

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)557/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 December 2017, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Tanya CHAN (Chairman)
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP (Deputy Chairman)
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
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Member attending : Hon YIU Si-wing

Members absent : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

Public Officers attending : **For item III**

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

Mr Andy CHAN
Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste
Reduction and Recycling)
Environmental Protection Department

For item IV

Mr WONG Kam-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for the Environment

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

Mr Simon CHAN
Assistant Director (Conservation)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

For item V

Mr WONG Kam-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for the Environment

Mr Elvis AU, JP
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Terence TSOI
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage
Infrastructure) 2
Environmental Protection Department

Dr Ron YANG
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water
Policy and Science) 1
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Henry CHAU
Assistant Director/Sewage Services
Drainage Services Department

Mr KAN Hon-shing
Chief Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme
Drainage Services Department

Mr Lawrence LEE
Senior Engineer 1 (Harbour Area Treatment Scheme)
Drainage Services Department

**Attendance by
invitation**

: For Item III

The Green Earth
Director of Environmental Advocacy
Mr CHU Hon-keung

Designing Hong Kong
Chief Executive Officer
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN

Greeners Action
Assistant Project Manager
Ms YIP Chui-man

Individual
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

Federation of Hong Kong Industries
Executive Committee Member, Group 26
Environmental Industries Council
Ms Phyllis NG

Clear the Air
Representative
Dr Martin WILLIAMS

Environmental Association Limited
Research and Development Officer
Mr Henry YAU

Hong Kong Waste Management Association
Representative
Mr Victor LI

不是垃圾站
Member
Mr LEUNG Tak-ming

The Civic Party
District Developer of Kowloon West
Miss Gloria NG

Hong Kong Recycle and Development Association
Chairman
Mr CHAN Sik-kwan

Hong Kong Environmental Protection Association
Chairman
Mr FAN Hai-tai

Eco Industry Labour Union
Chairman
Mr CHAN Pui-ho

Liberal Party
Member
Mr WONG Ka-kei

Hong Kong Recycling Chamber of Commerce
Honorary Advisor
Miss Shirley KWOK

Individual
Miss Edith LEUNG

Individual
Miss MA Ka-po

Hong Kong Christian Institute
Social Ministry Officer
Mr Terence LAI

Green Sense
Senior Project Manager
Ms HO Ka-po

Green Power
Senior Education and Project Officer
Mr YU Kin-kong

Good Neighbour North District Church
Minister
Mr CHAN Hoi-hing

Individual
Ms WONG Yuet-han

Kwai Fong Waste No Mall
Representative
Mr LEE Hung-fai

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

Action

I. Information papers issued since last meeting

Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

(LC Paper No. CB(1)281/17-18(01) — Letter dated 24 November 2017 from Hon KWOK Wai-keung on the regulation of the manufacturing and sale of products containing microplastics in Hong Kong (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)360/17-18(01) — Administration's response to the letter from Hon KWOK Wai-keung on the regulation of the manufacturing and sale of products containing microplastics in Hong Kong)

2. Referring to the letter dated 24 November 2017 from Mr KWOK Wai-keung proposing the Panel to discuss issues relating to the manufacturing and sale of products containing microplastics in Hong Kong and the Administration's written response, the Chairman proposed and members agreed that a relevant item be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(01) — List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 22 January 2018, at 2:30 pm:

(a) Rehabilitation of trunk sewers in Tuen Mun; and

(b) Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section).

III. Receiving public views on the 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"

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

Meeting with deputations/individuals and the Administration

Submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(11) — Submission from Hong Kong General Association of Re-Cycling Business (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(12) — Joint submission from Chun Shing Development (Hong Kong) Limited and Hong Kong Scrap Plastic Association (Chinese version only))

(Post-meeting note: 10 submissions from deputations/individuals on the subject received after the meeting (LC Paper Nos. CB(1)374/17-18(01) to (03), LC Paper Nos. CB(1)398/17-18(01) to (04) and LC Paper Nos. CB(1)426/17-18(01) to (03)) were circulated to members via emails on 20 and 27 December 2017 and 5 January 2018 respectively.)

