments strengthen coordination and carry out joint cleaning operations for public facilities managed under a co-management model to improve environmental hygiene;
 - (6) Members considered that the cleaning effect of using polishing machines to clean the paving blocks on pedestrian walkways was significant;
 - (7) Regarding that the FEHD had promptly dealt with the pest problem in Champion Building and cleared the cement on the road near Shung Tak Catholic English College on Castle Peak Road in Hung Shui Kiu earlier upon receipt of relevant notifications, the Department’s efficient work was commended;
 - (8) Members suggested that the FEHD organise community cleaning days and encourage schools and community organisations to organise activities through diversified cooperation to promote the importance of clean pedestrian walkways to the community environment to the public; and
 - (9) Members suggested that the FEHD introduce misting fans from mainland China to reduce street temperatures and improve environmental comfort.

6. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the FEHD was as follows:
 - (1) The focus of the programme was to clean the moss or stains on pedestrian walkways. The three locations selected by the Department in the district all involve stubborn stains on the surface of some pedestrian walkways after long-term use, or long-term lack of sunlight due to buildings/tree shade or other reasons, as well as the growth of moss due to nearby water sources;

- (2) In addition to the three locations mentioned in the paper, the Department would also provide street cleaning services for other busy streets in the district;
- (3) The new equipment introduced by the Department was not only used at pilot locations of the programme, but also for daily cleaning and handling emergencies (such as cleaning up patrol stains on the road after traffic accidents). The Department would flexibly allocate resources to meet emergency cleaning needs and improve overall cleaning effectiveness;
- (4) The Department welcomed Members to provide opinions to assist in handling the cleaning service needs in Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai and other areas, and would allocate resources for proper follow-up according to the actual situation;
- (5) Regarding venues under the purview of different departments, the Department would strengthen cooperation with relevant departments or institutions to enhance the effectiveness of street cleaning services; and
- (6) In terms of utilising technology to enhance municipal services, the Department had actively explored the feasibility of adopting various advanced technologies or equipment in recent years, including pressure washer surface cleaners, high-pressure water jets, smart public toilet systems, and solar-powered compacting refuse bins, and continued to introduce and apply suitable new technologies to improve service quality. Regarding continuing to optimise public toilet services, the Department would continue to explore the feasibility of using suitable new technologies or equipment.

7. The Chairman concluded that Members unanimously supported the relevant programme and suggested that the Department increase pilot locations for the operation to cover places where the floor was wet and slippery such as markets and fruit shops in the district. The Department was suggested to strive for more resources and increase the number of the equipment, as the pressure washer surface cleaners introduced by the Department had shown significant effectiveness.

Questions raised by Members:

Item III: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel proposed a discussion on “Area of itinerant hawker stalls and management of itinerant hawker licence” (FEHC Paper No. 10/2025)

8. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 10 and the written reply from the FEHD.

9. Members’ views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members noted that some itinerant hawker stalls in Yuen Long Town and Tin Shui Wai were over 20 feet wide, far exceeding the size of a typical handcart, blocking pedestrian walkways and nearby store entrances/exits. In this regard, Members suggested that the Department add area limits to the conditions of Itinerant Hawker Licences and strengthen law enforcement to address the illegal expansion of itinerant hawker stalls;
- (2) Members reported that the area of two itinerant fruit stalls near Tung Yick Market and Yau San Street was too large, especially the stall on Yau San Street extended into the centre of the pedestrian walkway, obstructing pedestrian passage. In addition, stalls often left a large amount of rubbish after the close of business, which affected environmental hygiene. The FEHD was requested to follow up;
- (3) Members pointed out that some stalls had been regularly set up at specific locations for a long time, violating the regulations of the FEHD that itinerant stalls were not allowed to place goods or set up supports in public places;

- (4) Members enquired that, in the long run, whether the FEHD would consider replacing existing stalls in other ways to address the issue of itinerant stalls occupying public space;
- (5) Regarding the mentioning of the FEHD that the majority of Itinerant Hawker Licence holders in the district were elderly, Members pointed out that some of them actually leased their licences to others for use; and
- (6) Members hoped that the FEHD would balance the needs of all parties in its enforcement work and prioritise following up on stalls that caused street obstructions.

10. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the FEHD was as follows:

- (1) At present, there were ten odd licensed itinerant hawkers active in Yuen Long District, which had significantly decreased compared to a dozen years ago. Licensed itinerant hawkers in the district mainly sold clothing, fruits, household items and other goods at different locations. The Department had always conducted supervision in accordance with relevant Itinerant Hawker Licences and current laws. If there were itinerant hawker stalls that obstructed the free flow of pedestrians or affect environmental hygiene, the Department would take enforcement actions against the relevant violations;
- (2) According to the current regulations on Itinerant Hawker Licences, there were no explicit limits on the stall area of licensed itinerant hawkers. However, the licensees had to ensure that their stalls or equipment would not obstruct the free flow of vehicle traffic or pedestrians. Due to the different geographical environments and pedestrian flow in each district, whether a hawker stall would obstruct the street depended on factors such as pedestrian flow and road width. Even if the stall area was small, it could still have an impact on traffic or pedestrians. The Department would carry out management and take appropriate actions according to the actual situation to ensure that licensed itinerant hawkers would not obstruct pedestrian walkways;
- (3) At present, the majority of licensed itinerant hawkers in the district were elderly, aged between 70 and 90. When enforcing the law, the Department would balance legal hawking and the impact of stalls on the environment, and determine whether pedestrian walkways were obstructed based on the actual situation. Even if the stall size was not large, if it caused obstruction, a warning would be issued, and repeated offenders would be prosecuted. The Department would handle the matter in a way that was both considerate and legal, issuing warnings before prosecution; and
- (4) According to the current policy on licensed itinerant hawkers, licensed itinerant hawkers were allowed to hawk in different areas of the New Territories. Under the policy, the Department would not issue new licences, and succession and transfer were not allowed for existing licences. As the age of hawkers increased, it was believed that the number would naturally decrease.

11. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that the Department would timely review the current licensing conditions and strengthen the regulation of the area of itinerant hawker stalls to avoid obstructing pedestrian walkways or nearby businesses.

Item IV: Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan, Mr LAM Chung-yin, Mr WONG Hiu-shan, Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie, Ms LI Ching-ye, Mr WONG Siu-chung and Ms HO Hiu-man proposed a discussion on “Progress of the food waste recycling scheme in Yuen Long District” (FEHC Paper No. 11/2025)

12. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 11 and the written reply from the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”).

13. Members' views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:
- (1) Regarding the written reply mentioning three government-funded schemes to assist private residential buildings in installing smart recycling bins, Members believed that some private housing estates had given up their applications due to a lack of understanding of the relevant application procedures, complicated document submission requirements, and inability to bear the required self-funding amount. They suggested that the EPD simplify the application process and proactively promote various schemes to housing estates in the district;
 - (2) Members reported that some private housing estates in the district, such as Central Park Towers, were unable to reach a consensus with the EPD on the number and location of food waste recycling bins to be set up under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates, resulting in the applications not being able to proceed. They suggested that the Department flexibly handle the applications according to the actual situation of the estates;
 - (3) Members enquired whether the food waste recycling bins originally located in Yuen Kong Tsuen and Yuen Kong San Tsuen had been withdrawn due to their usage rate or the quality of the food waste recycled not meeting the standards. Regarding the EPD's plan to establish nighttime Food Waste Recycling Spots in the district, Members suggested that the Department consider setting up a Food Waste Recycling Spot in Yuen Kong San Tsuen and expanding the service scope to other villages in Pat Heung South to facilitate nearby residents;
 - (4) Although there were many suitable locations for setting up food waste recycling machines in rural areas, some locations might not be able to set them up due to lack of water and electricity supply connection. Therefore, Members suggested that the EPD provide subsidies to assist residents in solving water and electricity supply problems to support the implementation of food waste and other recycling schemes;
 - (5) Members enquired about the current number of food waste recycling facilities in Yuen Long Rural East;
 - (6) Members enquired if the Department had promoted the food waste recycling service at the two markets in Yuen Long to nearby housing estates;
 - (7) Due to limited space or technical difficulties, single-block buildings might not be able to install food waste recycling machines. Members suggested that the Department provide funding or assistance for the installation of under-sink small food waste machines in the relevant buildings;
 - (8) Members noted that some members of the public had not yet mastered the correct usage of food waste recycling machines, such as whether they could put plastic bags used to hold food waste into the machines. They suggested that the Department strengthen education and publicity to enhance public awareness of recycling; and
 - (9) Members suggested that the Department increase the number of gifts restocked each time and consider raising the threshold for points for redemption, as there was often a shortage of gifts in the gift redemption programme using GREEN\$ Points.
14. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Joe LEUNG of the EPD was as follows:
- (1) The Government assisted private residential and village areas in installing food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) through three funding projects, including the Solicitation Scheme of the Recycling Fund, the Practice and Action Projects of the Environment and Conservation Fund, and the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates of the Environmental Campaign Committee in collaboration with the EPD. As at February 2025, there were 32 private housing estates in Yuen Long District

