

**For Discussion
on 28 January 2002**

LegCo Panel on Food Safety & Environmental Hygiene

Replacement of Cremators at Fu Shan Crematorium

PURPOSE

This paper serves to brief Members on the project to replace existing cremators at the Fu Shan Crematorium in Shatin with new ones.

BACKGROUND

2. The Fu Shan Crematorium, commissioned since 1985, is located at Lower Shing Mun Road, Tai Wai, Shatin. A location plan is at Annex. It comprises two twin cremators (i.e. four individual cremators in total), two service halls, a columbarium of 9,625 niches and a small office.

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENTS

3. The existing cremators of the Fu Shan Crematorium were constructed in 1984 and have been in use since 1985. They are near the end of their serviceable lives. Currently they require frequent repairs, which have inevitably affected the provision of cremation services in the Crematorium.

4. Recently, there have been incidents of dark smoke emission from the cremators of the Crematorium. The residents in Shatin are very concerned about the potential air pollution caused by the dark smoke, which is the result of incomplete combustion of carbon particles in the cremation process. Both the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) and the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) have received complaints on this problem.

PROJECT SCOPE

5. The project scope of the new replacement cremators covers the building of a cremation room with four new cremators, alteration and renovation of two existing service halls and crematorium ancillary facilities and demolition of the existing two twin cremators after commissioning of the new ones. The new cremation room will be built as an extension of the existing crematorium building at an adjacent site within the boundary of the Crematorium. We would also take the opportunity to upgrade and reprovision facilities for the Crematorium, such as public toilets, car-parking spaces and landscaped areas. The total cost for the project would be about \$109 million.

6. The design of the cremators will be to the latest standard in respect of environmental protection. The new cremators will adopt the best technology currently available and will be designed to meet all relevant environmental protection criteria including the Guidance Notes on the Best Practical Means for Incinerators (Crematoria) issued by EPD in 1998. The replacement cremators will be equipped with high temperature secondary combustion chambers to ensure complete

combustion during the cremation process and a flue gas filtering system to filter away particles and waste gases in the emission from the cremators. These advanced features will mitigate the dark smoke emitted from the cremators of the Crematorium and address the local residents' concern.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. FEHD presented details of the proposed project to the Health and Environment Committee of the Shatin District Council on 6 July 2000 and the Committee supported the project. The Shatin District Council ratified the Committee's decision at its full council meeting held on 28 July 2000.

8. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Ordinance (Cap. 499), an Environmental Permit is required for the construction and operation of the replacement cremators. In connection with the Environmental Permit application, the consultants engaged by the Architectural Services Department ("Arch SD") has conducted an EIA study to assess the environmental impact associated with the project and recommended suitable mitigation measures as well as environmental monitoring and auditing requirements in the EIA report. The study has concluded that environmental impact arising from the project is either minimal or can be mitigated to an acceptable level. To ensure that the mitigation measures required would be properly implemented, the study has also recommended an environmental monitoring and audit programme for FEHD and Arch SD to follow.

9. The EIA report was exhibited for public inspection for 30 days starting from 24 November 2001. The public expressed no adverse comments on the report during the exhibition period.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

10. Arch SD is finalizing the tender documents. Taking into account public comments and any views that the Advisory Council on the Environment may have by 22 January 2002, DEP will decide whether the EIA report should be approved.

11. Once approval from DEP has been obtained for the EIA report, we aim to submit the project proposal to the LegCo Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee to upgrade the project to Category A of the Public Works Programme in February 2002 and April 2002 respectively. Subject to the Finance Committee's approval, tender for the project will be let out in April 2002. Construction works would commence in August 2002 for completion by June 2004, which include the demolition of the existing cremators (the new cremators are scheduled for commissioning in April 2004).

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

January 2002