Presentation of views by deputations/individuals

4. The Panel received views from a total of 23 deputations/individuals on the measures to assist the recycling industry to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for importing recyclables. A summary of the views of these deputations/individuals is in the **Annex**.

Administration's response to major issues raised

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) ("DDEP(2)") provided a consolidated response to the major issues raised by the deputations/individuals as follows –

- (a) on supporting the recycling industry to better grasp the opportunity to rise to the challenge, the key measures included assistance in enhancing recyclables' quality at source and exploring more diversified outlets. With the concerted efforts of the public, the recycling industry and Administration in exploring other possible export markets, as well as the Administration's efforts in studying the feasibility of incubating a local manufacturing industry using locally-generated recyclables, the Administration adopted a multi-pronged approach to avoid having recyclables being disposed of at landfills. The Administration would also promote reducing the use of unrecyclable materials and re-using recyclables in the industry among upstream stakeholders in the manufacturing process;
- (b) in preparing for the implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste charging, the Government was fully committed to promoting territory-wide waste reduction, as well as encouraging the public to make good use of resources. While waste reduction at source was of utmost importance, clean recycling was also essential for achieving sustainable use of resources. It was therefore important to enhance public understanding of "Recycle Right" to improve the quality and quantity of recyclables and support their outlets;
- (c) a new round of the clean recycling publicity and public education campaign focused on educating the public to put clean recyclables, including three types of waste paper and two types of waste plastic containers, into residential, workplace or roadside recycling facilities, thereby enhancing the recyclability and recycling value of recyclables, hence providing recyclers with more appropriate recyclable materials. The waste paper covered paperboard, newspaper and office paper while the waste plastic containers were those for beverages or personal care products. The campaign aimed to increase the supply and improve the quality of recyclables generated by domestic households. Paper recyclables should be kept dry and clean

without watering them as contaminated recyclables were of low recycling value;

- (d) as for other types of waste plastics, if further sorting was done or if there was sufficient quantity for a particular type of waste plastic, they could still be recycled and processed into raw materials subject to the current processing capability of individual recyclers in Hong Kong. For example, the waste plastic materials produced by the commercial and industrial sector still had considerable recycling value by being turned into raw materials, since they usually came in larger quantities of a single type of material, and were cleaner and better sorted. The Administration would disseminate relevant information through various channels later. On the other hand, waste paper and waste plastic generated by the commercial and industrial sector, which were the main source of recyclables, could still be recycled as per established practice by making arrangements with recyclers direct;
- (e) in response to some deputations' suggestion of implementing producer responsibility schemes ("PRS") on various products to facilitate the recycling of recyclables of low commercial value, the Administration advised that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") had commenced a study to explore how to implement a PRS on suitable waste plastic containers, mainly those containing beverages or personal care products, and would further consider relevant issues. In considering implementing a PRS on other products, consideration should be given to whether, and if so how, the scope of products to be regulated could be clearly defined, the capability of local recyclers in processing these recyclables as well as the availability of viable outlets ; and
- (f) regarding funding support, the Administration would continue to assist recyclers in upgrading their operational efficiency through the Recycling Fund. The Recycling Fund had in recent months launched a number of new funding schemes, which encouraged recyclers to upgrade their capability in processing the recyclables to meet the latest Mainland requirements on importing recyclables.

Discussion

6. Whilst acknowledging the efforts made by the Administration in assisting the recycling industry, Mr CHAN Hak-kan pointed out that many of

the concerns and problems raised by deputations were long-standing issues (e.g. over-reliance on a single export market for local recyclables, the high admission threshold of the EcoPark, and the high administration fees for applications for subsidies under the Recycling Fund, etc). He stressed that both policy and funding support from the Government were needed for the sustainable development of the environmental protection industry. He added that implementing municipal solid waste charging should not be used as a pretext for the Administration to delay taking further actions on recycling-related work.