applying for relevant programmes, of which 12 had been approved and 6 had already started operation. Compared to public housing estates, private housing estates had to coordinate water, electricity, cleaning services, and location arrangements first, and only after reaching a consensus could the EPD process the application. This process would require multi-party coordination to ensure convenient use by residents;

- (2) The application guidelines for the Pilot Scheme specify the considerations for the installation location of FWSRBs, such as convenience for residents, distribution within the housing estate, and infrastructure support, to assist applicants and stakeholders in selecting suitable locations. The EPD would send personnel to brief and conduct on-site inspections at the housing estate, provide technical advice, and ensure that the locations could meet the requirements of the guidelines. When approving the number of recycling bins, in addition to considering the number of residents, factors such as the number and distribution of blocks in the housing estate would also be taken into account. As of now, there had been no applications in Yuen Long District that had been returned or withdrawn due to technical issues;
- (3) Regarding the specific application situation of Central Park Towers, the Department would communicate with the housing estate to seek negotiation and coordinate a feasible cooperation plan;

(Post-meeting note: The EPD had been actively contacting the relevant housing estate to follow up on its application and explain application guidelines, and had suggested suitable locations for FWSRBs to facilitate residents in recycling food waste as well. Regarding the application of Central Park Towers, the EPD had recently contacted its property management office again and learned that the owner's committee of Central Park Towers had just undergone a change of leadership in March 2025, so they had been unable to confirm the installation locations of FWSRBs with the EPD. Due to the insufficient number of FWSRBs proposed by Central Park Towers to handle the food waste of the entire estate, the EPD had once again provided the property management office with its suggested setup locations and quantities. Follow up would be conducted after the new owners' committee responded.)

- (4) The EPD had set up Food Waste Recycling Points at seven Public Refuse Collection Points ("RCPs") in Yuen Long District for nearby restaurants and residents to use. It also planned to launch nighttime Food Waste Recycling Spots to collect food waste in a timed and designated manner. The Department would consider areas with more single-block buildings and three-nil buildings in Yuen Long Town, as well as densely populated rural areas, as pilot spots. The EPD would continue to search for suitable locations to establish public Food Waste Recycling Points;
- (5) Two rural smart food waste recycling projects had been suspended due to the end of the Environment and Conservation Fund. In response to residents' demand for food waste recycling, the Department had communicated with relevant village representatives and, if necessary, could provide alternative solutions that did not rely on funds and arrange for food waste recycling bins. The Department would provide technical assistance and briefing materials to ensure that villagers could easily participate in recycling schemes;
- (6) The situation in Yuen Long urban area was different from that in rural areas: the urban area was mostly composed of buildings, while the rural areas were mostly composed of village houses, resulting in differences in environment and demand between the two. Private housing estates in urban areas usually had well-established management companies to assist in coordination, ensuring the availability of water, electricity, and cleaning support, and arranging for the installation of food waste recycling bins. However, rural areas lacked specific management organisations, so it would be necessary to consult with villagers or village representatives and consider alternative solutions such as traditional pedal-operated recycling bins. The Department would provide different options based on different types of properties and regional characteristics to provide appropriate services and suggestions. The Department would do its best to coordinate and assist;

- (7) The EPD stated that in the early stages, Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 did not have facilities to remove and process plastic bags. However, Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2, which was later put into use, had the function of screening and removing plastic bags when processing food waste. Therefore, members of the public could now put food waste and plastic bags into food waste recycling machines. The Department would organise relevant information to enhance the public's awareness of recycling; and

(Post-meeting note: The EPD had gradually replaced the usage directions and promotional posters on FWSRBs and would strengthen education and publicity to enhance public awareness of recycling. The EPD was currently conducting a second round of promotional and educational activities for all housing estates that had installed FWSRBs, arranging ambassadors to educate residents on the correct methods of food waste recycling in each estate.)

- (8) The Department would reflect to the relevant divisions suggestions on gifts or re-stocking time for the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme and explore whether the measures could further cooperate with each other and be strengthened to enhance their effectiveness.

