

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)481/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 27 November 2017, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Tanya CHAN (Chairman)
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers attending : For item IV

Mr TSE Chin-wan, BBS, JP
Under Secretary for the Environment

Ms Daisy LO
Assistant Director (Water Policy)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Anthony FOK
Principal Environmental Protection Officer
(Sewerage Infrastructure)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Anthony TSANG
Assistant Director/Projects and Development
Drainage Services Department

Mr Ken WONG
Chief Engineer/Sewerage Projects
Drainage Services Department

Mr CHOI Chun-ming
Chief Engineer/Consultants Management
Drainage Services Department

For item V

Mr TSE Chin-wan, BBS, JP
Under Secretary for the Environment

Mrs Vicki KWOK, JP
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr WONG Hon-meng
Assistant Director (Recycling Support)
Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Cindy HO
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Ms Anki NG
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Mr Jason KONG
Council Secretary (1)1

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(1)229/17-18 — Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since last meeting.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(01) — List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. The Chairman informed members that she and the Deputy Chairman had met with the Secretary for the Environment on 7 November 2017 to discuss the work plan of the Panel in the 2017-2018 session. The work plan of the Panel was reflected in the "List of outstanding items for discussion" as set out in LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(02).

4. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 18 December 2017, at 8:30 am:

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- (a) improving the water quality in Hong Kong; and
- (b) setting up the Countryside Conservation Office.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting on 18 December 2017 was subsequently rescheduled to 19 December 2017 at 3:30 pm to avoid clashing with the anticipated continuation of the Council meeting of 13 December 2017. With the concurrence of the Chairman, an additional item on "Receiving public views on the measures to assist the recycling industry to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for import recyclables" was added to the agenda at the request of some members.)

IV. Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works and provision of village sewerage in Tong To, Lei Yue Mun Village and Peng Chau

(LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(03) — Administration's paper on "Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works and provision of village sewerage in Tong To, Lei Yue Mun Village and Peng Chau")

Briefing by the Administration

5. With the aid of a power-point presentation, the Assistant Director/Projects and Development, Drainage Services Department ("AD(P&D)/DSD") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to upgrade the following sewerage items to Category A which would be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval in February 2018 after consulting the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC"):

- (a) **4392DS** – "Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works – phase 1" ("STKSTW") at an estimated cost of \$2,040.9 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices;
- (b) part of **4345DS** – "North District sewerage stage 2 part 2A – village sewerage for Tong To" at an estimated cost of \$34 million in MOD prices;

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- (c) **4398DS** – "Sewerage to Lei Yue Mun ("LYM") Village" at an estimated cost of \$260.2 million in MOD prices; and
- (d) part of **4343DS** – "Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – Peng Chau village sewerage phase 2" at an estimated cost of \$133.7 million in MOD prices.

(*Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)285/17-18(01) on 27 November 2017.*)

Discussion

6. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the funding proposal before they spoke on the item.

4392DS - Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works - phase 1

7. Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed support for the proposed works with a view to improving the coastal water quality of Starling Inlet. He and Mr Steven HO however noted that some local fishermen were very concerned about the discharge point of the new submarine outfall and the impact of sewage discharged on the water quality in the nearby fish culture zone. They asked the Administration to consider extending the outfall further away from Sha Tau Kok fish culture zone to minimize the impact of the discharged effluent on the water quality. Mr Steven HO added that, to address the local fishermen's concerns, the Administration should explore other feasible measures such as constructing an underground sewer instead of a submarine outfall, or extending the outfall to areas near Yan Chau Tong Marine Park given that it was the Administration's view that the water quality in those areas would not be significantly affected.

