

The Government's efforts in developing sustainable systems to keep Hong Kong clean

The Committee noted that the Audit Commission had conducted a review on the extent of success of the Government's efforts in developing sustainable systems to keep Hong Kong clean.

2. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, the Committee asked for written response to its enquiries.

3. From paragraphs 4.2, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.9 of the Director of Audit's Report, the Committee noted that after the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, there had been concerns about the general cleanliness of food premises. Food business operators in general had met the minimum legal hygiene requirements, but many of them might be reluctant to upgrade the hygiene standard of their food premises out of financial considerations. In parallel with the stepping up of inspections and enforcement actions, Team Clean proposed to launch a loan scheme, known as the Incentive Scheme for Hygiene Improvement in Food Premises (the Incentive Scheme), to help improve the hygiene conditions of food premises. However, the response to the Incentive Scheme was poor. Noting that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had undertaken to conduct a review on the implementation of the Incentive Scheme, the Committee enquired about the progress of the review and the measures to be taken by the FEHD to improve the Incentive Scheme so as to enable more food business operators to benefit from it.

4. The **Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene** responded to the Committee's enquiries in his letter of 12 December 2005, in *Appendix 33*. The Committee took note of the information provided therein.