15. The Chairman concluded that Members supported the Government's environmental policies and hoped that food waste recycling could be smoothly promoted in the community. In response to the recycling needs of residents in private housing estates, rural areas, and single-block buildings, the EPD was urged to increase efforts to improve recycling coverage and the number of participating buildings. He requested Members to follow up with the EPD on the suggestion of adding food waste recycling facilities at certain locations.

Item V: Mr LAM Wai-ming, Mr YU Chung-leung, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum, Ms CHIU Sau-han and Mr SO Yuen proposed a discussion on "Feasibility of providing food waste bins and recycling facilities at public refuse collection points in Yuen Long District" (FEHC Paper No. 12/2025)

16. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 12 and the written replies from the EPD and the FEHD.

17. Members' views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) With the application of refuse compaction facilities, Members suggested that the Department make good use of the additional space released in relevant public RCPs and add more environmental recycling facilities; in addition, Members suggested that the Department accelerate the installation of refuse compaction facilities at other public RCPs in the district to save space and free up space for the installation of recycling facilities;
- (2) Members believed that the current food waste recycling bins in RCPs were hard to locate and difficult for the public to notice. They suggested that the Department improve the situation and strengthen the food waste recycling facilities located in RCPs;
- (3) Members suggested that the Department introduce a points scheme at RCPs to encourage cleaners to separate recyclable items such as paper and metal from household waste when collecting refuse in the community, and allow them to immediately redeem rewards or record points through an application to improve recycling efficiency;
- (4) Members believed that the effectiveness of existing Recycling Spots was limited by operating hours and costs. They suggested installing fixed recycling facilities at RCPs to improve recycling efficiency;
- (5) Due to space limitations or insufficient number of residents in single-block buildings, installing food waste recycling machines within the area of such buildings was difficult.

If the Department could install food waste recycling facilities at RCPs, it could provide convenience for the relevant residents;

- (6) Some housing estates might not have installed relevant facilities due to residents' concern of the odour caused by food waste recycling machines. Members suggested that the EPD introduce advanced technology to reduce the odour emitted by food waste recycling machines, thereby encouraging more housing estates to participate in food waste recycling programmes.

18. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the FEHD was as follows:

- (1) Under the leadership of the Environment and Ecology Bureau ("EEB"), the EPD and the Department were exploring the possibility of setting up Recycling Stores, Recycling Spots, or other recycling facilities at suitable locations to facilitate clean recycling for the public when disposing of waste. These sites included new RCPs (such as the newly-opened Hung Yuen Road Refuse Collection Point in Hung Shui Kiu), existing RCPs, public markets, etc;
- (2) When evaluating whether to install food waste recycling facilities in its facilities, including RCPs, public markets, and newly constructed facilities, the Department would consider multiple aspects. The Department would conduct on-site inspections of relevant locations to assess whether there was sufficient space to support the installation and operation of recycling facilities. In specific considerations, even when space was vacated in an RCP after renovation or improvement of services, the Department still had to ensure that the installation of recycling facilities would not affect the refuse collection service and ensure the smooth operation of refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles. In addition, the Department would also assess whether the installation of recycling facilities at RCPs would have an impact on public use and the safety of operators. Overall, the Department would actively cooperate with the EPD's policies and promote food waste recycling work while ensuring the safety and smooth operation of RCPs;
- (3) At present, there were seven RCPs in Yuen Long District that had set up food waste recycling bins. The FEHD would actively cooperate with the EPD's publicity and promotion work to enhance public participation; and
- (4) The Department would install FWSRBs in Tai Kiu Market and Tung Yick Market in the future to promote food waste recycling. Generally speaking, a high flow of people in public markets would help to enhance public awareness of recycling and promote related work. The Department would continue to cooperate with the EPD to actively promote related work.

19. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Joe LEUNG of the EPD was as follows:

- (1) The EPD would coordinate with the FEHD to improve the promotion of food waste recycling facilities in the two markets and RCPs in Yuen Long District;
- (2) The EPD would strengthen publicity to make the public more aware of the location of recycling facilities; and
- (3) The Department would reflect to the relevant divisions Members' suggestion about the possibility of improving the odour treatment of recycling facilities. Existing FWSRBs were equipped with exhaust facilities. Therefore, when setting up the recycling machines, the Department had to negotiate with the housing estates to ensure relevant support was provided to avoid environmental hygiene issues.

