

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1327/20-21

Ref : CB2/PS/1/20

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

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

Purpose

This report gives an account of the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Improvement of Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape ("the Subcommittee").

The Subcommittee

2. At the meeting of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") held on 10 November 2020, members agreed to appoint a subcommittee under the Panel to study the Administration's measures for improving environmental hygiene and cityscape, and to put forward recommendations where necessary. The terms of reference and membership of the Subcommittee are set out in **Appendices I** and **II** respectively.

3. Under the chairmanship of Hon CHAN Han-pan, the Subcommittee has, since its activation on 13 January 2021, held a total of five meetings and conducted one site visit.

Deliberations of the Subcommittee

4. The Subcommittee has focused its deliberations on the following areas:
- (a) Administration's efforts on various fronts to enhance environmental hygiene and cityscape;
 - (b) measures to improve refuse collection and street cleanliness;

- (c) effectiveness of the Administration's work in rodent control;
- (d) Government's control measures against mosquito and biting midge infestation; and
- (e) Government's work in improving the environmental hygiene of public markets and public toilets.

Administration's efforts in enhancing environmental hygiene and cityscape

Street obstruction problem caused by shops' illegal extension of business

5. Members have pointed out that in tandem with Hong Kong's development as a world-class metropolis, the public has high expectations on environmental hygiene and cityscape. Among others, a key part of environmental hygiene and cityscape improvement is street management. Members are deeply concerned that shops in many districts (e.g. Sham Shui Po, Mongkok, Kowloon City, Yuen Long, etc.) often extend their business operation illegally to public areas, by placing goods or commodities on pavements or putting miscellaneous items (e.g. foam boxes) on carriageways, causing serious obstruction to pedestrians and the traffic. In members' view, the Administration should step up enforcement actions against shop front extensions ("SFEs").

6. The Administration has explained that illegal extension of business by shops is a street management problem straddling the purview of a number of government departments. At present, law enforcement against specific situations of street obstruction is generally taken by various enforcement departments, including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), the Hong Kong Police Force ("the Police"), the Lands Department ("LandsD") and the Buildings Department, in accordance with their respective regulatory responsibilities. As FEHD's core function is to maintain environmental hygiene, it accords priority to handling cases causing obstruction to scavenging operations or cases relating to illegal hawking or unauthorized extension of food premises. Having regard to the actual circumstances, FEHD will take enforcement actions under relevant provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) ("PHMSO") and the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), including issuing fixed penalty notices ("FPNs")¹ or summons, taking arrest actions and seizures of illegally hawked

¹ The Fixed Penalty System has come into operation following the enactment of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) on 24 September 2016. Law enforcement officers may issue FPNs to offenders causing obstruction resultant from illegal extension of business by shops; and the current penalty is \$1,500.

goods. Depending on the situation at the scene, officers of various enforcement departments will take the most appropriate actions under their purview; and the Police will take part in joint operations to offer assistance, as required, to other departments including FEHD.

7. Some members are of the view that issuing FPNs (with the current penalty level set at \$1,500) to offenders committing illegal SFEs cannot achieve adequate deterrent effect, in particular on repeated/habitual offenders who regard the fine as part of the operating costs. These members opine that the Administration should review the existing policies and consider the need of amending relevant legislation or increasing the maximum penalties for the offences, in order to tackle at root the problem of obstruction of public places caused by illegal SFEs.

8. As advised by the Administration, the Fixed Penalty System ("FPS") is mainly targeted at cases which are straightforward, clear-cut and capable of being easily established, so that problems associated with SFEs are tackled in a quicker and more effective manner. Where the case of obstruction is more serious or complicated (e.g. involving repeated offenders), consideration will be given to issuing summons and/or taking arrest action under section 4A of the Summary Offences Ordinance. If situation warrants, the Department of Justice and relevant enforcement departments will consider applying to the court for handing down heavier penalties under the summons system. Apart from summons action, FEHD may also take other enforcement actions against illegal hawking, such as arrest and seizure of goods/articles under sections 83B, 84 and 86 of PHMSO.

