

For information

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Progress Report of Team Clean Measures

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the major initiatives that have been undertaken by the key departments in implementing the improvement measures as recommended in Team Clean's report published in August 2003.

Background

2. Team Clean was established in May 2003 to develop and take forward proposals for entrenching a high level of environmental hygiene in Hong Kong. Team Clean's 'Report on Measures to Improve Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong' (the Report) was published in August 2003. It contained recommendations for the implementation of improvement measures.

3. One of the recommendations of the Report is to task Home Affairs Department (HAD) to play the co-ordinator role in spearheading inter-departmental efforts in district hygiene improvement as well as in community involvement and civic education. The other key departments involved in implementing Team Clean measures are Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Housing Department (HD) and Buildings Department (BD). A Steering Committee on Team Clean Follow-up has been set up under the Home Affairs Bureau/HAD to monitor and review progress made on Team Clean measures.

Progress of Team Clean Measures

4. Paragraphs 5 to 27 below give an account of the major initiatives that have been accomplished by the key departments so far.

Work Done by HAD

Community Involvement

5. With HAD's coordination, key community bodies such as the District Council (DC), Clean Hong Kong District Promotion Committee, etc. have been closely involved in implementing the Team Clean measures. Month-end cleansing exercises have been organised in all districts to promote community participation in the elimination of environmental hygiene blackspots. The 18 District Offices have recruited more than 230 teams of District Hygiene Squads, involving over 4 300 volunteers, to inspect the hygiene conditions of the districts, identify problematic spots for follow-up actions, and monitor progress of remedial work.

Six Modality Projects

6. To mitigate environmental hygiene problems that involved the efforts of multiple departments, six hygiene blackspots were identified by Team Clean as pilots for the new modality of inter-departmental partnership which would serve as a reference for solving similar problems in future. District Officers (DOs), playing the co-ordinator role, liaised with residents and relevant enforcement departments to facilitate swift implementation of environmental hygiene improvement projects. DOs also worked out with the concerned departments the demarcation of responsibilities in such projects. Five modality projects have been completed and the outstanding one concerns the 'Wan' Streets which fall within private lots in Kowloon City and improvement work is under way.

Eradication of Blackspots

7. To promote a more pleasant living environment and public awareness of community hygiene, a phased action plan for the eradication of district hygiene blackspots has been drawn up in consultation with the 18 districts. The plan involves a total of 262 district hygiene blackspots such as rear lanes, vacant Government land. With Government departments' concerted efforts, over 98% of the first two phases and about 70% of the third phase of the blackspots have been eradicated. The eradicated blackspots will be randomly inspected to prevent recurrence of the problem. Some photographs showing the results of the efforts are at Annex.

Community Cleanliness Index

8. Community Cleanliness Index has been launched since May 2004 to measure the cleanliness of Hong Kong in an objective and regular basis. Assessment is conducted every quarter for comparison with the base period figure to monitor the change of the district's environmental hygiene condition over the period. Five rounds of surveys have been conducted so far and the Community Cleanliness Indices for the territory in the last four rounds have all shown an improvement over the base period. It is a community involvement project and about 180 volunteers take part in each round to conduct field work and give ratings.

Closed-circuit Television (CCTV) Scheme

9. To tackle recurring environmental problems which cannot be resolved despite regular clean-up efforts, HAD has implemented a CCTV pilot scheme in five locations in Yuen Long, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Eastern. The scheme was introduced in end 2003 after consulting the views of the concerned District Councils. The pilot scheme has achieved the objectives of achieving deterrent effect and gathering intelligence to facilitate enforcement department's actions. Subject to the outcome of further consultation with the districts, we hope to extend the scheme to another four or five blackspots in 2005.