20. The Chairman concluded that Members had put forward multiple suggestions, including improving the location of food waste recycling bins in RCPs and making good use of the space in

RCPs to add other recycling facilities. The Department was requested to further consider and follow up on Members' suggestions.

Item VI: Ms YUEN Man-ye proposed a discussion on “Concern over the hygiene conditions of the public toilets at boundary control points connecting Yuen Long District” (FEHC Paper No. 13/2025)

21. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 13 and the written replies from the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”), the Building Management Committee of the Shenzhen Bay Port Hong Kong Port Area, and the FEHD.

22. Members' views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members reported that the environmental hygiene conditions of the public toilets at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point was poor, the stairs next to the toilets often emitted odours, and the sewage in the toilets occasionally overflowed to nearby bus stops, affecting Hong Kong's image as a tourist city;
- (2) Members pointed out that there were few on-site workers cleaning public toilets at the Control Point. They urged the Department to strengthen the management of outsourced contractors' cleaning work to ensure that the hygiene conditions of public toilets would be improved;
- (3) Members believed that the unsatisfactory hygiene conditions of public toilets at the Control Point could affect tourists' first impression of Hong Kong. Referring to the practice of anti-epidemic smart public toilets in mainland China, they suggested that the Department make good use of technology to improve public toilet management, such as introducing automatic disinfection toilet seats, contactless facilities, and floor air drying technology;
- (4) Members reported that the current design of the public toilets at the San Tin cross-boundary bus station was no longer sufficient, especially during peak periods such as weekends or long holidays. Some people even urinated or defecated outside the station due to insufficient toilets, affecting environmental hygiene. To improve the situation, Members suggested that the Department expand or improve toilet facilities to meet the demand from increasing foot traffic;
- (5) To cope with the additional foot traffic after the completion of the Lok Ma Chau Control Point public transportation interchange improvement works in the future, Members urged the Department to promptly address the hygiene issues of the current public toilets and strengthen supervision of external contractors to enhance the overall hygiene condition of the public toilets;
- (6) Members reported that the quality of toilet paper in existing public toilets was poor and suggested that the Department follow up and improve.

23. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the FEHD was as follows:

- (1) The Department adopted a multi-pronged strategy to improve the quality of public toilet services. The public toilets at the Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point was one of the high usage public toilets in Yuen Long District, with a daily usage of over 3 000 people. There were toilet attendants on duty to provide appropriate public toilet cleaning services. The Department would strengthen the supervision of contractors' service performance and ensure that public toilet management services complied with relevant regulations. If it was found that the contractor had violated or failed to provide public toilet cleaning services in accordance with the contract terms, the Department would take follow-up actions, including issuing verbal warnings,

warning letters or default notices and deducting monthly service fees;

- (2) In the long run, the public toilets at the Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange had been included in the comprehensive renovation plan, and the Department would enhance their facilities through relevant renovation works to improve public toilet services. The comprehensive renovation project would adopt new designs, improve the overall layout of public toilets, beautify the exterior walls, and replace toilet facilities. The relevant project was currently under planning, and the Department planned to use suitable air purification technologies (such as nano air purification technology, oxygen polymerisation air treatment technology, etc.) after the renovation of the public toilets to eliminate odours and improve air quality;
- (3) The Department adopted different technologies to enhance the smart public toilet system to improve services. By installing sensors to monitor the operation status of public toilets, including user flow, usage rate, air quality, consumables, and the status of mechanical and electrical equipment. These sensors would transmit data to the backend system through networking technology, and attendants could monitor the condition of public toilets in real time through computers or mobile phones, and handle problems in a timely manner through predictive alarm functions. In addition, smart public toilets were equipped with feedback systems that allowed members of the public to provide feedback, as well as electronic screens displaying temperature, air quality, and other information to optimise management and service planning; and
- (4) Regarding the situation of the toilets at the cross-border bus station at the San Tin Public Transport Interchange, the Department had introduced smart container-type portable toilets equipped with a biochemical sewage treatment system at the end of February this year to replace the old container-type portable toilets. The new smart container-type toilets could process about 2 000 people's daily usage of sewage and recycle the biochemically treated sewage as flush water. The toilets were equipped with multiple sensors and could be managed through a computer remote monitoring system. In addition, there were toilet attendants in the toilets who were under contract supervision to ensure that the service met the standards. If the service did not meet the requirements, the Department would follow up in a timely manner. The Department would continue to monitor the situation and adjust services appropriately to meet the demand.

