

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)530/18-19
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/BC/2/18/2

**Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
(Amendment) Bill 2018**

**Minutes of first meeting
held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai

Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Public Officers attending : **For item II**

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

Mr Donald NG, JP
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Special Duties)
Environmental Protection Department

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

Mr Kenneth CHAN
Assistant Director (Charging Preparation)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Gilbert MO
Deputy Law Draftsman
Department of Justice

Mr Vincent FUNG
Government Counsel
Department of Justice

Mr FORK Ping-lam
Assistant Director (Operations)³
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Clerk in Attendance : Ms Angel SHEK
Chief Council Secretary (1)¹

Staff in attendance : Mr Cliff IP
Assistant Legal Adviser 8

Mr Jason KONG
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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I. Election of Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr Tommy CHEUNG, the member who had the highest precedence among those who were present at the meeting, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Bills Committee. He invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Mr MA Fung-kwok was nominated by Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok and the nomination was seconded by Mr YIU Si-wing. Mr MA Fung-kwok accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr MA Fung-kwok was declared Chairman of the Bills Committee. Mr MA Fung-kwok then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Bills Committee.

4. Mr Steven HO was nominated by Dr Elizabeth QUAT and the nomination was seconded by Mr Tommy CHEUNG. Mr Steven HO accepted the nomination. Mr HUI Chi-fung was nominated by Mr Kenneth LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Mr WU Chi-wai. Mr HUI Chi-fung accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Chairman announced a vote by secret ballot. After members present had cast their votes, the Chairman invited the nominators (i.e. Mr Kenneth LEUNG and Dr Elizabeth QUAT) to monitor the counting of votes. Of the members present, 16 voted for Mr Steven HO and 9 voted for Mr HUI Chi-fung. The Chairman declared that Mr Steven HO was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Bills Committee.

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II. Meeting with the Administration

(LC Paper No. CB(3)97/18-19	—	The Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 ("the Bill")
File Ref: EP CR/9/65/3	—	Legislative Council Brief
LC Paper No. LS13/18-19	—	Legal Service Division Report
LC Paper No. CB(1)205/18-19(01)	—	Marked-up copy of the Bill prepared by the Legal Service Division (Restricted to members)
LC Paper No. CB(1)205/18-19(02)	—	Assistant Legal Adviser's letter dated 4 December 2018 to the Administration
LC Paper No. CB(1)205/18-19(03)	—	Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Discussion

5. The Bills Committee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at the **Annex**).

(At 10:30 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for five minutes beyond the appointed ending time.)

Follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

- Admin 6. The Administration was requested to provide written response to the questions raised by members on the following issues:

Targets of the proposed municipal solid waste charging scheme

- (a) the target deliverables of the proposed charging scheme for the disposal of municipal solid waste ("MSW") ("the proposed charging scheme"), and how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the scheme in achieving the relevant targets;

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Plastic bags and litter containers in public places

- (b) the estimated number of additional plastic bags to be landfilled each year as a result of the implementation of the proposed charging scheme if the Bill was passed;
- (c) the views of the Competition Commission, if any, in respect of the potential arrangement for sale of designated bags ("DBs") under the Bill at retail outlets, in lieu of (i) retailers' distribution of plastic shopping bags which were currently subject to environmental levy, and/or (ii) sale of non-DBs;
- (d) the policy objectives and effectiveness, with reference to the relevant data, of replacing litter containers ("LCs") in public places with newly-designed LCs with smaller openings; and whether/how this measure might complement the proposed charging scheme;

Enforcement

- (e) the work plan for the installation of closed-circuit television systems and/or cameras (including internet-protocol cameras, surveillance cameras with smart technology and other related cameras) to deter fly-tipping and depositing/disposal of "non-compliant waste" under the Bill, including the total number of existing cameras and cameras to be installed, and how the Administration would address privacy issues arising from the use of such cameras for enforcement purpose;
- (f) measures to address members' concerns about the possibility that some members of the public would dispose of their MSW at LCs in public places to evade the use of DBs;
- (g) statistics on the prosecutions against illegal waste disposal in recent years, having regard to members' concerns about the anticipated difficulty in enforcing the proposed charging scheme as they considered the existing enforcement regime ineffective for combating illegal waste disposal;

Manpower resources

- (h) (i) the respective numbers of posts in the relevant government bureaux/departments and their contractors (if any) that were currently involved in the administration of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme ("CWDCS") and enforcement against

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illegal depositing/disposal of construction waste; (ii) the proportions of the posts mentioned in (i) that were created after the enactment of the legislation for CWDCS; and (iii) the financial implications of (ii);

- (i) the estimated additional manpower resources (including the number of both permanent and contract staff) required for the implementation of the Bill;

Waste recycling

- (j) details of the pilot scheme on the application of reverse vending machines ("RVMs") for the recycling of plastic beverage containers, including the number of RVMs to be installed, outlets for the collected containers, and the amount of rebate to be provided for each container; and
- (k) the legislative and implementation timetables for taking forward new producer responsibility schemes on various product categories, in particular plastic containers.