8. The Under Secretary for the Environment ("USEN") responded that an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") report was approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) for the construction and operation of the proposed project, and the impact on water quality was considered acceptable. Although the volume of treated effluent of STKSTW would be greatly increased in the future, the treatment level would also be upgraded to reduce the pollution level, and the length of the submarine outfall would be extended from 0.25 km to 1.7 km. The EIA findings showed that this would be sufficient to protect the water quality. If the submarine outfall

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were to be further extended, the outfall area would be very close to other sensitive areas such as the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park. The Environment Bureau would ask the Drainage Services Department to engage relevant experts at universities or institutions to regularly monitor the water quality near the Starling Inlet area during the commissioning of the proposed STKSTW. AD(P&D)/DSD supplemented that the Administration considered the proposed length and location of the submarine outfall and diffuser appropriate taking into account the findings of the relevant EIA, the technicalities, and cost effectiveness of the proposed project.

Admin

9. Mr CHAN Hak-kan requested the Administration to consider his proposal of further extending the length of the submarine outfall by 1 km, with due regard to the cost implication, impact on marine ecology nearby and the fisheries sector. AD(P&D)/DSD responded that while the estimated cost for the proposal of constructing a submarine outfall at a length of 1.7 km was in the range of \$300 million to \$400 million, a rough estimation for further extending the submarine outfall by 1 km would incur an additional cost of about \$200 million on a pro-rata basis. At the request of Mr CHAN, the Administration undertook to include the following information in the paper to be submitted to PWSC: the results of the environmental impact assessment regarding Mr CHAN's proposal of further extending the length of the submarine outfall by 1 km, including the level of pollutants (e.g. *Escherichia coli*) and their concentrations in the Starling Inlet catchment/outfall areas before and after the proposed works, the cost implication and impact of his proposal on improving the water quality.

Admin

10. Regarding the impact on fisheries resources in connection with the proposed works, Mr Steven HO suggested that the Administration should: (a) explore in collaboration with experts in local and Mainland universities, other appropriate methods to monitor the water quality of the fish culture zones for quality assurance, and (b) give clear guidance to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on assessing the water quality (including temperature and other water parameters) with a view to enhancing the productivity of fish farming and to improving the fish culture environment. USEN took note of the concern and assured members that relevant experts would be engaged in exploring measures to step up monitoring in this area with a view to improving the fish culture environment and promoting the development of marine fish culture.

11. Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired about the reasons for the high construction cost of the proposed works which was estimated to be about \$2 billion. USEN responded that the proposed works included the demolition of an existing sewage pumping station, the decommissioning of an existing submarine outfall, and the construction of gravity sewers and a larger and

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longer submarine outfall. The capital cost for the proposed project was therefore higher than simply constructing a new sewage treatment works with similar capacity. AD(P&D)/DSD supplemented that as STKSTW was in operation and the site only covered a relatively small area, the proposed works would need to include the provision of temporary sewage treatment facilities to maintain the current level of sewage treatment service during the reconstruction of the existing STKSTW, the upgrading of STKSTW treatment level and alteration to the existing trunk sewer system. In addition, the high level of technical requirements for constructing the 1.7 km submarine outfall and the implementation of environmental mitigation measures had also contributed to the high capital cost of the proposed works.

4345DS - North District sewerage, stage 2 part 2A – village sewerage for Tong To

12. Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired whether villagers in Tong To would be compulsorily required to carry out works to connect their sewerage systems with public sewers after the completion of the relevant public sewerage works, and the number of prosecutions or enforcement actions taken against individuals who did not take the required sewer-connection actions.

13. USEN responded that village-house owners should carry out works for connection to public sewers after completion of the public sewerage works. Village-house owners with technical difficulties due to household locations or other problems would be allowed reasonable time to arrange for connection, and owners who had financial difficulties might apply for funding assistance from relevant public funds. The Administration could issue statutory notices to village-house owners specifying a deadline by which connection should be made to public sewers. In response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's further enquiry, USEN said that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") so far had not taken prosecution actions against village-house owners who did not comply with the connection requirements, and assistance and advice had been provided to owners for proper connection to the systems.

