

**For discussion  
on 8 December 2015**

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Sustaining the Community's Cleansing Efforts  
after the "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home" Campaign**

**Purpose**

The Government launched in August to September this year the "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home" campaign ("the Keep Clean campaign"). This paper briefs Members on our proposed measures to sustain the efforts and consolidate the spirit of the campaign with a view to enhancing public awareness and promoting concerted efforts to improve environmental hygiene.

**Background**

2. The two-month Keep Clean campaign was launched to reinforce sustained and concerted efforts on the part of the Government and the community to keep Hong Kong clean. It is an integral part of the overall strategy for placing renewed emphasis on livelihood related issues. Cleanliness helps safeguard public health and is therefore an important livelihood issue.

3. Riding on the concerted efforts of the relevant bureaux and departments, the 18 District Councils ("DCs"), and different sectors in the community, various events and activities which help fortify cross-sectoral collaboration and community-wide participation have been rolled out during the campaign. Bureaux and departments have also stepped up their cleansing efforts in areas under their purview. Details have been posted on the web page at <http://www.hkourhome.gov.hk>. The **Annex** gives a summary of the initiatives held during the campaign.

4. In furtherance of our objectives to consolidate the spirit of the campaign and sustain the cleanliness in Hong Kong, we have reviewed the experience gained in August and September, and come up with proposed measures to build on the positive results generated by the campaign. The proposed measures are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

### **Proposed Measures to Sustain the Momentum of the Campaign**

(a) *Establishing a platform for regular exchange of views with the Environmental Hygiene Committees of the 18 DCs*

5. During the Keep Clean campaign, the Secretary for Food and Health met with representatives of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committees (FEHCs) under the 18 DCs on 18 September 2015 to discuss how to harness and build on the spirit permeating the campaign and make keeping the environment clean an integral part of our internalised routine.

6. At the meeting, the DC members made a number of suggestions to the Government on how to improve district environmental hygiene, such as stepping up enforcement actions as well as publicity and public education, and improving the procurement, management and supervision of cleaning service contracts. With a view to enhancing community engagement, the Government has proposed establishing a platform for regular exchange of views with the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the DCs every six months, through which the latest overall environmental hygiene situations, including key areas requiring attention and possible ways to tackle the areas, can be discussed. That will allow the Government to review and adjust our strategies in a timely manner taking into account community sentiments as reflected through the DCs' FEHC network. The DC members present welcomed this suggestion and agreed that, with their involvement, the Government's environmental hygiene measures and surveillance should be able to yield better results.

**(b) *Enhancing street washing services***

7. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) increased street washing services in the 18 Districts as part of the enhanced cleansing efforts during the campaign. The feedback is generally positive. There have been views from different districts requesting the Government to maintain the enhanced cleansing services after the campaign by deploying additional street washing vehicles to the relevant districts.

8. To this end, FEHD has plans to reinforce street washing services provided to the 18 districts by enhancing the service requirements for street washing when the street cleansing contracts in the respective districts are next due for renewal.

**(c) *Strengthening contract management for outsourced cleansing services***

9. Some sectors of the community call for changes to FEHD’s contract management system, doing away with the practice of awarding outsourced contracts to the lowest bidder, which in their view is the root cause for inferior cleansing services.

10. When evaluating tenders for the provision of environmental hygiene services, FEHD has all along been adopting the standard marking scheme approved by the Central Tender Board of the Government. Under the current system, the technical quality of the services offered by a tenderer carries 30% of the overall weighting whereas tender price accounts for 70%.

11. We have conducted an analysis of the tender results in respect of the 90 cleansing-related contracts commencing in 2013 and 2014 where standard marking schemes were used for evaluating the tenders. Out of these 90 contracts, 34 (or 37.8%) were not awarded to the lowest price offers. As a matter of fact, five (or 5.6%) of these 90 contracts were awarded to the tenderer whose price offer was the fifth lowest among the conforming bids in the respective tender exercises. The above facts clearly demonstrate that FEHD does not as a rule choose the

lowest price tender. Price was an important, but not the determinant factor, in FEHD's selection of tenders.

12. The above notwithstanding, we agree that there is scope for improving the relevant tendering arrangements as well as contract supervision and management. FEHD is reviewing the cleansing contract tendering system, guided by the need to uphold the requirements on service quality and observe the principle of value for money. Moreover, the department will strengthen its supervision of outsourced street cleansing services through the provision of additional supervisory staff and sustained efforts to keep the service performance of contractors under close monitoring with a view to ensuring that they deliver in accordance with the contract requirements.

*(d) Sustaining cleansing efforts by departments*

13. Departments will continue to sustain their cleansing efforts in areas under their purview. For instance, FEHD will keep up its efforts in clearing hygiene blackspots (including certain private rear lanes) in the 18 Districts and closely watch the hygiene conditions of blackspots which have been cleared. FEHD will also enhance the services for clearing marine refuse at the 22 priority sites within FEHD's purview, among the 27 priority sites identified by the Environmental Protection Department.