7. DDEP(2) said that the Administration would continue to take various initiatives for a comprehensive waste management strategy comprising waste minimization, recovery, recycling and waste-to-energy before final disposal of unrecyclable waste at landfills. The Administration would strengthen its collaboration with the recycling industry and stakeholders to actively support the collection of low-value recyclables at the community level, and would also introduce a scheme on central collection of waste plastic bottles in order to enhance the cost-effectiveness of handling these recyclables. The Administration would establish an outreach team and launch a new round of publicity and education campaign on clean recycling, thereby enhancing the recyclability and recycling value of recyclables.

8. The Chairman expressed reservation on the Administration's revised approach targeting only specific types of paper and plastics in its waste recycling strategy. She asked how relevant publicity and public education would be made by the Administration to raise public awareness regarding the need to identify the three types of waste paper and two types of waste plastic before depositing their recyclables into the three-colour bins. She further asked how other types of waste paper (e.g. magazines) and waste plastics (i.e. those with plastic identification codes from "3" to "7") would be handled should there be a large quantity for a single type of waste recyclable materials. She called on the Administration to adopt more comprehensive measures to deal with the problem.

9. DDEP(2) said that if the cover and inner pages of magazines containing plastic materials were torn off, these magazines could still generally be recycled as newspaper. Publicity would be made through various means, including workshops and social media. A new TV Announcement in the Public Interest on clean recycling would be launched.

10. The Deputy Chairman called on the Administration to consider adopting more advanced technology to dispose of unrecyclable waste, for example, through the use of plasma gasification technology, the unrecyclable waste could potentially turn to energy recovery. He further said that more

could be done in terms of tools and equipment to safeguard the occupational safety and health of elderly waste collectors. In this connection, he suggested that the Administration should (a) subsidize the waste collectors to purchase machines such as electric trolleys to facilitate their manual handling work, and (b) provide sufficient work space for waste collectors at refuse collection points through conducting improvement works.

11. DDEP(2) said that EPD would work with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") regarding the facilities in refuse collection points managed by FEHD. Besides, members' relevant views would be relayed to the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places in reviewing the distribution of bins in rural and urban areas.

12. Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether particular emphasis would be given to provide specific targets on waste reduction and recycling rates of waste paper and plastics in the course of the Administration's publicity drive. She said that many people were gravely concerned that the recyclables collected through the three-colour bins would eventually end up in landfills. She further said that despite the efforts made by her and the non-governmental organizations in promoting the recycling of glass bottles in the local district, the relevant project ceased to receive funding support from the Environment and Conservation Fund ("ECF") owing to the rigid policy of ECF.

13. DDEP(2) said that the recycling rate for waste paper currently was about 50% and the export of waste paper accounted for about 45% of the total quantity of recyclables locally recovered. In focusing on the three types of waste paper and two types of waste plastics, the Administration aimed to maintain the quantity of paper and plastic recyclables recovered locally, and to minimize disposal of useful recyclables at landfills as far as possible.

Concluding remarks

Admin 14. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration was requested to provide a written response to address the concerns and issues raised by the deputations/individuals on the subject.

IV. Setting up the Countryside Conservation Office

(LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(03) — Administration's paper on "Setting up the Countryside Conservation Office"

LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(04) — Information note on "Setting up the Countryside Conservation Office" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Briefing by the Administration

15. The Secretary for the Environment ("SEN") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to set up a Countryside Conservation Office ("CCO") as an initiative under the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address. With the aid of a power-point presentation, DDEP(2) took members through the proposed scope of work of CCO and the proposal to create an Assistant Director of Environmental Protection ("ADEP") post in the Nature Conservation Division (currently known as the Nature Conservation and Infrastructure Planning Division) of EPD.

(Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)372/17-18(01) on 19 December 2017.)

Discussion

16. 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.

