

For Information

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Framework Proposal for Implementation of
Municipal Solid Waste Charging**

At its meeting on 25 February 2015, the Panel on Environmental Affairs (“EAP”) discussed the Administration’s framework proposal for implementation of municipal solid waste (“MSW”) charging. This note sets out our response to the EAP’s enquiry on the relevant timetable and work plan, including the time required for the various preparatory work such as the drafting of the enabling legislation for the charging system.

2. We have proposed to create a new division under the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) through redeployment of existing manpower and creation of time-limited posts for three years from 2015-16 to 2017-18¹. We envisage that the three-year tenure of the new division will tie over the manpower requirement in EPD up to the completion of the development phase² by which time we will have formulated effective implementation plans to give effect to the charging mechanism at the various types of MSW reception points and developed the relevant complementary systems. We will strive to get ready the legislative proposals for the enabling legislation of the charging system as soon as practicable within the 2016/17 legislative session, i.e. the first session in the new Legislative Council (“LegCo”) term.

3. According to the recommendations by the Council for Sustainable Development (“SDC”), after all necessary legislative provisions have been enacted by the LegCo, there should be a “preparatory phase” of 12 to 18 months before the legislation comes into effect. For MSW disposal through FEHD’s direct collection service, the ultimate goal is to implement charging “by household using pre-paid designated garbage bags”. There should be a transitional period, lasting

¹ Including the creation of two directorate posts in EPD for three years with immediate effect upon approval by the Finance Committee. In addition, with effect from 2015-16, EPD and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will be supported by eight and three three-year time-limited non-directorate posts respectively for the implementation of the framework proposal..

² The long-term manpower requirement during the implementation phase will be reviewed at a later stage taking into account the final design of the charging mechanism, the developed enforcement strategies and other relevant factors.

for a maximum of three years, during which relevant residential buildings may adopt a charging mechanism on the basis of “by volume of waste disposed by the building”. The SDC also expects that and the Government should conduct a review on the effectiveness of the waste charging scheme after the first year of implementation.

4. We will take into account the recommendations of the SDC and feedback of stakeholders as we develop the detailed implementation plans, prepare the draft enabling legislation for the charging system and introduce other complementary measures to facilitate behavioural change in support of waste reduction.

Environment Bureau/ Environmental Protection Department
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