9. The Administration has further advised that in the past three years, the number of FPNs issued by FEHD against SFEs has been increasing progressively (rising from a total of 7 586 in 2018 to 10 734 in 2020), representing an increase of more than 40%. Nonetheless, the number of complaints received by FEHD during the same period has also increased. The Administration considers the existing penalty level under FPS having sufficient deterring effect, but assures members that FEHD will continue to take stringent enforcement action to combat illegal acts related to SFEs.

10. Noting that the inter-departmental joint operations launched under a trial scheme and conducted between February and March 2021 against street obstruction caused by SFEs in Sham Shui Po District have yielded satisfactory results, members have called on the Administration to extend the trial scheme to all other districts.

11. According to the Administration, in recent years, FEHD has observed that some shop operators, for convenience sake, place goods on the roadsides

and even the carriageways, illegally extending the business areas. SFEs not only cause illegal occupation of public places and obstruction of passageways, but also jeopardize the safety of road users. Amidst the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic, some people have reduced the frequency of dining out and prefer buying fresh food for cooking at home. This contributes to a rise in the sales volume of fresh food outlets, thereby expediting the intake of goods which causes occasional occupation of public places. Despite enhanced enforcement efforts, unruly operators continue to place goods outside their shops and regard fixed penalty as part of their operating costs. In this light, FEHD considers it necessary to change its enforcement strategy. On top of stepping up prosecution against offenders, the removal and seizure of obstructions (including goods) placed on carriageways or in public places are deemed vital for greater deterrent effect.

12. As advised by the Administration, since 2020, FEHD and the Police have been exploring ways to strengthen collaboration against obstruction on public passageway by goods/articles, with a view to effectively solving the SFE problem in accordance with their respective enforcement powers conferred under the existing legislative framework. Under the specific collaboration model, FEHD would take the lead, with the Police's exercise of its statutory powers in removing obstructions, in arranging the removal and seizure of obstructions on carriageways or in public places. FEHD and the Police are working on the implementation details of the collaboration model. Upon finalizing the details, FEHD plans to launch the trial scheme in two to three districts. In the selection of trial districts, FEHD's factors of consideration include the current SFE situation and effectiveness of enforcement efforts in the districts, deployment of resources (e.g. manpower, storage and transportation requirements) and the concerted effort of stakeholders concerned. The target of FEHD is to strive for the launch of the trial scheme in the third quarter of 2021. In considering the way forward, FEHD will evaluate the outcome of the trial scheme and closely observe other districts with SFE problems. Subject to the outcome, FEHD will discuss with the Police the progressive extension of the trial scheme.

Measures to improve street cleanliness and refuse collection

Unauthorized graffiti or display/posting of publicity materials

13. Members are concerned about the proliferation of unauthorized graffiti and display of bills/posters in public places, causing serious environmental hygiene problems. There are views that apart from removing the unauthorized bills/posters/graffiti thoroughly and expeditiously, stringent actions against such offences should be taken.

14. According to the Administration, it is an offence to display or affix bills or posters on streets or in public places without the permission of LandsD and FEHD. FEHD staff will, from time to time, remove unauthorized publicity materials (including those with easy-mount frames and other display fittings) found on streets or in public places and take stringent actions against such activities. In accordance with established procedures, FEHD will work with relevant departments and carry out joint operations to clean up bills or posters displayed or affixed without permission. At the district level, FEHD will keep the ground situation of individual locations in view and consider the need of conducting special enforcement operations. If the publicity materials contain sufficient information for tracing the beneficiaries, FEHD will issue warning letters to them and, where practicable, recover from them the costs of removing the materials. Prosecution against the beneficiaries will also be considered. Separately, the Highways Department ("HyD") also conducts regular inspection of the public roads and ancillary facilities under its management/maintenance. If graffiti is found or related reports are received, HyD will arrange a clean-up in a timely manner. Between July 2019 and December 2020, HyD has removed close to 9 200 graffiti. In cases where criminal elements are involved, the Police will take appropriate follow-up actions.