14. To maintain the hygiene standard at public venues, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") will conduct additional cleansing operations at all gazetted beaches, in particular after inclement weather such as typhoon. Cleansing at popular outdoor venues during and after festive events, for instance the Mid-Autumn Festival, Tuen Ng Festival and Lunar New Year, will also be stepped up. In addition, LCSD will continue to promote "Clean Shorelines" message during major recreational events (e.g. beach carnival) to arouse public awareness of keeping the beaches clean.

15. The Drainage Services Department ("DSD") has been maintaining programmes for regular clearance of underground sewers and drains. DSD will step up its efforts by increasing the frequency of regular clearance of underground sewers and drains at blockage-prone

areas and hygiene blackspots in their clearance programmes and where appropriate, those sewers and drains at the downstream areas of hospitals, major clinics, public markets, cooked food centres and areas where many restaurants are located.

16. The Marine Department will enhance its marine cleansing services by establishing an additional foreshore cleansing team to beef up clean-up operations at marine refuse black spots.

### **Way Forward**

17. Without the sustained and active participation of different sectors of the community, cleanliness of the Hong Kong community cannot be safeguarded. To tackle the hygiene problems at places such as blackspots (including construction waste blackspots and shoreline waste blackspots), private streets, private rear lanes and “three nil” buildings, members of the public and relevant property owners and shopkeepers must play their part and join hands with the Government to keep the environment clean. The importance of civic mindedness and self-discipline could not be over-emphasised.

18. The Government will continue to communicate with the DCs, the community and stakeholders in various sectors to study ways of keeping the environment clean in a more effective way. We will also step up publicity and public education activities to arouse public awareness of the importance of concerted, incessant efforts in making possible a healthy and clean living environment for everyone.

19. Through the platform referred to in paragraph 7 above, we would endeavour to keep track of community feedback and act on the views and suggestions received. Our work on this front will be the subject of regular reports to the Panel.

## **Conclusion**

20. Members are invited to note and comment on the content of this paper.

**Food and Health Bureau  
December 2015**

## **Initiatives under the “Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home” Campaign**

During the campaign, a good number of events have been organised to promote the message of keeping Hong Kong clean. At the same time, efforts to improve environmental hygiene have been stepped up, including in particular the clearing of hygiene blackspots. Measures have also been devised to tackle some long-standing, serious and thorny environmental hygiene problems including those posed by private streets and private rear lanes, “three nil” buildings, marine refuse and construction waste. These efforts are summarised below.

2. Relevant bureaux and departments have made use of their existing resources and mobilised support from different sectors to enhance cleansing work under their purview, in collaboration with each other. For instance, the street washing vehicles and tipper lorries under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have respectively carried out an additional 7 320 and 12 688 hours of service; the Drainage Services Department has cleared underground sewers and drains at blockage-prone areas, hygiene blackspots, downstream areas to hospitals, major clinics and public markets, downstream areas to cooked food centres and where many restaurants are located, totalling about 86 kilometres in length; the Marine Department has carried out 10 special foreshore cleaning operations; and the Social Welfare Department has provided one-off allocations or cleansing consumables to about 1 860 subvented/subsidised day and residential service units and 707 self-financing and private residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities and contract homes to assist them in their cleansing work.

### *Three-nil buildings*

3. The Government has arranged special cleansing operations during the campaign period for the common areas of 484 “three nil” buildings, 36 private streets and 14 private rear lanes. We hope that the benefits demonstrated by such special cleansing operations would encourage the

owners of private premises to come forth and shoulder the responsibility of managing, cleansing and maintaining the common areas of their private premises.

#### *Construction and demolition waste*

4. The Government has held publicity and public education activities at 26 blackspots on proper disposal of construction waste, and has installed surveillance cameras at 12 blackspots to deter illegal fly-tipping activities of construction waste and facilitate subsequent enforcement action.

#### *Marine / shoreline refuse*

5. In the case of marine refuse, the Government has organised a number of promotion and public education activities, such as clean shorelines roving exhibitions and Shorelines Cleanup Day. The Government has increased the cleansing operations at 27 priority sites by around 440 times in 2015-16.

#### *Hygiene blackspots*

6. During the campaign, the Government has received referrals on more than 200 hygiene blackspots and acted on them. Overall speaking, the hygiene conditions of the blackspots have been markedly improved, thanks to the cleansing efforts that the relevant parties have put in. However, to keep up the positive results, we could not rely merely on increasing the frequency at which a certain blackspot is cleared, or, for that matter, public appeals calling for those breaching the law to exercise self-discipline. Members of the public and shopkeepers must make keeping the environment clean as part of their internalised routine. The Government hopes that the public and local organisations will continue to monitor the overall state of cleanliness and give information and suggestions on areas that require improvement. This will help the Government to follow up and formulate appropriate strategies, utilising the Environmental Hygiene Committees of the DC as a consultation platform.