24. The Chairman concluded that the mainland had made significant progress in the cleanliness and management of public toilets in recent years, while some shopping malls in Hong Kong had good toilet management, indicating that high standards were not impossible. Members suggested that the Department ensure that public toilets could meet basic standards of cleanliness and provide adequate facilities, while continuing to develop smart facilities. At the same time, the Department was requested to strengthen inspections to ensure that contractors fulfil their responsibilities and improve the condition of public toilets.

Item VII: Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr MAN Ka-ho, Donald and Mr CHUI Kwan-siu proposed a discussion on “Problem of sewage treatment at Fairview Park in Yuen Long” (FEHC Paper No. 14/2025)

25. The Chairman referred Members to refer to Paper No. 14 and the written reply from the EPD.

26. Members' views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Although Fairview Park had set up its own sewage treatment plant, maintenance was currently difficult due to supply issues with replacement parts. Members were concerned that if the sewage treatment plant ultimately stopped operating due to replacement parts, it would have a serious impact on all residents in the estate;

- (2) If the authorities did not plan to connect the sewage pipeline to Fairview Garden under the overall development plan of the Northern Metropolis, the housing estate would have to be responsible for the connection works on its own. Due to the distance between the proposed sewage treatment facility near Ngau Tam Mei and Fairview Garden, and the need to span multiple private plots to complete the connection, it was expected that residents of the estate would face significant challenges at that time. In view of this, Members urged the EPD to comprehensively consider the current situation and take advantage of the promotion of multiple new development projects in Yuen Long to assist in connecting sewers in old private housing estates;
- (3) Members reported that there were still many housing estates in Hung Shui Kiu that required on-site sewage treatment facilities since they were not connected to the public sewerage system. To improve environmental hygiene, Members urged the Department to arrange connections to public sewers for housing estates such as Fairview Garden and Hung Shui Kiu that required self-treatment of sewage;
- (4) Members pointed out that residents of some old housing estates in Hung Shui Kiu had suggested that the Government build manholes and the estates pay for connecting them to public sewers, but the authorities refused the proposal on the grounds that the capacity of the public sewers or the inability to cope with the additional sewage flow brought by the relevant housing estates. Considering that the diameter of the sewer was 2 metres and there were only about 100 residents in the relevant housing estate, Members believed that the Department's considerations had to be deliberated;
- (5) Although the sewage treatment arrangements in private housing estates were generally the responsibility of the relevant property management companies, the authorities should provide appropriate assistance to the estates based on the actual situation to jointly solve the sewage treatment problem. In this regard, multiple new development projects in Yuen Long provided an opportunity for the existing sewage treatment problem. If the authorities failed to take this opportunity to incorporate the sewage treatment needs of existing housing estates into the plan, even if a trunk sewer was built in the future, it would not be able to fully respond to regional demand;
- (6) Members reported that some housing estates in the district, such as Villa Premiere, were also facing sewage treatment problems. The sewage treatment system of the estate was close to paralysis, but it could not be connected to the existing sewerage system due to the lack of sewers constructed nearby. Therefore, they suggested that the EPD make use of the Village Sewerage Programme and include Villa Premiere and Shang and Ha Yau Tin in the programme to assist in solving their sewage treatment problems;
- (7) Members reported that some housing estates only built sewage treatment facilities for fresh water treatment in the past, and with multiple housing estates now switching to seawater flushing, many housing estates' sewage treatment facilities had experienced mechanical ageing or even irreparable damage due to seawater erosion. Regarding the current arrangement of some housing estates to treat sewage through biodegradation, Members enquired whether the practices complied with relevant standards;
- (8) Considering that the EPD might find it difficult to fully implement rural or private housing sewage projects due to limited resources, Members suggested that the Development Bureau ("DB") provide more resources in the planning of the Northern Metropolis to construct sewage systems;
- (9) Members enquired if there had been any instances of unsuccessful tendering in the EPD's tendering process for sewage projects;
- (10) Due to the fact that areas such as Mai Po and San Wai Tsuen had not been included in the development plan of the Northern Metropolis, Members inquired about the long-term plan of the EPD to address the sewage issues in these areas;
- (11) Members enquired about the development schedule of village sewerage system and were concerned over the connection of rural housing estates to public sewers. Considering

that the housing estate in Kam Tin South New Development Area was about to be occupied, and the sewage works there had not yet been completed, Members urged the EPD to solve the problem as soon as possible;

- (12) Members reported that the situation of sewage flowing into Kam Tin River and the fields in Sheung Tsuen had not been resolved for years. Members enquired about the progress of the EPD's follow-up on the situation.

27. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Joe LEUNG of the EPD was as follows:

- (1) Due to differences between the design and current usage of some housing estates, there had been issues with mechanical or factory maintenance support. The Department would report these issues to the relevant divisions;
- (2) Regarding the situation where villages or village houses wished to connect to the public sewerage facilities but the works had not yet been completed, the Department would report to the division responsible for rural works to assist in improving supporting facilities;
- (3) In the case of Fairview Garden, as the public sewerage system had not yet been completed near the estate, it had to rely on its own sewage treatment facilities. The management company was responsible for repairing and maintaining the facilities to comply with legal requirements. The facilities in some old housing estates might have problems due to long-term disrepair, but their management companies had the responsibility to undertake maintenance work to avoid pollution; and
- (4) Under the development framework of the Northern Metropolis, the Department would cooperate with the Drainage Services Department ("DSD"), DB and other departments to formulate the priority order of sewerage system construction according to the actual situation. The planning of public sewerage system would usually prioritise areas lacking sewage treatment facilities due to their poor environmental conditions; housing estates that already had sewage treatment facilities, as their management companies were responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities, had relatively controllable sewage treatment conditions and they would be therefore of a lower priority.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD was aware that some housing estates in Yuen Long District intended to connect to the public sewerage system. The EPD would comprehensively consider various factors (including the extent of environmental improvement that could result from the project, population density, residents' willingness, technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and financial situation), and timely plan relevant sewerage system works for the remaining areas without sewer coverage.

Under the development framework of the Northern Metropolis, the authorities would consider laying new sewage facilities close to existing villages or areas in a reasonable and feasible manner when formulating infrastructure supporting facilities, so that nearby villages or areas could be directly connected to the public sewerage system in the future.)

28. Miss KWAN Ching-kei of the DSD replied that the Department was responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the public sewerage system, while the planning of the sewerage system was the responsibility of the EPD. If the EPD had formulated relevant plans, the DSD would assist in implementing the proposed works.

29. The Chairman concluded that Members hoped that the EPD would respond as soon as possible to the demand for connecting housing estates in the district to sewage facilities, in order to improve the sewage facilities in the district. Meanwhile, Members believed that the progress of connecting rural areas to trunk sewers was slow and suggested that the Government further optimise infrastructure planning to better meet the needs of population growth and regional development, as well as to meet residents' expectations for sewage facilities.

Reports of government departments

**Item VIII: Statistics regarding inspections on and warning letters issued to farms in Yuen Long by the AFCD (January to February 2025)
(FEHC Paper No. 15/2025)**

30. Members noted the above report.

**Item IX: Progress report on environmental hygiene issues by the FEHD
(January to February 2025)
(FEHC Paper No. 16/2025)**

31. Members' views and enquiries on the above report were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members enquired about the progress of the refurbishment of Kuk Ting Street Public Toilet; and
- (2) Members suggested that the FEHD arrange regular mosquito control work near the Tai Lam Tunnel bus stop after the Government took over the tunnel upon expiry of the franchise.

32. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon and Mr CHAN Yun-kwan of the FEHD was as follows:

- (1) The refurbishment of Kuk Ting Street Public Toilet would start in October this year; and
- (2) The Department would follow up with relevant Members after the meeting on the specific location of mosquito control work at Tai Lam Tunnel.

33. In his conclusion, the Chairman requested the FEHD to follow up on the opinions raised by Members.

**Item X: Enforcement activities and prosecution statistics of livestock waste control by the EPD
(January to February 2025)
(FEHC Paper No. 17/2025)**

34. Members noted the above report.

**Item XI: Yuen Long District Air Quality Health Index for January and February 2025 by the EPD
(FEHC Paper No. 18/2025)**

35. Members noted the above report.

**Item XII: Report on community food waste recycling in Yuen Long District by the EPD
(January to February 2025)
(FEHC Paper No. 20/2025)**

36. Members noted the above report.

Item XII: Any other business

Item XIV: Date of next meeting

37. The Chairman said that the third FEHC meeting in 2025 would be held in the Conference Room of the YLDC at 2:30 p.m. on 10 June 2025.

38. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:25 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
May 2025