Work of the Countryside Conservation Office

17. Mr CHAN Han-pan enquired what were the "environmental groups" to be collaborated in taking part in the conservation and revitalization projects funded by CCO. Referring to the recent media reports on the incident of Lai Chi Wo where the revitalization proposal of converting empty village houses into home-stay lodging services in the village had met with opposition of the affected villagers, Mr CHAN was concerned whether CCO would foster collaboration with the rural community and the non-

governmental organizations ("NGOs") in its future work to avoid recurrence of similar incident. He stressed the importance of engaging the villagers in taking forward proposals to enhance conservation and revitalization of the sites concerned.

18. SEN advised that relevant "environmental groups" included NGOs participating in the government advisory bodies and/or assisting in promoting the policy areas of the Environment Bureau ("ENB"). As regards the revitalization plan in Lai Chi Wo, it was funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and other funding sources to conserve and promote sustainable development in remote countryside areas. He said that the Government would provide support through providing basic infrastructure (e.g. enhancement of pier) and improvement in facilities (e.g. kaito ferry service) to improve the accessibility of the site concerned. While stakeholders might have different views regarding the revitalization plan in Lai Chi Wo, he noted that the proposal of converting some twenty village houses into home-stay lodging services so far received favourable response from the public. SEN further said that in taking forward necessary conservation and revitalization work, CCO would coordinate collaboration of the departments concerned, NGOs and the villagers in the revitalization and conservation of remote countryside.

19. Whilst indicating support for the proposal, Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether the countryside revitalization efforts would also aim to encourage some villagers to move back to their local villages to support development (e.g. tourism) in the village. She said that different villages had their historical uniqueness and cultural characteristics, and enquired whether only sites with ecological/conservation value would fall within the scope of work of CCO.

20. SEN said that the priority task of CCO would be to implement a series of programmes to enhance the countryside revitalization at Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung. CCO would review the effectiveness of these projects from time to time and progressively extend its efforts to other remote countryside areas having regard to experiences gained in the two pilot projects. In response to Dr Elizabeth QUAT's further enquiry, SEN explained that the funding earmarked for CCO would not be confined to the revitalization work for the two pilot projects at Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung. He said that an advisory committee involving non-officials would be set up to advise on the funding applications received by CCO and monitor the implementation progress of the funded projects for the sustainable development of remote countryside areas.

21. Dr Elizabeth QUAT further pointed out that while Mui Tsz Lam Village was close to the town centre of Ma On Shan, the lack of potable water supply and emergency passageway for vehicular use had hindered its development. In this connection, she asked whether requests for improvement works such as water infrastructure would fall within the scope of work of CCO, and the criteria adopted by CCO in its consideration of relevant funding applications. SEN advised that the advisory committee would examine applications on the relevant conservation and revitalization work submitted by NGOs and monitor the implementation of approved projects and proposals. DDEP(2) added that CCO would consult the advisory committee on the scope of and application procedures for conservation and revitalization projects.

22. Referring to the ECF which also provided funding support to NGOs for implementing projects under the Management Agreement schemes and the 12 priority sites identified for enhanced conservation under the Public-Private Partnership scheme, the Chairman enquired how CCO would coordinate efforts to strengthen actions among various bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") and other funding schemes (including ECF) to enhance conservation policies and initiatives. She further enquired whether the Administration would revert to Legislative Council ("LegCo") to report progress of or seek additional provision for the approved/new projects.

23. SEN and DDEP(2) advised that taking conservation needs, cultural resources and district integrity into account, CCO would explore and examine, in consultation with the advisory committee, the key remote countryside areas to be covered by the initiatives, such as the 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation under the Administration's New Nature Conservation Policy. Regarding the funding of \$500 million earmarked for the minor improvement works in remote countryside, priority would be given to the areas with conservation value. CCO would explore suitable minor improvement works for public facilities, such as providing or improving footpaths and trails, watercourse management, public lightings, public toilets, sewage improvement facilities and waste recycling facilities. Having regard to the overall conservation needs, CCO would also consider rehabilitating the existing architectural environment in the countryside through, for example, working in conjunction with the villagers in considering to refurbish the representative structures. Funding for these minor works would be sought by CCO according to the established procedures. The Administration would regularly report progress to LegCo on the work of CCO.