Illegal disposal of waste in public places and deposit blackspots

15. Members are deeply concerned about the increasing trend of illegal disposal of domestic waste/construction waste on streets/in public places. There are views that the Administration should come up with effective measures and step up enforcement efforts to combat such offences.

16. The Administration has advised that apart from stepping up street cleansing services, enforcement actions as well as publicity and education, FEHD has installed Internet Protocol ("IP") cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots over the territory.² The IP cameras capture video footage of the vehicles illegally dumping the refuse so that FEHD can (a) identify and prosecute the registered owners of the vehicles and (b) plan for more effective enforcement actions based on the time and mode of such offences. To tackle cleanliness offences, FEHD has, since 2017, set up 35 dedicated enforcement teams ("DETs"). It is FEHD's plan to set up five additional DETs in the second quarter of 2021, to strengthen inspection and enforcement against

² According to the Administration, FEHD has, starting from June 2018, launched a scheme on installation of IP cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots in all districts. As at June 2021, IP cameras have been installed at about 270 blackspots across the territory; and the number is expected to increase to about 300 within 2021. The locations installed with IP cameras are available on FEHD's website.

various public cleanliness offences including illegal refuse deposit at blackspots. FEHD will closely monitor the targeted blackspots and, in the light of actual circumstances, suitably adjust its action plans (including the relocation of IP cameras) to ensure the effectiveness of enforcement actions.

17. The Administration has further advised that there is established division of work among relevant government departments in tackling illegal disposal of construction waste. While HyD will assist in the removal of construction waste illegally placed on public roads under its maintenance; LandsD is responsible for handling construction waste disposed on unleased and unallocated government land³. Besides, the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") is responsible for enforcing the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) and taking enforcement and prosecution actions against offenders. To monitor and combat fly-tipping or illegal waste disposal activities, EPD has, as of January 2021, installed closed-circuit television monitoring systems at about 160 illegal refuse deposit blackspots.

Cleansing of public roads and other road facilities

18. In response to members' questions about cleansing work in respect of public roads, flyovers as well as lifts and escalators, the Administration has explained that cleansing and sweeping of public roads are under the purview of FEHD and HyD. Currently, FEHD has 30 Central Divider Teams and 10 Mechanical Street Sweeping Teams responsible for cleansing and sweeping the carriageways, flyovers and road dividers, as well as clearing the refuse at central dividers and roadside of the public roads. Generally, the frequency of cleansing ranges from once daily to once bi-monthly and may be adjusted in light of actual circumstances. HyD, on the other hand, is responsible for managing the cleansing work of 1 000 footbridges and 500 pedestrian subways. HyD has two Mechanical Street Sweeping Teams which are responsible for cleaning up the highways under its ambit once daily. The cleansing frequency is adjusted based on their usage.

19. The Administration has further advised that starting from late December 2020, FEHD and HyD have worked together to enhance the cleanliness of footbridges and subways, in accordance with their respective areas of responsibility. The works include: sweeping floors, removing dirt and localized cleaning as necessary by FEHD; and cleaning floors and walls and handling cleansing complaints by HyD. Where necessary, HyD will arrange beautification works for footbridges and subways after the clean-up.

³ Not including government land managed by other government departments.

Refuse collection facilities in rural areas

20. According to members' observation, the existing refuse collection facilities in some rural areas are insufficient to cater for the additional demand arising from the increase in population and the developments in the areas. This has led to refuse being stacked up along the pavements and an increasing trend of illegal disposal of domestic waste on streets. Question has been raised as to whether the Administration has any plans for enhancing the refuse collection services in rural areas.