III. Any other business

Invitation of public views

7. Members agreed that the Bills Committee should receive public views on the Bill at the next meeting scheduled for 7 January 2019. The Secretariat would post a notice on the website of the Legislative Council and write to the 18 District Councils ("DCs") to invite views from the public and DCs on the Bill.

8. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:31 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 January 2019

Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018

**Proceedings of the first meeting
on Wednesday, 5 December 2018, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
<i>Agenda Item I - Election of Chairman</i>			
000339 – 001530	Mr Tommy CHEUNG Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok Mr YIU Si-wing Mr MA Fung-kwok Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr Steven HO Mr Kenneth LEUNG Mr WU Chi-wai Mr HUI Chi-fung	Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman	
<i>Agenda Item II - Meeting with the Administration</i>			
001531 – 002646	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks by the Chairman Briefing by the Administration on the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 ("the Bill"). [Legislative Council Brief (File Ref: EP CR/9/65/3)]	
002647 – 003320	Chairman Mr Tommy CHEUNG Administration	Mr CHEUNG commented that the Bill was not well written and enquired about the following: (a) how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the proposed charging scheme for the disposal of municipal solid waste ("MSW") ("the proposed charging scheme") in achieving the relevant policy objectives including waste reduction; and (b) the manpower resources required in relevant government bureaux/departments for the proposed implementation of MSW charging and the related financial implications. The Administration responded that: (a) as a multi-pronged strategy was adopted for waste reduction and recycling in Hong Kong, it would not be practicable to assess the effectiveness of MSW charging in isolation of other measures. Nevertheless, experiences in other cities showed that quantity-based waste charging that accorded with the "polluter pays" principle, coupled with other related measures, was effective in achieving waste reduction;	

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		<p>(b) a per-capita MSW disposal reduction target had been set in the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022", and the proposed introduction of MSW charging was a major policy tool for achieving the target. It was also expected that the proposed charging scheme could enable the collection of more accurate data on MSW disposal in the territory as well as from individual households or premises;</p> <p>(c) the introduction of MSW charging was estimated to necessitate the creation of around 60 civil service posts for non-enforcement tasks in implementing the scheme. In addition, around 30 to 35 outreaching teams, each comprising five to six staff members, would be created, involving about 200 posts; and</p> <p>(d) the manpower resources required for enforcement would depend on the compliance situation and other factors. As such, it was premature to provide an estimation in this regard at this stage.</p> <p>Mr CHEUNG queried whether the proposed charging levels of designated bags ("DBs"), designated labels ("DLs") and gate fee would be increased soon after the implementation of the proposed charging scheme if the expected outcomes were not adequately achieved.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the proposed charging levels would remain unchanged in the first three years of implementation of MSW charging, if the Bill was passed. A review would be conducted thereafter and the charging levels might be adjusted having regard to the effectiveness of the proposed charging scheme in reducing waste disposal and other relevant factors. In the case of Taipei city, the charging level under its MSW charging scheme had actually been reduced after years of implementation.</p>	
003321 – 003834	Chairman Mr Gary FAN Administration	<p>Mr FAN expressed concern whether there would be sufficient measures for waste reduction and recycling to complement MSW charging. He also asked whether the Administration would consider:</p> <p>(a) expanding the scope of financial assistance to all public rental housing ("PRH") households, or providing a basic amount of free DBs to those households each month, to help mitigate the financial impact of MSW charging on low-income families; and</p> <p>(b) reducing government rates concurrently with the implementation of the proposed charging scheme to avoid "double charging", given that government rates had been a charge for municipal services including</p>	