24. Pointing out that the Home Affairs Department also conducted minor works programmes such as the Rural Public Works Programme to upgrade

the infrastructure and improve the living environment of the rural communities where project proposals of each not costing over \$30 million would be considered, the Deputy Chairman expressed concern that the lack of coordination among different B/Ds would result in ineffective use of resources.

Admin

25. DDEP(2) advised that CCO would strengthen coordination where cross-departmental efforts were involved and would strive to optimize the existing resources to avoid duplication of work among B/Ds. For example, CCO would co-ordinate with the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau in conducting heritage conservation work. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to include information to address members' concern regarding the coordination work of CCO to strengthen actions among various B/Ds and the collaboration with other funding schemes in the paper submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC").

Proposed structure and organization of the Countryside Conservation Office

26. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the establishment of CCO. He, however, considered that there were overlapping of structure and unclear delineation of responsibilities between CCO under ENB and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") as the latter was currently undertaking the country parks and nature conservation work under its two branches, namely, the Conservation Branch and Country and Marine Parks Branch. He suggested that work relating to nature conservation should be transferred to the policy portfolio of ENB to avoid overlapping of work.

27. SEN advised that within the proposed work of CCO, areas such as conserving the traditional culture of villages and assisting in villagers' livelihood, etc., were outside the work of AFCD. The Assistant Director (Conservation) of AFCD supplemented that under the policy portfolio of ENB, AFCD was performing nature conservation work through its Country and Marine Parks Branch as well as the Conservation Branch. As distinct from the work of the newly created ADEP post, AFCD was responsible for ecological and environmental impact assessments, protection of endangered species and wetland conservation, conservation of biodiversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. AFCD did not take part in the conservation and revitalization projects to promote sustainable development of the remote countryside, which would fall within the work of the new ADEP post. He said that work relating to conservation of country parks continued to be within the scope of work of AFCD.

Concluding remarks

28. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that members supported the submission of the Administration's proposal to ESC and the Finance Committee for consideration.

V. Improving the water quality in Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(05) — Administration's paper on "Improvement of water quality in Hong Kong"

LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(06) — Background brief on "Improving water quality in Hong Kong and related issues" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Briefing by the Administration

29. SEN briefed members on the progress of water quality improvement in Hong Kong over the past three decades through a series of actions and programmes. With the aid of a power-point presentation, the Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1) ("DDEP(1)") and the Chief Engineer/ Harbour Area Treatment Scheme then took members through the measures to further enhance quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour and details of the maintenance works by the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") at the main pumping station of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works ("SCISTW") under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme ("HATS") Stage 1 to be carried out starting in February 2018.

(Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)372/17-18(02) on 19 December 2017.)

Discussion

Maintenance of HATS Stage 1

30. Noting the close proximity of the Ma Wan Fish Culture Zones to SCISTW, Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr CHAN Han-pan enquired whether the

fish culture zones would be adversely affected by the potential impact on water quality during the sewage bypass on five occasions, resulting in large scale fish kill incidents and if so, whether the fishermen being affected would be accorded with compensation. Mr CHAN urged the Administration to closely monitor the situation and ensure that relevant departments would be alerted to make early preparation for such incidents.

31. DDEP(1) responded that the potential water quality impact of the proposed sewage bypass had been assessed by DSD through detailed water quality modeling by a consultant, which indicated that the dissolved oxygen and *E. coli* levels at the identified water sensitive receivers of beaches and fish culture zones would comply with the relevant assessment standards. The Administration would closely monitor the water quality during each bypass episode and the most up-to-date monitoring results would be uploaded to DSD's website on a daily basis or as early as practicable. The Administration would enhance monitoring of the water quality if necessary. In addition, an inter-departmental working group involving AFCD had been set up and one of its tasks was to devise contingency plans to handle various situations.