21. According to the Administration, it is aware of the needs of residents in rural areas for enhanced refuse collection service. For this reason, new technologies have been introduced. For example, FEHD has put on trial solar-powered aluminium refuse collection points ("RCPs") at 31 rural sites in phases from September 2019 to December 2020. When members of the public approach these RCPs with refuse in hand, the door at the opening will open automatically, allowing the deposit of refuse into the refuse bin inside RCPs. FEHD will assess the effectiveness of solar-powered aluminum RCPs and consider extending this facility to other rural areas. This apart, FEHD has launched a pilot scheme for RCPs with lower refuse yield in rural areas on the use of the third-generation solar-powered compacting refuse bins ("SCRBs"). A total of 24 SCRBS have been installed in rural residences of nine districts by two phases since September and October 2020 respectively. For RCPs with higher refuse yield, solar-powered mobile refuse compactors have been put on trial at three rural sites in Yuen Long District (for one year) since July 2020 and one site in Tsuen Wan District (for four months) since October 2020. To facilitate members' better understanding of how these specific facilities operate, a visit to observe the operation of the solar-powered aluminium RCPs and solar-powered mobile refuse compactors was conducted on 26 April 2021.⁴

Monitoring of service performance of outsourced contractors

22. Measures adopted by the Administration for monitoring the performance of outsourced cleansing service contractors have all along been an issue of great concern to members. As advised by the Administration, to ensure that the service performance of outsourced contractors meets the contract requirements, FEHD adopts the risk-based management approach to monitor outsourced contractors' performance and conducts regular spot checks

⁴ The purpose of the site visit, conducted on 26 April 2021, is to observe the operation of FEHD's RCPs and rodent surveillance facilities in designated locations in Yuen Long, including: (a) the solar-powered aluminium RCP as well as the solar-powered mobile refuse compactor; and (b) the thermal camera monitoring system for rodent surveillance.

and surprise inspections in accordance with the frequency and pattern of inspections determined by the existing mechanism. FEHD also maintains regular communication with the outsourced contractors to advise and remind them of the areas requiring attention, follow-up and improvement. In addition, FEHD is enhancing its complaint management information system by further dividing the complaints into categories of refuse collection, removal and street cleansing to strengthen the analysis of data concerning cleanliness complaints. Furthermore, the existing contract management system will be revamped. FEHD will collect data from its complaint management information system and contract management system for compilation of consolidated management returns, so as to facilitate the analysis of information about the number of complaints and follow-up actions to be taken (e.g. issuance of default notices), which will assist in the monitoring and improvement of outsourced contractors' performance.

23. As FEHD has been advocating the deployment of technologies for mechanization and automation to enhance the quality and efficiency of street cleansing and refuse collection services, members opine that FEHD should consider imposing certain contract requirements (e.g. the need to adopt/the timetable of adopting new technologies/equipment) in the service contracts for compliance by all outsourced contractors. According to the Administration, after trial runs, FEHD will review the suitability and effectiveness of the technologies⁵ on the basis of such parameters as data analysis, cost effectiveness as well as views from stakeholders and consider extending the application of individual technologies. Subject to their compatibility with existing contracts, technologies which have been proven to be effective will be incorporated, according to their uses, into the tender in the form of contractual provisions or a separate contract for territory-wide application.

Effectiveness of the Government's pest control work

Rodent control

24. Members have expressed strong dissatisfaction that FEHD and relevant departments have not been proactive enough in tackling the worsening rodent infestation problem in many districts. There are criticisms that almost all of the Government's existing measures/new initiatives (e.g. enhanced anti-rodent operations in designated target areas or selected public markets) are limited in scale and unable to completely eradicate the rodent infestation problem; and there is a lack of coordination among various departments in carrying out rodent prevention and control work. In members' views, the

⁵ The details and timetable for introduction of relevant technologies by FEHD in recent years are set out at Annex 1 to LC Paper No. [CB\(2\)1085/20-21\(01\)](#).

Administration should tackle the problem at source, by improving the environmental hygiene conditions across the territory.

