

LC Paper No. CB(2)438/20-21 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

### Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 10 November 2020, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present	:	Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS (Chairman) Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP (Deputy Chairman) Hon James TO Kun-sun Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon Claudia MO Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP Hon WU Chi-wai, MH Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP Hon Alvin YEUNG Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin Han Holden CHOW Ho ding
		Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
		Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding Hon SHIU Ka-chun
		Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
		Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
		Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

		Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai Hon KWONG Chun-yu Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Members absent	:	Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon HUI Chi-fung Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

[According to the announcement made by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on 11 November 2020 pursuant to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Qualification of the Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Kenneth LEUNG, KWOK Ka-ki, Dennis KWOK Wing-hang and Alvin YEUNG were disqualified from being a member of the Legislative Council on 30 July 2020.]

#### Public Officers : <u>Item VI</u>

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP Under Secretary for Food and Health

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

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

Mr LAI Siu-kwong Assistant Director (Operations) 3 (Acting) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms Jacqueline HO Yuen-man District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr WONG Chuen-fai, JP Assistant Director (Waste Recycling Review and Special Duties) Environmental Protection Department

		Mr Edward TSE Cheong-wo, JP Project Director 3 Architectural Services Department
		Mr Saadullah SAT Sing-hin Senior Project Director 324 Architectural Services Department
		Mr Kepler YUEN Shing-yip District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West Planning Department
Clerk in attendance	:	Miss Josephine SO Chief Council Secretary (2) 2
Staff in attendance	:	Ms Wendy LO Senior Council Secretary (2) 2
		Mr Clement HAU Council Secretary (2) 2
		Miss Cally LAI Legislative Assistant (2) 2

#### Action

## I. Election of Deputy Chairman for the 2020-2021 session

<u>The Chairman</u> called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Mr SHIU Ka-fai was nominated by <u>Mr WONG Ting-kwong</u> and the nomination was seconded by <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u>. <u>Mr SHIU Ka-fai</u> accepted the nomination. Dr Helena WONG was nominated by <u>Mr WU Chi-wai</u> and the nomination was seconded by <u>Mr Alvin YEUNG</u>. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> accepted the nomination. No further nominations were made.

2. <u>The Chairman</u> then announced a vote by secret ballot. The result of the vote was that 21 members voted for Mr SHIU Ka-fai and 11 members voted for Dr Helena WONG. <u>The Chairman</u> declared Mr SHIU Ka-fai elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2020-2021 session.

#### Action II. Confi

## **Confirmation of minutes of meeting** (LC Paper No. CB(2)89/20-21)

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2020 were confirmed.

# **III.** Information papers issued since the last meeting (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)77/20-21(01) and (02))

4. <u>Members</u> noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

- (a) letter dated 22 October 2020 from Hon KWOK Ka-ki suggesting various issues of concern for discussion by the Panel; and
- (b) letter dated 22 October 2020 from Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggesting an issue of concern for discussion by the Panel.

# **IV.** Date of next meeting and items for discussion (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)153/20-21(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in December 2020

5. <u>Members</u> agreed to discuss the following two items, which were proposed by the Administration, at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 8 December 2020 at 2:30 pm:

- (a) Proposed legislative amendments to Schedule 2 to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) to facilitate clinical training of veterinary students; and
- (b) Market Modernization Programme project in Aberdeen Market and related arrangements.

6. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> suggested that the Administration should be requested to update the Panel, under the item "Market Modernization Programme project in Aberdeen Market and related arrangements", on the implementation progress of other overhaul projects planned for Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market under the Market Modernization Programme ("MMP"). <u>Mr CHAN Han-pan</u> and <u>Mr KWOK Wai-keung</u> made a similar suggestion.

7. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> considered it necessary for the Administration to take

the opportunity to report to the Panel at the December meeting on the overall progress of implementing various overhaul or minor refurbishment/improvement works projects for existing public markets. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that the Administration should also brief members on the progress of developing new public markets in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung Town Centre (including the establishment of temporary markets, e.g. in Tin Shui Wai), when the MMP project in Aberdeen Market was discussed.