32. The Chairman enquired whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be conducted for the proposed sewage bypass, and whether separate funding would be sought for the maintenance work of HATS Stage 1 and if so, the amount of funding required. DDEP(1) responded that the maintenance work for HATS Stage 1 was not governed by the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). The Assistant Director/Sewage Services/DSD ("AD/SS/DSD") supplemented that the funding for the maintenance work had been earmarked under HATS Stage 2A project and therefore no separate application of funding was required. The flexibility and reliability of HATS pumping system could be greatly enhanced after the replacement of the two existing penstocks in Main Pumping Station No. 1 of the SCISTW as the Main Pumping Stations No. 1 & 2 had been interconnected.

33. Noting that the overall annual geometric mean of *E. coli* level in the waters near Castle Peak Road area assessed for the beach at point B13 was high and reached 591 count/100 mL during the proposed sewage bypass periods, which was close to the assessment standard of 610 count/100 mL, the Chairman enquired about the monitoring work on the water quality in this area. DDEP(1) responded that the assessment of the geometric mean of *E. coli* level at point B13 near Castle Peak Road was assessed to be higher than those in waters of other beach areas because B13 (i.e. Approach Beach) was closer to the sewage discharge points near Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Preliminary Treatment Works, but the *E. coli* level fell below the assessment standard of 610 count/100 mL. Although the proposed bypass would be

carried out in the dry season when the beach was closed, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would post notices on the beach to draw people's attention to the potential impact of the bypass.

34. Reckoning the efforts made by the Administration in enhancing the water quality of Victoria Harbour and the nearby coastal waters through the implementation of HATS, Mr CHAN Han-pan relayed the concerns of the Kwai Tsing District Council ("KTDC") about the proposed sewage bypass and urged the Administration to meet with the District Council ("DC") members as requested to explain the reasons for and impacts of conducting the relevant maintenance work. DDEP(1) responded that the Administration had received the request from KTDC and would enhance communication with them through the District Officer. In addition, a hotline would be set up by DSD to enhance communication with the public.

35. Mr CHAN Han-pan enquired about the measures to be taken to reduce odour nuisance to local residents in Tsuen Wan during the sewage bypass episodes, including enhancing the treatment in the preliminary treatment works and sewage dilution before passing into the coastal waters. He also pointed out that the relevant maintenance work should be conducted preferably in dry seasons, as suggested by members of the relevant DCs. DDEP(1) responded that the turbulent nature of water in the Rambler Channel would enhance sewage dilution. To reduce odour nuisance, AD/SS/DSD supplemented that the first bypass episode was scheduled for mid-February 2018, and DSD had been in close contact with the Hong Kong Observatory to take into account the prevailing wind direction during that period to prevent the spreading of odour to densely-populated areas. In addition, chemicals such as calcium nitrate would be added in the preliminary treatment works to ensure that the sewage would not become septic.

36. In response to Mr Kenneth LEUNG's enquiry, AD/SS/DSD advised that the short-term bypass was expected to be limited to five occasions, each lasting up to two weeks, in three consecutive dry seasons for the relevant maintenance work, which was scheduled for completion in February 2020.

Water quality of Shing Mun River and Tolo Harbour

37. Dr Elizabeth QUAT said that while the Administration had been advocating significant water quality improvement of Shing Mun River and Tolo Harbour, regular reports were received from nearby residents on odour problems and fish kill incidents in Shing Mun River and Tolo Harbour. Noting the presence of a number of unsewered villages in Sha Tin where untreated sewage was discharged directly into Shing Mun River, Dr QUAT enquired about the progress of sewerage project works in those villages

which had been agreed by the Sha Tin DC but were pending funding approval. She also enquired about additional measures to be taken by the Administration to further improve the water quality of Shing Mun River and Tolo Harbour.