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		<p>waste collection and disposal.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Council for Sustainable Development had conducted a public engagement exercise on the implementation framework of MSW charging. There was a general consensus that relief measures relating to MSW charging should be targeted at recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") only; (b) over 60% CSSA recipients were living in PRH estates; and (c) government rates now formed part of the Government's general revenue without specific relevance to the provision of any municipal service. <p>As the Government was the provider of municipal services, Mr FAN remarked that he did not subscribe to the Administration's explanation in (c) above.</p>	
003835 – 004421	Chairman Mr Charles Peter MOK Administration	<p>Mr MOK supported in principle the proposed introduction of MSW charging. He suggested that the Administration should explore the wider application of new technologies with reference to overseas experiences to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of MSW charging, and promote the development of a "Smart City" at the same time. In particular, he asked whether the radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology would be used for the collection and analysis of data on waste disposal and recovery.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it would actively consider the application of innovation and technology initiatives to support waste reduction and recycling as well as enforcement of MSW charging. For instance, reverse vending machines ("RVMs") would be installed for the recovery of plastic beverage containers under a pilot scheme to be implemented in 2019; (b) the Environment and Conservation Fund had been supporting a number of community involvement projects on MSW charging. In a project organized by the Business Environment Council, the RFID technology was deployed to collect waste generation data in some commercial premises; and (c) the RFID technology was not mature and cost effective enough for application on DBs or DLs. Yet, 	

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		<p>the Administration would continue to monitor the development of the technology with a view to identifying its suitable uses under the proposed charging scheme.</p> <p>Noting that internet protocol ("IP") cameras would be installed to deter fly-tipping and depositing/disposal of "non-compliant waste" under the Bill, Mr MOK was concerned how the Administration would strike a balance between monitoring compliance and protecting privacy.</p>	
004422 – 004957	Chairman Dr Elizabeth QUAT Administration	<p>Dr QUAT considered that the proposed charging levels were generally acceptable to members of the public. She opined that the Administration should provide more information on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) how it would enforce the proposed charging scheme and prevent aggravation of fly-tipping, and the manpower resources required for the purpose; (b) its enhanced support for recycling, and whether there would be sufficient outlets for the increased amount of recyclables collected as a result of the proposed implementation of MSW charging; (c) details of the pilot scheme on the application of RVMs for recycling of plastic beverage containers, including the number of RVMs to be installed, outlets for the collected containers and the amount of rebate to be provided for each container; (d) the estimated amount of additional recurrent resources to be allocated to each of the proposed complementary measures; and (e) whether it would explore the wider use of new technologies such as RFID and geographic information systems to facilitate the proposed implementation and enforcement of MSW charging, and promote the development of a "Smart City" at the same time. <p>The Administration advised that it would continue to develop complementary measures progressively to further promote recycling. For instance, the Administration had proposed to provide free collection service for waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial ("non-C&I") sources under a pilot scheme.</p>	
004958 – 005650	Chairman Mr Steven HO Administration	<p><u>Additional waste plastic bags to be landfilled</u></p> <p>While it was a common practice to reuse plastic shopping bags ("PSBs") for collecting domestic waste, Mr HO said</p>	

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		<p>that some members of the public might continue with this practice and put such reused PSBs into DBs after the proposed launch of MSW charging. He enquired about the estimated number of additional plastic bags that would be landfilled each year as a result.</p> <p>The Administration responded that the implementation of the proposed charging scheme was expected to reduce the overall disposal of MSW, which included garbage bags, at landfills. It did not expect that there would be a significant increase in the disposal of waste plastic bags at landfills due to the proposed charging scheme.</p> <p><u>Enforcement manpower and capability</u></p> <p>Mr HO questioned the Administration's capability in enforcing MSW charging, given that the launch of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment ("WPRS") had aggravated fly-tipping of e-waste according to some media reports.</p> <p>The Administration clarified that there was not a significant change in the amount of e-waste illegally disposed of at public places after the launch of WPRS. With the commissioning of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Treatment and Recycling Facility, such e-waste collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") could be delivered to the facility for proper treatment and recycling.</p> <p>Mr HO requested the Administration to provide the following information in writing for members' reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the respective numbers of posts in the relevant government bureaux/departments and their contractors (if any) that were currently involved in the administration of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme ("CWDCS") and enforcement against illegal depositing/disposal of construction waste; (b) the proportions of the posts mentioned in (a) that were created after the enactment of the legislation for CWDCS; and (c) the financial implications of (b). <p><u>Other producer responsibility schemes</u></p> <p>Mr HO urged the Administration to expeditiously implement new producer responsibility schemes ("PRSs") on various product categories, especially packaging materials, so that producers or suppliers of the products</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 6(h) of the minutes refers)</p>

