

For information

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**Work Progress of the Joint Working Group
on Management of Roadside Cargo Compartments**

Purpose

This Paper provides a brief update on the work progress of the Joint Working Group on Management of Roadside Skips (the “JWG”) about measures in enhancing management of roadside cargo compartments (commonly known as “skips”), as requested by Members at the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs (the “Panel”) on 25 April 2016.

Work Progress on Measures in Enhancing Management of Roadside Skips

2. On 25 April 2016, the JWG reported to the Panel the Government’s work progress on measures in enhancing management of roadside skips. Such progress included the Government’s decision to adopt a two-pronged approach in the short term to tackle the problems caused by placement of skips on the roadside or in public places. The two measures are as follows:

- (i) to identify suitable sites to be made available to the skip trade for storage of skips, with a view to reducing the number of such skips placed on roads or in public places; and
- (ii) to enhance enforcement efficiency to enable relevant Government departments to expedite removal of roadside skips that cause obstruction, inconvenience or danger – on one hand, to achieve greater deterrent effect, and on the other hand, to reduce obstruction to traffic or traffic accidents.

The JWG will proceed to implement the above short-term measures, and having regard to the effectiveness of the short-term measures, consider if there is a need to introduce further measures in the longer term, such as a regulatory system or assigning a Government department to take up the overall responsibility for regulating and facilitating skip operations.

Provision of Suitable Sites for Storing Skips

3. The JWG has identified one site at the Tseung Kwan O Area 137 Fill Bank (“TKOFB”) in Sai Kung and one site at Siu Lang Shui in west Tuen Mun for leasing on short-term tenancy (“STT”) to the skip trade for placing idling skips. We had discussed the proposals with the Housing and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Sai Kung District Council and the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of the Tuen Mun District Council separately in this March and consulted the skip trade. The JWG is considering as appropriate their comments in preparing the operation details and management plans for the STTs, and is addressing the technical issues related to the provision of the two sites. We aim to complete tender preparation work within this year in order to provide land for placing idling skips to the trade as soon as possible.

4. As the selected site at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 is within the delineated boundaries of a public fill reception facility, the Secretary for the Environment has amended the plan concerned pursuant to the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) Regulation (Cap. 354L) and Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation (Cap. 354N) to clearly define that the proposed site for storing skips is no longer within the boundaries of the TKOFB. The legislative procedure was completed on 23 June this year to allow tendering for the proposed site near the TKOFB.

Enhancing Enforcement Efficiency – To Expedite Removal of Skips that Obstruct Roads

5. In order to further enhance enforcement efficiency, the JWG has drawn up the terms and conditions for a dedicated service contract with a view to engage a service provider to support the enforcement departments in speedy removal of skips. This contract service will be commissioned when the sites to be leased as short-term tenancy sites as mentioned above are available for placing idling skips, so as to strengthen the management of roadside skips and raise effectiveness of enforcement actions at the same time.

Long-term Regulatory Measures on Skip Operations

6. In response to the suggestion made by Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming at the Panel meeting on 25 April 2016, the Environment Bureau and Environmental Protection Department met with the skip trade on 27 May 2016

to discuss relevant issues, including long-term measures on enhancing regulation of roadside skips and facilitating skip operations.

**Joint Working Group on Management of Roadside Skips
July 2016**