14. Noting that the remainder of the 4345DS project would cover five other unsewered areas in North District, Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired how priorities were set in scheduling the programmes for the provision of public sewerage systems for unsewered rural villages. He also asked about the proportion of households which had been connected to public sewers. USEN said that the average rate of connection to public sewers was about 88%. The Administration had maintained lists of villages with public sewers and those to be connected with public sewers, which could be provided for members' reference if necessary.

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15. USEN supplemented that the sewerage works for Tong To was selected for upgrading because it could be readily connected to the nearby STKSTW, the capacity of which would be expanded. In setting priorities for upgrading sewerage projects for unsewered areas, the Administration would consider factors including the population projections for the area, the proximity to trunk sewers, cost-effectiveness and project readiness, and local community views and support. Sewerage projects receiving high flow, of low construction costs and with strong local community support would be accorded a higher priority in considering the timing for an upgrade.

4398DS – Sewerage to Lei Yue Mun Village

16. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that the proposed works would require five years to complete which would cause nuisance to business operations (e.g. Chinese restaurants) in the neighbourhood, and requested that efforts should be made to shorten the duration of works for the convenience of the public. He asked if it was possible to take additional measures, such as carrying out construction works concurrently, and extending the working hours for daily construction works. USEN advised that due to topographical constraints and narrow roads in LYM Village, the relevant construction works would require co-ordination with different stakeholders including the shops and restaurants in the vicinity. The estimated completion time had taken into account the limited time available for conducting the construction works as no works might be carried out at night and during dining periods, and every effort would be made to minimize inconvenience to the public.

17. AD(P&D)/DSD supplemented that the number of working hours for daily construction works in LYM Village as a result was about 40% less than that for other construction works of comparable nature and scale. In addition, assessment would also be conducted on nearby drainage channels and building structures to avoid flooding and causing damages to buildings during construction. The Administration would use the New Engineering Contracts for the proposed works to promote partnering with the contractor, and would seek to increase the working hours as far as possible in consultation with the locals with a view to bringing forward the completion date. The Administration would also consider carrying out road works concurrently at multiple sites in order to save time.

18. Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed support for the proposed works. Noting that LYM Village had no public sewerage system, he enquired about the reasons for taking such a long time to commence the proposed sewerage works. He also enquired about the Administration's plan to construct or upgrade public sewerage systems in the urban suburbs and other rural areas.

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USEN responded that there were difficulties associated with the proposed works, mainly due to the location of LYM Village. As the village was close to the seashore and situated on hillside slope, suitable mitigation measures had to be taken to prevent sewage from entering into the sea. In addition, the village comprised narrow paths lined with shops and restaurants, and the owners were concerned that the construction works might affect their businesses. As a result, it had therefore taken considerable time for the liaison work relating to the project.

4343DS – Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – Peng Chau village sewerage phase 2

19. Noting that the remainder of the 4343DS project would cover five other unsewered areas in Peng Chau, Mr CHU Hoi-dick asked why these works were not included in the Administration's current proposal. He also asked why the Peng Chau Rural Committee was only consulted in 2016 on the proposed works after the publication of the proposed works in the gazette in 2013 and 2014.

20. USEN responded that the sewerage works in the remaining five unsewered areas were not ready for implementation and more discussion with the local community was needed. The gazette published in 2013 and 2014 respectively only covered the proposed sewerage works of six unsewered areas. The Administration needed some time to refine the sewer alignment according to the gazette scheme before consulting the Peng Chau Rural Committee in 2016. The Administration would expedite its work regarding the sewerage systems for the remaining five unsewered areas.

Concluding remarks

21. The Chairman concluded that members were supportive of the proposal and raised no objection to the Administration's submission of the proposal to PWSC for consideration.