25. The Administration has emphasized that the Pest Control Steering Committee ("PCSC")⁶ coordinates and synergizes, through providing high-level direction, the pest control efforts of three bureaux and 21 government departments. PCSC promotes inter-departmental coordination and regularly reviews the effectiveness of the pest control measures carried out by various bureaux and departments. It also provides a platform for departments concerned to grasp the latest situation and adopt effective prevention and control measures at venues under their purview. In addition, FEHD has all along been rendering professional advice and technical support to PCSC, and provides specific recommendations and guidelines on pest control work for other departments. To enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent work, FEHD will adopt a series of measures in various aspects including strengthened rodent trapping, training and experience sharing.

26. In response to members' enquiries about FEHD's introduction of new technologies/techniques as well as its timetable of applying new technologies/techniques in rodent surveillance and control work, the Administration has advised that among other technologies/methods introduced in recent years⁷, FEHD has been making use of the thermal camera monitoring system to detect the locations frequented by rodents, identify their access points and assess the effectiveness of anti-rodent operations. During the site visit on 26 April 2021, members were shown to and briefed on the operation of the thermal camera monitoring system⁸ for rodent surveillance.

27. Members have strongly suggested the Administration to encourage public participation in rodent control work, say, by launching promotion campaigns to enhance public awareness of the need to keep the city clean or by organizing competitions for soliciting innovative ideas/effective methods on rodent disinfection (such as rodent trap design competitions). Members also consider it necessary for the Administration to conduct large-scale and intensive anti-rodent operations in all 18 districts concurrently for a longer period,

⁶ The former Anti-mosquito Steering Committee was re-organized to form the Pest Control Steering Committee in July 2018. In addition to mosquito control, PCSC's terms of reference were expanded to cover other pest control work including the prevention and control of rodents and biting midges.

⁷ The details and timetable for FEHD's introduction of technologies/methods in rodent surveillance and control work in recent years are set out at Annex 2 to LC Paper No. [CB\(2\)1085/20-21\(01\)](#).

⁸ Please also see footnote 4 above.

in order to maximize and sustain the Government's efforts in combating rodent infestation.

28. The Administration stresses that keeping Hong Kong clean is the crux of anti-rodent work. In addition to prevention and control measures targeting locations with serious rodent infestation undertaken by various departments and enhanced rodent surveillance work, FEHD has launched a new dedicated website to promote to the public the message of "Keep Hong Kong Clean, We Can Do It!". Information on household and environmental hygiene are disseminated through various channels, including the use of YouTube as well as Facebook and Instagram pages of Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak. Besides, FEHD organizes games and competitions to enhance the public's knowledge in rodent prevention and control.

Control work against mosquito and biting midge infestation

29. The fact that the problem of mosquito infestation remains unresolved in many districts has attracted members' criticism. It has come to members' attention that over the past three years, the numbers of prosecutions instituted by FEHD under PHMSO against construction sites found with mosquito breeding are higher than those involving other premises.⁹ Enquiry has been raised on measures to assist the construction industry in strengthening mosquito prevention and control at construction sites.

30. According to the Administration, it conducts annually an inter-departmental anti-mosquito campaign in three phases, during which the pest control staff of FEHD will pay special attention to areas in close proximity to residential premises and construction sites; step up inspection, mosquito control actions and publicity efforts; and provide contractors and workers with technical advice on prevention of mosquitoes in construction sites. Besides, FEHD, the Labour Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council ("OSHC") have jointly compiled two sets of guidelines on mosquito prevention in construction sites for reference by contractors and workers. On the education front, in addition to its participation in the talks organized by OSHC every year to brief the participants on anti-mosquito messages, FEHD have, in recent years, co-organized with the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union, the Home Affairs Department etc. talks on mosquito prevention in construction sites for the personnel of the construction industry.

⁹ According to the Administration, the numbers of prosecutions instituted between 2018 and 2020 against construction sites stand at 197, 162 and 154 respectively; while those involving other premises are 9, 11 and 4.