38. DDEP(1) responded that since the implementation of the Tolo Harbour Action Plan, the water quality of Tolo Harbour and Shing Mun River had significantly improved, and the overall Water Quality Objectives compliance rate of Shing Mun River was around 90%, which was considered satisfactory. In various reported incidents involving dead fish and red tides in Shing Mun River, EPD and AFCD had conducted investigations by collecting samples and data from the river water and found that the incidents were not related to water pollution or red tides. The problems arose occasionally due to natural conditions including climate and weather changes and the accumulation of sediments in the shallow river bed. The Administration had taken note of the public concerns and strengthened control in source pollution, illegal sewage discharge and sewer misconnections. The Administration had also stepped up efforts in riverbed sediments treatment and sewerage work projects upgrade, and several proposed sewerage work project upgrades would be submitted to the Panel for consideration shortly. At the request of Dr QUAT, the Administration agreed to provide supplementary information on the progress of treatment for riverbed sediments in Shing Mun River.

Admin

Coastal water quality of Victoria Harbour

39. Mr Kenneth LEUNG referred to the preliminary results of the study commissioned by the Administration on "Further enhancing quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour" ("the Study") which confirmed that the pollution problems along the Harbour were mostly related to discharge of polluted water through storm water outfalls and misconnections of foul sewers with storm drainage pipes and non-point sources. He enquired about the number of misconnected foul sewers currently identified and the time required to rectify the misconnections. He was also concerned that public education on proper sewer connection was inadequate, and enquired how the enforcement actions would be taken against illegal discharge of waste water and sewer misconnections in the long run.

40. DDEP(1) responded that the survey conducted under the Study so far identified high levels of pollutants in about 150 storm water manholes situated in different areas and 27 coastal locations. The Administration had been tracing the source of contamination through the relevant manholes and was yet to ascertain the number of sewer misconnections, since a single sewer misconnection could result in contamination of several manholes. The

Study had recommended follow-up engineering works in 10 proposed priority areas. Out of 79 storm water outfalls in the priority areas requiring follow-up engineering works, the Administration had already commenced works upstream of 25 outfalls with funding approval from the Finance Committee of LegCo in July 2017 and the follow-up work of other outfalls would be conducted in due course.

41. Regarding illegal discharge of waste water, DDEP(1) responded that the Administration would enhance publicity and educational efforts on the prevention of illegal discharge at source and step up enforcement actions as and when necessary. For example, an inter-departmental working group which involved also FEHD would take joint actions to advise food premises not to discharge waste water into the storm drains at rear lanes. In addition, construction of dry weather flow interceptors would also assist in stopping the polluted water from flowing into the coastal waters.

(To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman extended the meeting for 10 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.)

42. The Chairman referred members to the letter from Dr Priscilla LEUNG who had provided her views and suggestions on improving the water quality of the Victoria Harbour, which was tabled for members' reference and copied to the Administration.

(Post-meeting note: The letter was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)378/17-18(01) on 20 December 2017.)

VI. Any other business

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:38 pm.

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Meeting on Tuesday, 19 December 2017, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Receiving public views on the measures to assist the recycling industry to meet
the Mainland's tightened requirements for import recyclables

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission / Major views and concerns
1.	The Green Earth	LC Paper No. CB(1)426/17-18(01) (Chinese version only)
2.	Designing Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the proposed measures to strengthen support for the local recycling industry, but called for actions on the part of the Administration that are more responsive to the relevant policy changes in the Mainland regarding import recyclables over the past years. • There might be practical difficulties for members of the public to differentiate the two types of waste plastic containers (namely plastic containers for beverages or personal care products, mainly those with plastic identification codes of "1" or "2") from other types of waste plastics before putting the former into recycling bins. • The Administration should promote clean recycling in a more comprehensive manner. Apart from organizing publicity and public education campaigns, the Administration should provide space and facilities in each district to facilitate separation of waste and sorting of recyclables.
3.	Greeners Action	LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(07) (Chinese version only)
4.	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed doubt on the Administration's commitment in promoting the sustainable development of the local recycling industry. • Criticized that the Administration had failed to do more to assist the local recycling industry as some small and medium enterprises applying for the Recycling Fund had subsequently withdrawn their approved applications. • The Administration should step up efforts to increase the number of three-colour recycling bins in public places and residential estates.
5.	Federation of Hong Kong Industries	LC Paper No. CB(1)374/17-18(01) (Chinese version only)
6.	Clear the Air	LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(08) (English version only)
7.	Environmental Association Limited	LC Paper No. CB(1)398/17-18(01) (Chinese version only)