V. Measures to assist the recycling industry to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for import recyclables

(LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(04) — Administration's paper on "Addressing Mainland's tightening requirements on imports of recyclables"

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LC Paper No. CB(1)233/17-18(05) — Background brief on "Support for local recycling industry" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Impact of the Mainland's tightened requirements for importing recyclables on local recycling operations

22. Members were all concerned about the preparedness of the local recycling industry to cope with the Mainland's tightened requirements for importing recyclables from early 2018 onwards. In response to members' questions on the causes for the incident of suspension of waste paper collection by local recyclers ("the incident") in September 2017, USEN provided the following clarifications:

- (a) according to the "Implementation Plan on Advancing Reform of the Administration System on Import of Solid Wastes through Prohibiting Import of Foreign Rubbish" ("the Plan") promulgated by the Mainland authorities on 18 July 2017, waste paper to be imported into the Mainland from January 2018 had to be clean, sorted and separated into paperboards, newspapers and office papers, and the impurities in the waste paper should not exceed 0.5%. The Mainland's waste paper import quota in the past was about 29 million tonnes per year, while the export of paper recyclables from Hong Kong to the Mainland for recycling was only about 800 000 tonnes per year. There was sufficient quota for waste paper import to the Mainland before the end of 2017; and
- (b) in connection with the enforcement actions taken by the Mainland authorities against illegal practices of the recycling industry in the Mainland, some Hong Kong waste paper exporters complained that their buyers in the Mainland could no longer obtain approval documents for import of waste paper, hence affecting the Hong Kong waste paper exporters who had trading relationship with these buyers in the Mainland. The Administration met with the Ministry of Environmental Protection ("MEP") and relayed the concerns of Hong Kong's waste paper recyclers and exporters. According to MEP back then, the Mainland still had quotas available for importing several million tonnes of waste paper before the end of 2017, but the quotas available for Hong Kong recyclers would be subject to individual enterprises' commercial considerations.

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23. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out that the recyclables exported from Hong Kong to the Mainland for recycling should not be regarded as "foreign rubbish", since according to the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. The Deputy Chairman said that he had relayed similar view to MEP for consideration regarding the applicability of the Plan to Hong Kong. Mr CHU Hoi-dick asked when the Administration had learnt of the Plan, and what measures had been taken by the Administration to strengthen collaboration with the Mainland authorities in order to obtain early information in this regard. USEN said that through its established collaboration mechanism with the Mainland, the Administration was aware of the Mainland policy towards tightening the requirements on imports of recyclables. The Administration had enhanced communication with the Mainland since the promulgation of the Plan on 18 July 2017. He said that he had also met with officials of MEP twice afterwards to relay the concerns of local waste paper recyclers about the impact of the Plan on the local recycling operations. The Administration would continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities on relevant policy changes which might affect the local recycling industry.

24. Pointing out that the huge quantities of waste paper piled up on the street as a result of the incident had caused environmental hygiene problems and also affected the property management companies, cleaning and transport companies, Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed grave concern that some waste paper recyclers had already indicated that they might have to close down because of the Mainland's tightening requirements for import recyclables in early 2018. In this connection, she urged the Administration to devise appropriate contingency measures to assist the relevant sectors to prevent the recurrence of similar incident.

25. USEN said that the Administration would assist local recyclers through the Recycling Fund to upgrade their machinery, such as waste paper sorters and balers, and to enhance their operations to meet the Mainland's import requirements for waste paper. The application procedures of the Recycling Fund had also been streamlined to expedite the provision of funding assistance to waste paper recyclers. EPD was liaising with other relevant departments to formulate a contingency plan to assist in the removal of waste paper in unforeseeable situations.

26. The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) ("DDEP(2)") supplemented that the Administration had introduced other measures to complement the upgrade of recyclers' capability in processing local recyclables. A host of new initiatives were introduced to review the whole

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recycling chain from waste separation at source to clean recycling. In particular, the Administration had stepped up promotional efforts to educate the public on clean recycling, which would assist in upgrading the quality of recyclables.

Enhanced support for local recycling industries

Infrastructural support for recycling operations

27. Pointing out that the recycling industry was facing difficulties in paying high rental for land and transforming its business to manufacture high quality recycled products made from recyclables, Mr CHAN Hak-kan considered it necessary for the Administration to facilitate the recycling industry to upgrade its operational standard and efficiency as well as to enhance the provision of land for the industry. He enquired whether the Administration would consider subdividing the vacant lots in EcoPark for use by the small recycling businesses or designating a new site for their use.