(*Post-meeting note*: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)473/20-21 issued on 4 December 2020 that as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") outbreak in Hong Kong had been getting more severe, the Chairman had directed that the Panel would hold meetings after the epidemic was mitigated, and the meeting originally scheduled for 8 December 2020 would be rescheduled to a later date. On 21 December 2020, members were further informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)548/20-21 that the regular meeting of the Panel in January 2021 would be converted as a policy briefing-cum-meeting to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") on relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address and to discuss three items proposed by the Administration, including the two items as referred to in paragraph 5 above and another item mentioned below in paragraph 9(a).)

Items proposed for discussion at future meetings

8. Referring to the letters respectively from Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Ms Elizabeth QUAT as mentioned in paragraph 4 above, <u>the Chairman</u> suggested and <u>members</u> raised no objection that the issues of concerns raised by Dr KWOK and Ms QUAT be included into the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

9. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> expressed concern over media reports that a sample of frozen chicken wings imported to China from Brazil in August 2020 had been tested positive for COVID-19. She suggested that the Administration should be requested to brief members on whether surveillance of imported frozen and chilled meat to Hong Kong had been/would be enhanced amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>Dr WONG</u> also hoped that arrangement could be made for early discussion of the following items already in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (LC Paper No. CB(2)153/20-21(01)):

(a) public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF);

- (b) wholesale market consultancy study; and
- (c) issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market.

10. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> expressed concern that a number of cases involving serious cruelty to animals had occurred over the past few months. He requested the Administration to update members on its work in handling reports or complaints involving cruelty to animals. <u>The Chairman</u> and <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> suggested that the Administration should also update members on the strategies and measures for tackling the nuisance caused (e.g. jeopardizing environmental hygiene, posing threats to the personal safety of the public and damaging crops in farmland) by wild pigs appearing in residential and rural areas.

11. <u>The Chairman</u> further said that it was necessary for the Administration to update members on the control measures against illegal fishing activities in Hong Kong waters.

12. <u>The Chairman</u> informed members that he and the Deputy Chairman would meet with SFH to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2020-2021 session. He would convey members' requests to SFH at the said meeting.

V. Proposal from Hon CHAN Han-pan to appoint a subcommittee under the Panel to study issues relating to the improvement of environmental hygiene and cityscape (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)32/20-21(01) and CB(2)153/20-21(03))

13. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Mr CHAN Han-pan</u> briefed members on his proposal for appointment of a subcommittee under the Panel to study issues relating to the improvement of environmental hygiene and cityscape, as detailed in his letter dated 15 October 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)32/20-21(01)).

14. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u>, <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u>, <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u>, <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> and <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> expressed support for Mr CHAN Han-pan's proposal.

15. Referring to the proposed terms of reference ("ToRs"), work plan and time frame of the subcommittee as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)153/20-21(03), <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u>, <u>Dr Helena WONG</u>, <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u>, <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u> and <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> opined that the subcommittee, if

appointed, should accord priority to review the effectiveness of the Government's current work on rodent and mosquito control as set out under item (a) of the proposed work plan. <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> suggested that the coverage of item (a) should be broadened to include the Government's control work against biting midge infestation.

16. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> and <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> expressed concern that the rodent problem was acute in many districts (particularly in public markets and public housing estates). In their view, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and relevant departments should be requested to review the effectiveness of measures and methods currently adopted for rodent prevention and control and to enhance the performance of services contractors engaged to provide pest control services in the territory. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> opined that relevant departments should investigate whether the virus was transmitted by rodents for those COVID-19 cluster outbreaks previously occurred in some wet markets.

17. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> suggested that in respect of rodent control work, the subcommittee should also study the coordination work among relevant departments, the Administration's efforts on enhancing public engagement and application of new technologies. <u>Mr KWOK Wai-keung</u> and <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u> suggested including the review of FEHD's progress of applying new technologies in rodent control in the subcommittee's work plan. <u>The Chairman</u> added that FEHD should be requested to report to the subcommittee on the criteria for selecting technological equipment for refuse collection and monitoring environmental hygiene conditions as well as the effectiveness of the application of new technologies in those areas.

18. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> said that there were media reports that as some food premises in New York were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, rodents in that city had become more aggressive when they hunted for other sources of food (e.g. food waste from domestic households). In his view, FEHD might need to tackle the rodent infestation problem in various districts across the territory from a new perspective amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.

19. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> supported that the subcommittee, if appointed, should examine various environmental hygiene issues as set out under items (b) to (e) of the proposed work plan. Referring to item (b), <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> said that FEHD should collect views from relevant stakeholders in the community and formulate improvement measures for consideration of the subcommittee at a later stage. She added that the subcommittee should also review the existing refuse collection operations in the territory.

20. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> suggested that the subcommittee should follow up with relevant departments on how to tackle the problem of illegal display of bills/graffiti in public places (including the so-called "Lennon Walls"). <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> noted with concern that new technologies such as Internet Protocol cameras and thermal and night-vision cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function had been installed at public places for monitoring environmental hygiene conditions and surveillance of rodent infestation. He considered that FEHD should be requested to brief the subcommittee on how a balance between maintaining street cleanliness and ensuring privacy of the public could be struck.

21. Concluding the discussion, <u>the Chairman</u> said that members endorsed the appointment of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Improvement of Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape with the proposed ToRs, work plan and time frame. <u>Members</u> agreed that the work plan of the Subcommittee be fine-tuned in the light of the comments made by members at the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note*: The fine-tuned ToRs, work plan and time frame of the Subcommittee was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)326/20-21(01) on 16 November 2020.)

VI. Construction of a joint-user building for reprovisioning a refuse collection point and setting up a community recycling centre at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road, Yuen Long (3189GK)

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)153/20-21(04), CB(2)751/19-20(01), CB(2)765/19-20(01) and CB(2)777/19-20(01))

22. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Under Secretary for Food and Health</u> briefed members on the proposed works project to construct a joint-user building ("JUB") for reprovisioning a refuse collection point ("RCP") and setting up a community recycling centre ("CRC") at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road in Yuen Long, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)153/20-21(04)).

Public consultation on the proposed works project

23. <u>Dr Helena WONG</u> noted that when FEHD, in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") and the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"), briefed the Environmental Improvement Committee ("EIC") of the fifth term of Yuen Long District Council ("YLDC") on the proposed project on 11 March 2019, DC members supported the project and its design. However, when FEHD and relevant departments

attended the meeting of the Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture and Fisheries Committee ("ECCA&FC") of the current term of YLDC on 9 March 2020 to brief, upon request, newly elected DC members on the proposed project, ECCA&FC of YLDC passed a motion requiring FEHD to suspend the proposed project and to improve the design of JUB in consultation with relevant departments by maximizing or increasing the plot ratio, re-designing the space of JUB according to community needs and increasing public services. <u>Dr WONG</u> expressed concern whether FEHD and relevant departments had maintained continuous communication with ECCA&FC of YLDC and relevant stakeholders after the meeting in March 2020.

24. <u>Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)/FEHD</u> ("DD(EH)/FEHD") responded that the proposed project had already gone through a consultation process back to a couple of years ago. In the context of the community engagement from June to September 2015 on the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area ("NDA") Revised Recommended Outline Development Plan ("ODP"), FEHD and the Planning Department ("PlanD") met with a concern group from Hung Fuk Estate in November 2016 and attended a residents' meeting held by that concern group in August 2017 to listen to the views of local residents on the proposed project. In March 2019, FEHD and relevant departments briefed EIC of YLDC on the proposed project and obtained DC members' support for the project.