31. Members are also concerned about the problem of biting midge¹⁰ infestation in many districts, which is particularly acute in parks, playgrounds and the countryside. In members' views, specific measures should be taken to prevent the proliferation of biting midges. As advised by the Administration, soil surface with lots of fallen leaves and withered plants, sand traps, or choked surface channels are suitable breeding places for biting midges. As these breeding places are somewhat similar to those for *Aedes albopictus*¹¹, control actions taken for elimination of potential mosquito breeding places (e.g. removal of fallen leaves from soil surface or choked surface channels) before the rainy season would also be effective towards biting midges. FEHD has already issued a technical guideline on prevention and control of biting midges to various departments (including the Housing Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) for early preparation on prevention work to eliminate breeding places of midges.

32. The Administration has further advised that the numbers of biting midges-related complaints received over the past few years have been on a decreasing trend (with 115 complaints received in 2019, 56 in 2020 and 8 during the months from January to March 2021). This shows that the nuisance caused by biting midges has been alleviated. That said, the Administration has assured members that FEHD will continue to prevent and control biting midge infestation in public places through routine inspections, district feedbacks and follow-up actions on complaints received; and will continue to provide technical advice and training to other departments on controlling biting midge infestation.

Environmental hygiene of public markets and public toilets

Cleansing and anti-rodent work in public markets

33. Members have pointed out that the hygiene conditions of some FEHD's public markets are poor and rodent infestation is serious. While eliminating rodents' food sources and hiding places is essential to the rodent control work in public markets, some members opine that in order to maintain cleanliness and environmental hygiene, it is necessary to take enforcement actions against public market stall tenants for committing irregularities/cleanliness offences, such as improper storage/disposal of refuse.

¹⁰ Biting midges are minute blood sucking flies which breed in aquatic or semi-aquatic environment (e.g. in damp places or in mud).

¹¹ *Aedes albopictus*, which is a vector of dengue fever, is one of the mosquito species commonly found in Hong Kong.

34. As advised by the Administration, FEHD has, since 2020, increased resources and piloted intensive anti-rodent operations at 11 public markets. After summarizing the experience and effectiveness of the operations as well as making reference to the views of a rodent expert, FEHD has decided to progressively extend the intensive anti-rodent operations¹² to 73 markets with high patronage rate under its management from October 2020 onwards. Market stall tenants are encouraged to complement FEHD's efforts by conducting cleansing and disinfection at their stalls, clearing disused articles, and putting their goods (especially food items) in proper storage, with a view to keeping their stalls and the common areas in a clean and sanitary condition as well as eliminating rodents' food sources and hiding places. In addition, since October 2020, FEHD has been conducting deep cleansing operations¹³ at markets with a high patronage rate once every three months.

35. The Administration has further advised that FEHD is 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 ("EMSD"), FEHD is launching a pilot scheme in Yeung Uk Road Market, Tsuen Wan, to deploy wireless motion sensors¹⁴, 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 focused improvements and follow-up work. To complement FEHD's effort, EMSD will introduce new types of rodent traps and bait boxes for testing. These devices, which either have built-in wireless sensors or can be equipped with such sensors, can remotely notify the market management staff once rodents are caught or the bait is depleted, thus ensuring timely treatment and bait refilling/replacement.

¹² According to the Administration, during the intensive anti-rodent operations, market staff will thoroughly clear the refuse and clean the passageways and drains in the markets every night after the markets' opening hours so as to eliminate the food sources of rodents. Traps will also be placed extensively in market areas in the small hours to strengthen the anti-rodent efforts.

¹³ When conducting deep cleansing operations, FEHD will thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the common areas and communal facilities of the markets and will perform deep cleansing on the periphery of the markets and their nearby streets. FEHD will also appeal to market stall tenants to cleanse and disinfect their stalls, with a view to improving the overall hygiene condition of the markets.

¹⁴ According to the Administration, FEHD will install wireless motion sensors at strategic locations in public markets. Data collected by these sensors can assist market management staff in monitoring the areas and the extent of rodent activities, thereby formulating targeted rodent prevention and control strategies. The relevant data can also be used to continuously monitor the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work.