28. The Chairman shared the concern of Mr CHAN Hak-kan and pointed out that some small-scale recyclers had difficulties to fulfill the tendering requirements for starting businesses in EcoPark (e.g. a promised capital investment amount of over tens of million dollars) nor the eligibility criteria for funding support under the Environment and Conservation Fund. She called on the Administration to take measures to facilitate small recycling businesses to operate in EcoPark or designate an additional site for small recycling businesses to operate through issuing green bond to provide for the initial capital for developing infrastructure and facilities. She stressed that there was an imminent need to upgrade the quality of local recyclables in light of the tightening of import requirements of the Mainland from January 2018, and to cope with the requirements of other possible export markets such as Japan and the United States.

29. USEN said that the recycling chain involved multiple stakeholders engaged in inter-related stages of operations, ranging from source separation, collection and delivery to processing for export. The Administration would look at different stages of operations in the recycling chain and render necessary support as appropriate. The Administration was examining how to leverage on the land and ancillary facilities at the EcoPark, so as to support the development of a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials. As waste paper made up the largest proportion of local recyclables, the development of a recycling industry capable of processing local waste paper was currently accorded priority. The Administration would continue to seek the views of the recycling industry on their needs and aim at providing

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suitable land support facilities in view of the existing limitation on land supply.

30. In response to Mr SHIU Ka-fai's enquiry about the lease situation of the 11 lots of land in the EcoPark for the recycling operations, the Assistant Director (Recycling Support) of EPD ("AD(RS)/EPD") informed members of the leasing arrangement in two phases, while the tenancy period for the Phase 1 lots was 10 years, the tenancy period for Phase 2 lots was 20 years. The tenancy period for Phase 1 lots would expire soon and the lots concerned would then be put to tender. All the 11 lots in the EcoPark were leased out to private recyclers for recycling waste wood, waste cooking oil, waste metals, waste glass and food waste etc. The Administration was also arranging for the EcoPark tenants to apply for the Recycling Fund's support for projects relating to the manufacture of recycled products with local recyclables.

Incubating a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials

31. Mr CHAN Hak-kan and Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for the Administration's proposed approach of incubating a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials. Dr QUAT enquired about the Administration's plan in this regard, including providing incentives to attract investment, profit projections and sustainability of such business. USEN said that private sector participation in the waste paper manufacturing industry would involve commercial considerations. There were merits in incubating a local waste paper recycling and manufacturing industry given the low material transportation cost as local waste paper could be efficiently and readily collected and used for manufacturing recycled products, and the land cost could be greatly reduced through leveraging on the land and ancillary facilities at EcoPark.

32. Noting that the Administration had launched a market sounding survey recently to have a better understanding of the industry's interest in developing waste paper recycling and manufacturing businesses in Hong Kong, Mr HUI Chi-fung enquired about the details and the findings of the survey. AD(RS)/EPD responded that the survey sought to explore views of the recycling industry on the land size and specific technical requirements for developing a waste paper recycling and manufacturing site at EcoPark. The Administration had received views from various local and foreign organizations. Based on the information collected from the survey, the Administration would consider whether it was possible to amend relevant terms and conditions of tendering of EcoPark lots before commencing the relevant tendering process. The survey had been completed and the results would be made available in due course.

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33. The Deputy Chairman welcomed the Government's efforts in assisting the local recycling industry to upgrade their machines and equipment so as to meet the Mainland's import requirements. He however considered that Hong Kong should devise a long term plan to re-use its locally-generated recyclables. Regarding the Administration's proposed measure to incubate a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials, he suggested that the Government should take the lead to establish a waste paper recycling plant to provide a business model to encourage the private sector to start business in this area, and explore possible privatisation of this recycling plant in future. He added that this was consistent with the Administration's approach for disposal and processing of waste including sewage, sludge, electrical waste, glass tiles and food waste. USEN responded that while the Government had taken measures to improve the recovery and recycling rates of recyclables of low commercial value or with hazards such as electronic waste and glass bottles, the Administration was open to the suggestion of developing a waste paper recycling plant by the Government with a view to encouraging private sector participation and investment.