Work Done by FEHD

Enforcement Action against Public Cleanliness Offences

10. In accordance with Team Clean's recommendation, the fixed penalty for public cleanliness offences has been increased from \$600 to \$1,500 since late June 2003. A "zero-tolerance" approach has also been adopted in taking enforcement action. Since the increase of the penalty and up to end May 2005, the seven enforcement departments¹ issued a total of about 48 000 fixed penalty notices. FEHD accounted for 79% of the cases. Littering was the most common offence (83%), followed by spitting (14%), and unauthorized display of

¹ The seven enforcement departments are Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Housing Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Environmental Protection Department, Marine Department and the Police.

bills/posters (3%).

11. Another Team Clean recommendation is the imposition of the community service order and a higher fine on repeat offenders of public cleanliness offences. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and FEHD consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in November 2004 on the proposal. They are reviewing the proposal in light of the Panel's views before drawing up the legislative amendment proposals.

Enhanced Control of Markets

12. To ensure cleanliness in markets, a monthly market cleaning day has been implemented since November 2003. All public market stall tenants are required to conduct a thorough clean-up of their stalls on that day.

13. The markets have also adopted measures to reduce human contact with live poultry so as to minimize the risk of human infection of avian flu. These include requirement of a minimum distance to be kept between live poultry cages and customers or segregation of live poultry from customers by means of acrylic panels. Also, operators should not knowingly allow customers to touch live poultry. An incentive scheme has also been introduced to encourage fresh provision shop licensees selling live poultry and poultry stallholders in FEHD markets to surrender their licenses or tenancies as appropriate and cease operation permanently.

Enhanced Control of Food Premises

14. FEHD has consulted the trade on Team Clean's proposal to require transferee of a food business licence to take over all the demerit points and penalties incurred by the transferer. This is to prevent licensees from circumventing the licence suspension/cancellation mechanism by transferring a licence (with considerable demerit points accumulated) to a different operator. FEHD would notify licensees of the implementation of this measure.

15. Agreement in principle was obtained from the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in December 2003 on the proposal not to issue new licences or to permit transfer of existing licences if unauthorized building works are found in the premises under application.

FEHD consulted the authorized persons on a set of draft guidelines in October 2004 and would consult the trade on the proposal later this year.

16. A scheme has been made available to provide loans to owners of food businesses to carry out works for improving their hygiene standards. The scope of the works may cover refurbishment of kitchens and toilets, installation of new scullery facilities and equipment for storage of food and utensils.

Other Enhancement Measure

17. As regards the conversion of 100 aqua privies in the New Territories and outlying islands into flushing toilets, funding approval has been obtained and some of the works have already commenced.

Work Done by HD

Marking Scheme for Tenancy Enforcement

18. HD has implemented a Marking Scheme since August 2003. Under the Marking Scheme, points are allotted to households committing misdeeds that adversely affect public hygiene or pose public health hazards. For households accumulating 16 points within a biennial period, their tenancies will be terminated. Up to end June 2005, 4 264 verbal and 20 written warnings had been issued. Marks were allotted to 3 500 households as follows –

- below 10 marks: 3 415
- from 10 to 15 marks: 81
- above 15 marks: 4 (notices to quit have been served upon these four households to terminate their tenancies)

Overall, only 85 households (about 2.4%) have been allotted marks for committing two or more misdeeds. This indicates that the Marking Scheme is effective in improving the overall hygiene condition of Public Housing Estates (PHEs).

Combating Illegal Cooked Food Hawking

19. Under the new modality for inter-departmental collaboration of Team Clean initiative, HD has carried out joint operations with FEHD and the Police to combat illegal cooked food hawking in PHEs. In 2004-05, 213 joint

operations were held. As a result, the number of PHEs with ten or more illegal cooked food hawkers dropped from 22 to 8. Under the new modality, the problem of illegal cooked food hawking has improved. To sustain the efforts in maintaining a hawker free environment in PHEs, the local estate management offices will monitor the situation daily. HD's Mobile Operations Unit, on top of its daily anti-hawker operations, will also provide enforcement support to the property services companies in PHEs when necessary.