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		<p>would be required to shoulder more responsibility for reducing waste.</p> <p>The Administration responded that the meaning of "waste producer" could encompass all parties along a supply chain, including manufacturers and end-users. It was expected that the proposed charging scheme would enhance consumers' awareness in choosing environment-friendly products with fewer packaging materials, thereby driving manufacturers/suppliers to reduce waste in the manufacturing and packaging of products.</p>	
005651 – 010217	Chairman Mr Wilson OR Administration	<p>Mr OR pointed out that there had been public discontent over the implementation of WPRS. He opined that the Administration should provide information on the target deliverables of the proposed charging scheme, so as to enable an objective assessment of its cost-effectiveness in future. The Administration reiterated that as a multipronged strategy was adopted for waste reduction and recycling in Hong Kong like other cities such as Seoul and Taipei city, it would not be practicable to assess the effectiveness of the proposed charging scheme in isolation of other measures.</p> <p>Mr OR sought the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) details of the publicity and public education efforts to facilitate the implementation of the proposed charging scheme; (b) the work plan for the installation of IP cameras to deter fly-tipping and depositing/disposal of non-compliant waste, and how the Administration would address privacy issues arising from the use of such cameras for enforcement purpose; and (c) how the Administration would improve the monitoring of FEHD's outsourcing contracts to prepare for the transition to MSW charging. <p>On publicity and public education, the Administration advised that its efforts would be guided by three principles, including (a) an extensive public education campaign targeted at the general public and specific groups, (b) provision of first-hand experience of how MSW charging was implemented through community engagement projects, and (c) provision of direct, on-site and in-person assistance through outreaching efforts.</p>	
010218 – 010742	Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG Administration	<p>Mr CHENG also expressed a lack of confidence in the Administration's capability in enforcing the proposed charging scheme and preventing fly-tipping of non-compliant waste. In this connection, he pointed out that</p>	

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		<p>while fly-tipping of construction waste was prevalent in some districts such as Sham Shui Po, there were only a few prosecution cases. He sought explanation on the use of surveillance camera systems to deter fly-tipping activities and facilitate enforcement actions.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the installation of IP cameras at fly-tipping black spots had proved to be generally effective in deterring fly-tipping activities. There were plans to install IP cameras at more locations; (b) with more advanced technical specifications, the newly-installed IP camera systems could detect specific movements/activities and help improve enforcement efficiency; and (c) a risk-based enforcement approach would be taken under the proposed charging scheme, with particular attention given to pressure points such as "three-nil" buildings (i.e. buildings which did not have an owners' corporation or any form of owners/residents organizations or engage a property management company) and fly-tipping black spots. 	
010743 – 011320	Chairman Mr HUI Chi-fung Administration	<p>Mr HUI sought information as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the detailed plan on the use of additional recurrent resources announced in the 2018 Policy Address to enhance the local recycling network, among other initiatives; (b) the legislative and implementation timetables for taking forward new PRSs on various product categories and banning the use of disposable plastic tableware; and (c) whether overseas cities had implemented PRSs and banned the use of disposable plastic tableware in tandem with MSW charging. <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) regarding the uses of the additional recurrent resources in question, priority would be given to supporting the recycling of materials of lower economic value, such as waste plastics and food waste. Accordingly, the Administration planned to provide free collection services for waste plastics from non-C&I sources and food waste from commercial and industrial ("C&I") sources under pilot schemes. If the pilot scheme on free collection of C&I food waste was successful and 	

