

立法會
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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Improvement of
Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 24 May 2021, at 3:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han, JP
Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Mr Edward CHAN Yiu-keung
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LEUNG Yat-king
Assistant Director (Operations) 3
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms Rhonda LO Yuet-yee
Coordinator (Hawker) Special Duties
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr FORK Ping-lam
Coordinator (Waste Collection Facilities)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TSE Yu-cheung
Senior Superintendent (Cleaning and Pest Control) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LEE Ming-wai
Pest Control Officer-in-charge
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Mr Clement HAU
Council Secretary (2) 2

Ms Cally LAI
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

Action

I. Matters arising from previous meetings
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)933/20-21(01), CB(2)1047/20-21(01) and CB(2)1085/20-21(01))

Members noted the Administration's consolidated response to issues raised at the meetings on 23 March 2021 and 27 April 2021 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1085/20-21(01)).

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings at **Annex A**).

(As the Chairman had to leave the meeting at 3:41 pm due to other commitments, Mr Steven HO took the chair for the ensuing discussion.)

3. The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the issues raised by members as set out in **Annex B**.

Action

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1196/20-21(01) on 17 June 2021.)

II. Way forward of the Subcommittee

(The Chairman re-joined and presided over the meeting at 4:09 pm.)

4. The Subcommittee put forward recommendations, as set out in the index of proceedings at **Annex A**, for consideration by the Administration.

5. The Subcommittee concluded its work and agreed that no further meeting was necessary. Pending the Administration's provision of written response to the issues in **Annex B**, a report on the Subcommittee's deliberations would be prepared for submission to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene. The draft report, once ready, would be circulated to members for consideration.

III. Any other business

6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:48 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 August 2021

**Proceedings of the meeting of the Subcommittee on
Issues Relating to the Improvement of Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape
on Monday, 24 May 2021, at 3:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
<i>Agenda item I - Matters arising from previous meetings</i>			
000408 - 000537	Chairman	The Chairman's opening remarks.	
000538 - 000552	Chairman Admin	Administration's consolidated response to issues raised at the meetings on 23 March 2021 and 27 April 2021 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1085/20-21(01)).	
000553 - 001113	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Admin	<p>Mr Tony TSE's view that judging from the rodent infestation situation in Hong Kong, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") needed to step up its rodent control work. His view that FEHD should explore and adopt more effective and efficient methods as well as new technologies in rodent control.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) to sustain the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work at the district level, FEHD conducted two rounds of eight-week anti-rodent operations in designated target areas every year. During the operations, FEHD staff would, among others, (i) step up street cleansing services and the cleaning of public markets and hawker bazaars in the target areas; and (ii) strengthen rodent prevention and control work at problematic spots (such as rear lanes, refuse collection points, markets, hawker bazaars, cooked food markets and peripheral areas of construction sites); and</p> <p>(b) FEHD was exploring the application of innovative technologies to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent work in public markets. Collaborating with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, FEHD was launching a pilot scheme in Yeung Uk Road Market, Tsuen Wan, to deploy wireless motion sensors, rodent traps, bait boxes, etc. through the application of Internet of Things solutions, so as to step up the monitoring of rodent prevention and control work in public markets and carry out targeted improvements and follow-up work.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
001114 - 002036	Chairman Mr Wilson OR Admin Mr Steven HO	<p>Mr Wilson OR's view that the problem of illegal shop front extensions ("SFEs") remained serious in many districts, including Sham Shui Po, where the Administration had conducted inter-departmental joint operations against SFEs between February and March 2021. Relevant departments should come up with more effective strategies and sustainable measures for tackling the problem of street obstruction caused by SFEs and, as necessary, step up enforcement actions.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) in recent months, FEHD had, in targeting rampant illegal SFE situation in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street in Sham Shui Po, revised its enforcement strategy and worked with the Sham Shui Po Police District to mount joint operations under the statutory powers conferred to respective enforcement departments; and</p> <p>(b) in parallel, FEHD and the Police were exploring how to strengthen collaboration, including FEHD taking the lead, with the exercise of the Police's statutory powers in removing obstructions, in arranging the removal and seizure of obstructions placed on carriageways or in public places. The two departments were exploring the feasibility and implementation details of the collaboration model, with an aim to launching a trial scheme in two to three districts in the second half of 2021. The Administration would evaluate the outcome of the trial scheme and closely observe other districts with SFE problems.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the following issues:</p> <p>(a) details of the aforementioned trial scheme; and</p> <p>(b) how government departments concerned could ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of their enforcement efforts against (i) littering and (ii) illegal SFEs particularly at blackspots of such activities.</p> <p><i>[The Chairman left the meeting at 3:41 pm and Mr Steven HO took the chair for the ensuing discussion.]</i></p>	<p>Admin (items (a) and (b) of Annex B refer)</p>