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission / Major views and concerns
8.	Hong Kong Waste Management Association	LC Paper No. CB(1)398/17-18(02) (English version only)
9.	不是垃圾站	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of targeting only specific types of plastics for recycling, the Administration should actively explore measures to recover other types of waste plastics which constituted a major part of locally-generated plastic recyclables. The Administration should make reference to Taiwan and provide price subsidies in respect of recyclables. • The Administration should explore the use of modern technology and equipment in recycling operations to increase the marketability and recycling rates of recyclables of lower commercial value. • The Administration should also endeavor to provide land support for recycling operations as the admission threshold for Ecopark was too high (e.g. a minimum capital investment amount of \$30 million). • There should be comprehensive land use planning for the sustainable development of the local recycling industry. In this connection, the Administration should announce the findings of the consultancy study on the land requirements of the recycling industry as soon as possible.
10.	The Civic Party	LC Paper No. CB(1)370/17-18(01) (Chinese version only)
11.	Hong Kong Recycle and Development Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was very challenging for Hong Kong recyclers to penetrate other export markets (such as Southeast Asian countries) for recyclables because some overseas competitors were offered incentives/subsidies by their home jurisdictions to export recyclables and therefore could sell at more competitive prices in those markets. • The Administration should explore with the Mainland authorities the possibility of implementing a special arrangement for the imports of Hong Kong-generated recyclables into the Mainland.
12.	Hong Kong Environmental Protection Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should implement more proactive measures to assist local recyclers in upgrading their operations to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for import recyclables. • The market price fluctuation of recyclables, and in particular waste paper, had a significant impact on the livelihood of the elderly waste collectors.
13.	Eco Industry Labour Union	LC Paper No. CB(1)426/17-18(02) (Chinese version only)

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission / Major views and concerns
14.	Liberal Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unsatisfactory progress in waste reduction was attributable to the failure of the Administration to help local recyclers improve productivity and upgrade their mode of operation in the recycling chain. • The Administration should implement new initiatives and offer incentives to encourage investments in the local recycling business and manufacturing business using recycled materials. The recycling industry needed more government support to achieve a more sustainable development.
15.	Hong Kong Recycling Chamber of Commerce	LC Paper No. CB(1)374/17-18(02) (Chinese version only)
16.	Miss Edith LEUNG	LC Paper No. CB(1)374/17-18(03) (Chinese version only)
17.	Miss MA Ka-po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong should develop a local manufacturing business using recycled materials to reduce reliance on export as a major outlet for locally-generated recyclables. • The Administration should improve the management and monitoring of three-colour recycling bins to reduce contaminants in the recyclables collected. • The Administration should continue to promote the recycling of all types of waste plastics. To this end, the Administration should consider (i) revamping the design of recycling bins and educating the public to facilitate sorting of different types of waste plastics according to plastic identification codes; and (ii) implementing a labelling requirement to provide product information on the types of plastics used. • The Administration should expedite the implementation of municipal solid waste charging and various producer responsibility schemes to drive behavioural changes and promote recycling.
18.	Hong Kong Christian Institute	LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(09) (Chinese version only)
19.	Green Sense	LC Paper No. CB(1)426/17-18(03) (Chinese version only)
20.	Green Power	LC Paper No. CB(1)349/17-18(10) (Chinese version only)
21.	Good Neighbour North District Church	LC Paper No. CB(1)398/17-18(03) (Chinese version only)
22.	Ms WONG Yuet-han	LC Paper No. CB(1)398/17-18(04) (Chinese version only)

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission / Major views and concerns
23.	Kwai Fong Waste No Mall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Administration should improve the management of three-colour recycling bins to avoid mishandling so as to rebuild public confidence in them.• The Administration should make reference to Taiwan and provide price subsidies in respect of recyclables of lower commercial value.

Council Business Division 1
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