Environmental hygiene of public toilets

36. Members have expressed grave concern about the poor hygiene condition and cleanliness of public toilets managed by FEHD, as complaints are often received about odour problem, inadequate ventilation, wet floor and poor management/maintenance of public toilets. Members generally consider it necessary for the Administration to enhance the overall hygiene and service levels of public toilets. There are suggestions that (a) FEHD should require its service contractors to increase the manpower and resources for performing the cleansing work, so as to ensure that they would provide up to standard services; (b) improvement measures should be worked out with regard to the hygiene condition and level of utilization of public toilets; and (c) the refurbishment/facelifting works for the 240 public toilets under the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme ("EPTRP") should be speeded up.

37. According to the Administration, FEHD staff will, in accordance with the operational guidelines on contract management, check the contractors' compliance with cleansing service contracts and monitor their work and performance through site inspections, surprise checks and examination of job records. In the event of any irregularities, defaults or non-compliance with contract provisions in the delivery of public toilet cleansing service, FEHD will take follow-up actions including issuance of verbal and written warnings, issuance of default notices and deduction of monthly payment. On top of the existing inspection mechanism, FEHD has, since 1 April 2020, set up a new inspection system, under which the contractor's management staff and FEHD's district management staff are required to conduct regular inspections of public toilets and other facilities in the district to ensure that the service delivered is up to the satisfaction level as required under the contract. As for the 240 public toilets under EPTRP, FEHD has been working closely with the Architectural Services Department to streamline the work procedures and speed up the refurbishment/facelifting work processes. Separately, FEHD will consider the need for and means of refurbishing/facelifting certain public toilets managed by FEHD that are not under EPTRP.

38. Noting that FEHD has applied anti-microbial coating to the facilities in certain public toilets in view of the COVID-19 epidemic, members have sought information on the effectiveness of the coating. As explained by the Administration, anti-microbial coating technology has been adopted to inhibit the growth of bacteria and viruses. It has been piloted at about 270 public toilets with high utilization rates. The coating is applied to frequently touched surfaces in those toilets (such as door knobs and handrails of toilets, surfaces of toilet seats and hand-dryers). FEHD will assess the effectiveness of anti-microbial coating in reducing the risk of spreading virus under the

COVID-19 epidemic; and consider expanding its use if the costing is found to be effective.

Recommendations

39. The Subcommittee urges the Administration to take into account the views and concerns expressed by members on various issues and recommends that the Administration should:

- (a) review existing policies/legislation concerning offences relating to illegal SFEs, with a view to formulating more effective strategies and sustainable measures to tackle the problem of street obstruction caused by SFEs;
- (b) step up enforcement efforts against illegal SFEs, especially against repeated/habitual offenders;
- (c) 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 District Councils and enhancing community engagement in keeping the city clean;
- (d) 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;
- (e) explore the application of new technologies and proactively deploy suitable technologies in enhancing environmental hygiene and pest control;
- (f) 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;
- (g) review the reliability of Rodent Infestation Survey ("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;

- (h) involve respective Market Management Consultative Committees in the making of decisions in relation to the daily management of public markets (such as arranging minor repair works for the markets), so as to expedite such repair works; and
- (i) 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.

40. The Subcommittee also recommends that the Panel should follow up various issues and recommendations set out in this report with the Administration at a future opportune time.

Advice sought

41. Members are invited to note the deliberations and recommendations of the Subcommittee.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
23 July 2021

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

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

Terms of Reference

To study and follow up on measures for the improvement of environmental hygiene and cityscape, and to put forward recommendations where necessary.

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

Membership list*

Chairman Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP

Deputy Chairman Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

Members Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS, JP
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

(Total : 8 members)

Clerk Miss Josephine SO

Legal Adviser Ms Wendy KAN

Date 1 July 2021

* Changes in membership are shown in Annex to Appendix II.

Annex to Appendix II

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

Changes in membership

Member	Relevant date
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP	Since 9 February 2021
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai	Up to 26 April 2021