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action Required
002037 - 002915	Mr Steven HO Ms Elizabeth QUAT Admin	<p>Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed concerns about the rodent infestation problem in various districts, including that in public rental housing ("PRH") estates. She urged the Administration to explore ways to enhance the effectiveness of its anti-rodent work.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) to strive for improvements in its rodent control work, FEHD invited in November 2019 a British expert to provide professional advice, including how to foster more public participation and improve the effectiveness of baits and traps. FEHD would continue to increase cooperation with District Councils ("DCs") and local organizations in anti-rodent work and follow up on the expert's advice on baits and traps; and</p> <p>(b) the Housing Department ("HD") and FEHD had set up a Working Group on Rodent Prevention and Control in PRH estates managed by the Housing Authority. The Working Group was co-chaired by the Deputy Directors of FEHD and HD and working under the Pest Control Steering Committee ("PCSC") to formulate and implement rodent prevention and control measures in PRH estates.</p>	
002916 - 003637	Mr Steven HO Admin	<p>Mr Steven HO's views and enquiries:</p> <p>(a) existing measures implemented by relevant departments were limited in scale, as compared with the extent of rodent infestation;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should strengthen its efforts on rodent control; and</p> <p>(c) what measures had been implemented by various departments to combat illegal refuse deposits.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) FEHD would refine various aspects of the Rodent Infestation Survey ("RIS") by strengthening follow-up actions, stepping up data sharing with other departments, improving the transparency of RIS and enhancing monitoring efforts; and</p>	

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		<p>(b) to monitor and combat illegal refuse deposits and improve environmental hygiene, FEHD had, starting from June 2018, launched a scheme on installation of Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots in all districts. As at June 2021, IP cameras had been installed at about 270 illegal refuse deposit blackspots, and the number was expected to increase to about 300 within 2021.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II - Way forward of the Subcommittee</i>			
003638 - 004308	Mr Steven HO Mr Wilson OR Admin	<p>Mr Wilson OR considered that the Administration should:</p> <p>(a) strengthen liaison with local communities and act in concert in the improvement of environmental hygiene, through soliciting views and suggestions from representatives of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committees under the 18 DCs and enhancing community engagement in keeping the city clean;</p> <p>(b) explore the application of new technologies and proactively deploy suitable technologies in enhancing environmental hygiene and pest control; and</p> <p>(c) enhance collaborative efforts across inter-departmental boundaries under PCSC in implementing various pest control measures, with a view to better utilizing the manpower and financial resources of relevant departments in carrying out pest control work.</p>	
004309 - 004722	Mr Steven HO Mr Tony TSE Chairman Admin	<p>Mr Tony TSE suggested that FEHD should:</p> <p>(a) strengthen its enforcement efforts against illegal hawking activities, especially against hawkers causing street obstruction or environmental hygiene problems; and</p> <p>(b) proactively handle complaints/cases about environmental nuisances relating to water dripping from air-conditioners.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) under the current hawker management policy, the Government endeavoured to strike a proper balance between allowing legal hawking activities on the one hand and maintaining</p>	

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		<p>environmental hygiene, safeguarding food safety, ensuring public safety and protecting the public from nuisance on the other. FEHD's frontline staff would continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed hawking activities, especially those involving selling of prohibited/restricted food or cooked food; and</p> <p>(b) FEHD had deployed health inspectors to 19 district environmental hygiene offices across the territory to handle various environmental hygiene issues, including complaints against dripping from air-conditioners. To cope with the increase in workload in this area, FEHD had recruited dedicated teams of contract staff since 2016 to act through a combined strategy of education, warning and enforcement to abate water dripping nuisance, focusing on buildings where the problem of dripping air-conditioners was serious.</p> <p><i>[The Chairman re-joined and presided over the meeting at 4:09 pm.]</i></p>	
004723 - 005243	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p>The Deputy Chairman asked how FEHD would continue to enhance the cleanliness and hygiene condition as well as the management/maintenance of public toilets.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <p>(a) in addition to having public toilets thoroughly cleaned at least twice a day, FEHD had, since September 2018, stepped up inspections and monitoring of service contractors' performance in respect of their cleansing work of public toilets, particularly those with high utilization rates, to ensure that cleansing services provided were up to standard; and</p> <p>(b) FEHD would make use of the additional resources allocated by the 2019-2020 Budget to improve toilet facilities and enhance their cleanliness and hygiene. Refurbishment or facelifting works for about 240 public toilets under FEHD's management would be rolled out progressively between 2019-2020 and 2023-2024.</p>	