Drainage Ambassador Scheme

20. In July 2004, HD completed door-to-door inspection and necessary repairs to internal drainage pipes in PHEs. Inspections to external drainage have been continued on a half-yearly cycle. The fifth cycle inspection to the external drainage pipes in PHEs commenced in April 2005 and repairs will be made to the defective pipes.

Effectiveness

21. According to the Public Housing Recurrent Survey conducted in 2004, tenants' satisfaction over estate cleanliness and hygiene condition of PHEs has increased significantly from 45.5% in 2002 to 52.1% and 61.7% in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Whilst the public are generally supportive of the continuous efforts to improve environmental hygiene in PHEs, HD will continue to seek improvement in the enforcement work and will remind the tenants the importance of sustaining the cleanliness of the estates through publicity and public education programmes.

Work Done by BD

Inspection and Repair of External Drainage Pipes of Private Residential Buildings

22. From April 2003 to early 2004, BD organized a territory-wide inspection of the external drainage pipes of all private residential buildings. For the 11 151 buildings that do not have any form of building management, the inspection was done by BD. For the 18 888 buildings that have Owners Corporations/Mutual Aid Committees/Management Companies (OCs/MACs/MCs), 11 878 of them conducted the inspection themselves and

submitted the results to BD. The remaining 7 010 buildings were inspected by BD. As a result of these inspections, BD has identified 6 035 buildings with drainage defects of varying degree. By end June 2005, 5 565 buildings (92.2%) have been satisfactorily rectified. Repair works are in progress for 421 buildings (7%) while that for the remaining 49 buildings (0.8%) will soon commence.

23. For those buildings of which inspection of drainage systems was performed by OC, MAC or MC, a survey by BD was conducted in mid-Feb 2005 to verify the inspection reports. Up to end June 2005, BD had inspected 6 712 buildings. Drainage conditions of 6 288 buildings are found in order while repair works are in progress in 68 buildings. BD has issued advisory letters on 298 buildings with minor drainage defects, and repair orders on 58 buildings with major defects.

New and Improved Building Design

24. In July 2003, BD set up a Working Group on Building Design (WG) with relevant experts to examine building design and to recommend improvement measures. Taking into account the WG's recommendations, BD has issued four practice notes covering design of U-traps; design of cast iron pipes; provision of access for inspection and maintenance of external facilities including drain pipes; and provision of access for inspection and maintenance of internal drain pipes. Apart from the above, BD also issued a practice note to encourage the provision of ventilation to common lift lobbies and common corridors. A circular letter was also issued advising building professionals on the suggestions relating to building design as set out in the report "Hotel Sanitation and Hygiene Best Practices".

Drainage System Design

25. BD has engaged a consultant to carry out a review of building regulations on sanitary fitments, plumbing and drainage provisions for buildings. The consultant has produced a final report on the review of drainage regulations with a draft code of practice which includes design requirements. In response to the comments made by the Steering Committee for Review of Buildings Ordinance and Building Regulations on Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing and Drainage Provisions for Buildings, the consultant is discussing with relevant

professional bodies with a view to addressing the concerns raised on the proposed recommendations.

Water Seepage

26. To improve inter-departmental coordination for dealing with public complaints on water seepage problems, BD and FEHD set up a Joint Office in Sham Shui Po on 31 December 2004 as a pilot scheme.

Looking Ahead

27. Under the co-ordination of the Steering Committee on Team Clean Follow-up, considerable progress has been made in the various Team Clean initiatives. To achieve sustainable cleanliness, Government needs the continuing support and perseverance of the community in entrenching a high standard of personal and public hygiene.

Home Affairs Department

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

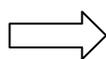
Housing Department

Buildings Department

August 2005

Results of Eradication of Blackspots
清除衛生黑點的成果

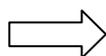
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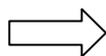
After 後



Rear Lane of On Ling Road in Yuan Long
元朗安寧路後巷



Area opposite to the Siu Lam Tsuen Road round-about, Tuen Mun
屯門小欖村路迴旋處對出空地



Right rear lane of Bowrington Road Market
灣仔鵝頸街市右側後巷