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		<p>the proposal for constructing Organic Resources Recovery Centre ("ORRC") Phase 2 was approved, the Administration would be in a better position to consider setting a timetable for the expansion of the free collection service to all sectors (including domestic food waste);</p> <p>(b) two glass management contractors had been appointed to provide collection and treatment services for waste glass containers across the territory and to prepare for introduction of the PRS on glass beverage containers. Meanwhile, the Administration was conducting a consultancy study to explore the feasibility of introducing a PRS on plastic beverage containers and personal care product containers; and</p> <p>(c) while some other cities had proposals for banning or regulating the use of disposable plastic tableware, it was a recent development and had no direct linkage to the launch of waste charging schemes in those cities.</p>	
011321 – 012012	Chairman Mr WU Chi-wai Administration	<p>Mr WU queried how the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") could gain the support of the Hong Kong Housing Authority ("HKHA") and FEHD for the implementation of the proposed charging scheme and related complementary measures, including in particular source separation of domestic waste in PRH estates.</p> <p>The Administration pointed out that EPD had been collaborating with HKHA in organizing the Programme on Source Separation of Wastes in PRH estates. Moreover, EPD had been partnering with several organizations to launch trial projects in public housing estates, rural areas, shopping malls and the catering trade to allow participants to get first-hand experience of quantity-based charging arrangements, which could enhance the participants' understanding of source separation of waste.</p> <p>Mr WU asked about the timetable for the collection and treatment of domestic food waste. The Administration responded that in conjunction with the commencement of operation of the ORRC network, as well as that of a trial scheme on food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works ("STW") in 2019 and Shatin STW at a later stage, the Administration would test out the operational mode of the free collection/recycling service for food waste from the domestic sector. Subject to the development progress of various food waste treatment facilities, the Administration envisaged that free collection service for food waste could be expanded to other premises starting from around 2022. The Administration's long-term target is to provide territory-wide free collection service for all sectors in</p>	

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		respect of food waste.	
012013 – 012552	Chairman Dr CHENG Chung-tai Administration	<p>Dr CHENG expressed objection to the proposed charging scheme which he considered would create undue financial burdens on the general public, given that the Government could utilize some of the fiscal surplus to support waste reduction and recycling work instead. He enquired (a) how the sizes and prices of DBs were determined, and (b) whether the Administration had taken into consideration the weight, and not just the volume, of waste disposable in different DBs for determining DBs' prices.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <p>(a) there was general public support for the proposed implementation of quantity-based MSW charging that accorded with the "polluter pays" principle in pursuing waste reduction;</p> <p>(b) the sizes of DBs were proposed having regard to the sizes of garbage bags commonly used in Hong Kong as well as the experiences of other cities; and</p> <p>(c) the proposed charging by DBs would be based on waste volume instead of weight. The per-litre charge for DBs was proposed to be set at \$0.11, and the proposed prices of DBs of various sizes were rounded off to the nearest ten cents.</p>	
012553 – 013054	Chairman Mr Kenneth LEUNG Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG was concerned whether the Administration had consulted the Competition Commission on the potential arrangement for sale of DBs at retail outlets in lieu of (a) retailers' distribution of PSBs which were currently subject to environmental levy, and/or (b) sale of non-DBs. The Administration took note of his concern and advised that it would consider the issue.</p> <p>Mr LEUNG suggested that DBs and DLs be provided to members of the public free-of-charge for a period of about six to 12 months at the early stage of implementation of the proposed charging scheme to allow the community to get accustomed to the charging arrangements gradually.</p> <p>The Administration responded that it had proposed to put in place a preparatory period of 12 to 18 months after the passage of the Bill and before the actual implementation of MSW charging, as well as a phasing-in period lasting for six months after the commencement of MSW charging to allow the community to get accustomed to the regulatory requirements. The Administration would continue to explore different ways to further promote public awareness of the introduction of MSW charging during the preparatory period. Moreover, under some community</p>	

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		involvement projects on MSW charging, dummy DBs had been provided to participants for free to try out the charging arrangements.	
013055 – 013609	Chairman Mr AU Nok-hin Administration	<p>As certain groups of people with special needs (such as the elderly and people suffering from chronic illnesses) generated larger amount of unavoidable waste compared to the general population, Mr AU opined that the proposed increases of around \$10 per person per month to CSSA standard rates and payment rate of the Higher Old Age Living Allowance would not be enough to mitigate the financial impact of the proposed charging scheme on those people. He urged the Administration to offer more assistance to people with financial hardship.</p> <p>The Administration explained that the above proposal was made with reference to the estimated average spending of a three-member household in waste disposal (i.e. around \$33 per month or around \$10 per person per month if a 10-litre DB was used daily by the household). More assistance would be offered to people with financial hardship through the outreaching efforts and collaboration with non-governmental organizations as appropriate.</p> <p>Mr AU also expressed concern that MSW charging might give rise to free-riding behaviours and abuse of litter containers ("LCs") in public places to evade the use of DBs.</p>	
013610 – 014154	Chairman Mr Jeremy TAM Administration	<p>Mr TAM enquired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) how the Administration would prevent abuse of LCs in public places as a result of the proposed introduction of MSW charging; and (b) whether the amount of waste collected from LCs in public places had decreased after a new design for LCs with smaller openings was adopted in recent years. <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) according to the experiences of other cities, the implementation of waste charging was usually complemented by adjustments to the designs and/or distribution of LCs and recycling bins ("RBs") in public places. The Administration had therefore set up the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places to review the designs and distribution of LCs and RBs; and (b) LCs with smaller openings were introduced by FEHD 	