Diversifying outlets for local recyclables and Recycling Fund

34. To enhance the sale of products manufactured from recycled materials by local recyclers, Mr CHAN Hak-kan and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Administration should take the lead in purchasing products manufactured from recycled materials. USEN responded that while the Government procurement contracts were subject to the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Government Procurement, the Government had been rolling out producer responsibility schemes on products such as electronic waste and glass beverage bottles to finance proper recycling and increase the value of products targeted under the schemes. The Administration would continue to promote green procurement to increase the market demand for recycled products.

35. Mr HUI Chi-fung stressed that the Administration should devise appropriate measures to assist the recycling industry in addressing the Mainland's tightening of import requirements under the Plan. He pointed out that the incident revealed the unhealthy phenomenon of Hong Kong's reliance on a single export market for local recyclables. In this regard, he enquired what measures would be taken by the Administration to develop local market and to diversify the export market for local recyclables. USEN said that to provide more stable and diverse outlets for local recyclables and reduce the reliance on a single export market, EPD would strengthen its efforts to assist local waste paper recyclers in tapping into other export markets.

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36. Noting that about 92.6% of plastic recyclables in Hong Kong had been exported to the Mainland, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen called for the Administration's actions in the short, medium and long term to assist local recyclers in meeting the tightened import requirements of the Mainland from January 2018. Noting that a funding of \$20 million had been earmarked under the Recycling Fund for recyclers to procure facilities for upgrading their capability in processing local recyclables, he enquired about the number of waste plastic recyclers which had received funding support under the Recycling Fund in order to meet the Mainland import requirements, and their capability in handling the waste plastics recyclables in Hong Kong. Mr SHIU Ka-fai was concerned whether the funding earmarked was sufficient for all recycling businesses to upgrade their facilities.

37. DDEP(2) responded that waste plastics needed to be processed into plastic pellets in order to meet the requirements under the Implementation Plan. Funding had been earmarked under the Recycling Fund for recyclers to procure facilities to upgrade their capability in processing local recyclables. Taking waste plastics as an example, two applications had been received and other recyclers had been in contact with the Hong Kong Productivity Council, Secretariat of the Advisory Committee of the Recycling Fund, indicating interests in applying for funding to upgrade their machinery, such as plastic sorters and pelletizers, for processing plastic recyclables.

38. Referring to the report "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong — Waste Statistics for 2015" which indicated that the total quantity of plastic recyclables locally recycled in 2015 was only about 5 500 tonnes while about 800 000 tonnes of waste plastics were delivered to landfills every year, Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired about the measures to be taken by the Administration to assist the industry to increase the recycling rate of waste plastics which would otherwise be disposed of at landfills. USEN responded that the percentage of waste plastics recycled was relatively low as about half of the waste plastics were contaminated plastic bags and the rest was mixed waste plastics which could not be recycled for use. The Administration would introduce a new service to centrally collect waste plastic bottles received by Community Recycling Centres and where necessary deliver to recyclers for onward processing, and enhance promotion of clean recycling to increase the value of plastic recyclables.

Concluding remarks

39. In response to the requests from Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Dr Elizabeth QUAT, the Chairman suggested and members agreed to

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hold a further meeting to receive public views on the measures to assist the recycling industry to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for import recyclables. The Chairman said that members would be advised of the date of meeting with deputations in due course.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the meeting to receive public views on the topic was scheduled to be held on 19 December 2017. Members were informed of the meeting arrangement vide LC Paper No. CB(1)345/17-18 on 13 December 2017.)

VI. Any other business

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:34 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 January 2018