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005244 - 010431	Chairman Mr Steven HO	<p>The Chairman put forward the following recommendations for consideration by the Administration in that it should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) review existing policies/legislation concerning offences relating to illegal SFEs, with a view to coming up with solutions for tackling at root the SFE problem; (b) enhance refuse collection facilities and services across the territory, especially in rural areas, in order to cater for the additional demand arising from the increase in population; and (c) review the reliability of RIS in providing surveillance information and, if and where appropriate, refine various aspects of RIS for effective planning and accurate evaluation of pest control work in the future. <p>Mr Steven HO echoed with the Chairman, making further suggestions that the Administration should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) formulate more effective strategies and sustainable measures to tackle the problem of street obstruction caused by SFEs; and (b) step up enforcement efforts against illegal SFEs, especially against repeated/habitual offenders. 	
010432 - 011211	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p><i>[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.]</i></p> <p>The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the problem of illegal extension of business by shops causing street obstruction, especially the specific situations where goods or miscellaneous items were placed on pavements and carriageways. He urged the Administration to step up enforcement actions against illegal SFEs.</p> <p>The Administration's responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) law enforcement against street obstruction was generally taken by various departments (including FEHD, the Police, the Lands Department and the Buildings Department) in accordance with their respective regulatory responsibilities. Depending on circumstances, the Police would remove and seize obstructions 	

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		<p>on carriageways or in public places; and</p> <p>(b) enforcement figures concerning cases of illegal extension of business by shops causing street obstruction were set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)849/20-21(02).</p>	
011212 - 011542	Chairman	The Chairman's views that the Administration should expedite the refurbishment/facelifting works of public toilets by streamlining the work procedures, and engage external parties for more innovative ideas on the maintenance/management of public toilets (e.g. contracting out to private property management companies), so as to enhance the service levels of public toilets.	
011543 - 011812	Chairman Deputy Chairman	The Deputy Chairman called on the Administration to adopt more effective measures for enhancing the environmental hygiene and cityscape.	
011813 - 012201	Chairman Clerk	<p>The Clerk's remark that members' concerns and recommendations would be incorporated into the Subcommittee's report which, once ready, would be circulated to members for consideration and, upon endorsement by members, submitted to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel").</p> <p>The Chairman concluded that the Subcommittee had completed its work and would not hold further meeting. The Subcommittee would recommend the Panel to follow up various issues and recommendations to be set out in the Subcommittee's report with the Administration at a future opportune time.</p>	
<i>Agenda item III - Any other business</i>			
012202 - 012234	Chairman	The Chairman's closing remarks.	

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Improvement of
Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 24 May 2021**

The Administration informed members at the captioned meeting that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and the Police have strengthened collaboration and are currently exploring the feasibility of adopting a new enforcement model under the existing legislative framework, with a view to effectively solving the problem of street obstruction caused by illegal extension of business by shops; and it is the aim of FEHD and the Police to launch a trial scheme on the new enforcement model in two to three districts in the second half of 2021. Against this background, the Administration was requested to provide a written response to the following issues and concerns raised by members:

- (a) details of the trial scheme for tackling the problem of illegal shop front extensions ("SFEs"), including (i) the districts selected for launching the trial scheme; (ii) considerations and criteria adopted when selecting those districts; (iii) whether the Administration has any plan to extend the scheme to all other districts; and if yes, the details of the Administration's work plan and timetable in this regard; and (iv) what specific strategies and measures have been/would be introduced under the new enforcement model for tackling the SFE problem; and
- (b) how government departments concerned could ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of their enforcement efforts against (i) littering and (ii) illegal SFEs particularly at blackspots of such activities.