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		<p>for specific purposes that had no direct relevance to the proposed charging scheme. There was not a notable change in environmental hygiene after the adoption of the new design. In fact, waste from this source only constituted a small part of the total MSW generated in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Mr TAM was unconvinced that further revamping the design of LCs could adequately prevent abuse of LCs in public places after the introduction of MSW charging, if the Bill was passed. He considered that the Administration should clarify the policy objectives of replacing LCs in public places with those with smaller openings, the effectiveness of the measure, and whether/how the measure might complement the proposed charging scheme.</p>	
014155 – 014711	Chairman Mr YIU Si-wing Administration	<p>Mr YIU shared the view that the Administration should provide information on the target deliverables of the proposed charging scheme and the relevant complementary measures for public monitoring of the performance of the scheme. He asked whether the Administration had considered directly subsidizing local recycling businesses that were currently unprofitable.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) around \$300 million to \$400 million of additional resources would be provided in the 2019-2020 financial year to strengthen waste reduction and recycling work on various fronts. The proposed free collection services for waste plastics from non-C&I sources and food waste from C&I sources under pilot schemes would help reduce transportation costs and improve the profitability of the relevant recycling businesses; and (b) the additional resources would be further increased to no less than \$800 million to \$1 billion from the financial year when MSW charging was to be implemented, which would be able to support the expansion of the scope and geographical coverage of the complementary measures. 	
014712 – 015256	Chairman Mr CHU Hoi-dick Administration	<p>Mr CHU asked whether the Administration (a) had gauged public opinions on the proposed charging scheme, and (b) would review the general space and facility requirements for the recovery of recyclables in the community.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) outcomes of two rounds of public engagement exercises showed that there was general public support 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
		<p>for the introduction of a quantity-based charging scheme for MSW; and</p> <p>(b) food waste and waste plastics were two of the major constituents of MSW, and hence priority had been given to support the recovery and recycling of such waste from relevant premises to complement the implementation of MSW charging. The Administration's support measures would focus on reducing the transportation costs and enhancing the quality of those recyclables, which were of low economic value.</p>	
015257 – 015819	Chairman Mr POON Siu-ping Administration	<p>Mr POON enquired about the following:</p> <p>(a) the major factors to be considered when reviewing the charging levels after three years of implementation of MSW charging, if the Bill was passed;</p> <p>(b) how the Administration would address the concerns of property management companies over the potential conflicts between them and residents related to the depositing of non-compliant waste; and</p> <p>(c) the staffing arrangements for the outreaching teams to be formed, including whether the posts concerned would be created on a permanent basis.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <p>(a) one of the major factors to be considered in the said review would be whether the proposed charging levels would be effective in encouraging the public to reduce waste generation;</p> <p>(b) the Administration would continue to work closely with the property management sector to help them put MSW charging into practice (if the Bill was passed), and would develop Best Practice Guides for their reference. Moreover, surveillance and enforcement actions would be conducted in different premises based on the complaints and reports on non-compliance from stakeholders, including property management companies, after the phasing-in period; and</p> <p>(c) the new outreaching teams to be established would comprise permanent civil service posts and non-civil service contract staff. The Administration was studying the suitable staffing arrangements for the purpose.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
015820 – 020233	Chairman Mr KWOK Wai-keung Administration	<p>Mr KWOK enquired about the expected timings of the launch of the free collections services for waste plastics and food waste.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it planned to progressively invite tenders for the provision of free collection service for waste plastics from non-C&I sources under a pilot scheme around the end of 2018. The service would cover Eastern, Kwun Tong and Shatin districts initially. The pilot scheme on the provision of free collection service for food waste from C&I sources was expected to be launched in the second half of 2019.</p>	
020234 – 020510	Chairman Mr Kenneth LEUNG	<p>Extension of meeting</p> <p>The Chairman expressed in-principle support for the proposed introduction of MSW charging. He requested the Administration to provide written response to the major issues raised by members at the meeting.</p> <p>Date of next meeting and arrangements for invitation of public views.</p>	Admin (paragraph 6 of the minutes refers)