25. DD(EH)/FEHD further said that in light of the views expressed by ECCA&FC of YLDC in March 2020, representatives of the Food and Health Bureau, FEHD, EPD, PlanD and ArchSD met with the Chairman and members of ECCA&FC of YLDC on 25 September 2020 to further exchange views with them on the background of the proposed project, current design proposal, site constraints and operation of CRC. At the meeting in September 2020, departmental representatives also briefed DC members on the arrangements for the use of the multi-purpose room of CRC and explained that as long as daily operational needs were met, the multi-purpose room might be made available for booking, through the CRC operator, by local residents and community organizations for organizing educational and promotional activities related to environmental protection. DC members attending the meeting raised no objection to the proposed project. On 9 November 2020, the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent ("DEHS") of FEHD further touched base with the Chairman of ECCA&FC of YLDC. No objection to the proposed project was raised either.

26. <u>Mr KWONG Chun-yu</u> said that although FEHD and relevant departments had met with the Chairman and members of ECCA&FC of YLDC in September 2020 to exchange views on the proposed project, there

were no written records or responses from YLDC showing how well the current design of the proposed JUB had incorporated the views/suggestions and addressed the concerns raised by members of ECCA&FC of YLDC, local residents and relevant stakeholders. He sought details on the liaison process between FEHD and ECCA&FC of YLDC regarding the proposed project and how FEHD had addressed the concerns raised by stakeholders.

27. In response, DD(EH)/FEHD advised that regarding the views given by ECCA&FC of YLDC at the meeting on 9 March 2020 about the design and plot ratio of the proposed JUB, FEHD had made a written reply to the Chairman of ECCA&FC of YLDC on 26 March 2020. In that letter, FEHD explained that the development plot ratio of JUB was 4.36, which was slightly higher than its reference plot ratio and similar to that of nearby developments (the plot ratio of Hung Fuk Estate was 3.8). According to the relevant ODP, the overall building height limit of the Government, Institution or Community zone covering JUB and other facilities was eight storeys. In view of the storey height of RCP and CRC versus other facilities, the height of the proposed six-storey JUB was nearly 30 metres (actually about 40 metres above the Hong Kong Principal Datum), which was similar to an eight-storey residential building. In this light, the current design of JUB had fully optimized the plot ratio to achieve optimal use of the land and the height of JUB had taken into consideration air circulation as well as its compatibility with the developments nearby. DD(EH)/FEHD assured members that DEHS of FEHD would continue to maintain close liaison with ECCA&FC of YLDC and local residents regarding the implementation of the proposed project.

28. <u>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung</u> said that according to his understanding, there had been thorough discussions between FEHD, DC members and local residents during the fifth term of YLDC regarding the reprovisioning of the existing village-type RCP (YL-96) at Hung Tai Road to the proposed site at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road. Taking into account the limited size of the existing RCP and the actual need arising from the gradual development in Hung Shui Kiu, <u>Mr LEUNG</u> considered it necessary for FEHD to set up a RCP of a larger scale at the proposed site. Since FEHD and relevant departments had already met with the Chairman and members of ECCA&FC of YLDC to address the concerns raised, there was no reason to procrastinate the development of the proposed project. He said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong were supportive of the proposed project.

29. <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u> said that as the current intake of 3.8 tonnes of refuse per day far exceeded the designed capacity (1.5 tonnes of refuse) of the existing village-type RCP located at Hung Tai Road, there was an imminent need to reprovision a RCP at the proposed site to cater for the need of local

residents. <u>Mr Frankie YICK</u> said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party supported the proposed project.

### Service area of the proposed RCP and its impact on surrounding areas

30. <u>Mr WU Chi-wai</u> enquired about the service area and design capacity of the proposed RCP. In his view, since refuse collection facilities had already been/would be available in nearby housing estates (e.g. Hung Fuk Estate, Sheffield Villas and Park Nara) in Hung Shui Kiu, there seemed no strong need to reprovision the village-type RCP currently at Hung Tai Road to the proposed site, which was a prime location in the district and should be reserved for more gainful development purposes.

31. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that since refuse collection facilities currently provided in various housing estates in Hung Shui Kiu only served residents living in those estates, it was necessary for FEHD to provide refuse collection facilities in the district to serve other local residents such as those living in villages and single buildings/small housing developments. According to ODP prepared under Hung Shui Kiu NDA Planning and Engineering Study in September 2016, Hung Shui Kiu NDA would be the next-generation new town of Hong Kong, accommodating about 218 000 residents, including new population in-take of 176 000. Taking into account the actual need arising from future housing developments, anticipated population growth of the area and the availability of refuse collection facilities for serving the public, the Administration proposed setting up three RCPs, which included this proposed RCP of an appropriate scale to be set up at the proposed site. Mr WU Chi-wai said that notwithstanding the above Administration's explanation, Members belonging to the Democratic Party were opposed to the proposed project.

32. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, <u>DD(EH)/FEHD</u> said that the existing village-type RCP at Hung Tai Road mainly served housing estates in the vicinity including Beauty Court, Coronet Court and Aster Court, apart from some other housing developments. As the proposed RCP would be located near the centre of the catchment areas, the travelling distance to the proposed RCP would become shorter on average if all housing developments in its service areas were taken into account.

33. <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u> asked whether a traffic review had been conducted in respect of the potential traffic impact arising from the operation of the proposed RCP/CRC in JUB. <u>DD(EH)/FEHD</u> responded that a traffic review for the proposed project had been conducted and submitted to the Transport Department ("TD") for approval in August 2018. In September 2018, TD indicated that it agreed with the review and the proposed traffic arrangements. To minimize impacts on nearby residents, the proposed permanent off-street RCP to be set up on the ground floor of JUB would adopt an enclosed design with cover and collect refuse by an enclosed compaction trailer, and the vehicular ingress/egress of RCP would be on the side facing Hung Ping Road currently with relatively low pedestrian and vehicular flows. Also, the proposed RCP would be spacious enough to enable refuse collection vehicles to load and unload refuse inside the building instead of operating on streets as in the case of the existing village-type RCP. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, <u>Project Director 3/ArchSD</u> ("PD3/ArchSD") said that space had been reserved within the proposed project site for the ingression and egression of refuse collection vehicles to avoid causing traffic congestion at Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road.

34. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that he did express opposition to the proposed project two years ago because the proposed RCP was too close to Hung Fuk Estate. He noted that having considered local residents' views, the vehicular ingress/egress of the proposed RCP would be on the side facing Hung Ping Road instead of facing Hung Fuk Estate. However, he understood that four to five residential buildings would be developed by the Hong Kong Housing Society ("HS") at the site opposite to Hung Ping Road. Residents might start moving in from 2024 onwards after completion of the same housing project. He expressed concern whether the Administration had assessed the environmental impact arising from the future operation of the proposed RCP on residents living close to the proposed site whose residence faced the vehicular ingress/egress of RCP at Hung Ping Road. He was also concerned whether the proposed RCP and HS' housing project would be commissioned at the same time and the traffic impact to be brought about by the two projects on the surrounding areas.

35. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that taking into account local residents' views, the pedestrian entrance/exit and vehicular ingress/egress of the proposed RCP would be on separate roads and there would be a distance of at least 34 meters between the proposed RCP and Hung Yan House in Hung Fuk Estate. The proposed RCP was expected to be commissioned in 2024 and would reach its maximum design capacity gradually. District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West/PlanD said that a public housing project would be developed by HS at the site facing Hung Ping Road for local rehousing of the affected households within Hung Shui Kiu NDA. According to the information provided by HS, the housing project would be implemented in phases. The site facing Hung Ping Road opposite to the proposed RCP would be Phase two development, which was tentatively scheduled for population intake in 2025 or 2026. It was believed that HS would take into account the compatibility with the developments nearby in designing the whole housing project.

36. <u>Mr SHIU Ka-chun</u> said that he had reservation about the proposed project. He asked, other than installing water scrubber system to filter the air exhausted from the proposed RCP, what other ventilation facilities would be available to maintain air ventilation in RCP so that cleansing workers would not have to endure the heat and bad smell when working there. He also asked whether cleansing workers would be provided with paid meal breaks and a decent place to have meals.

37. <u>DD(EH)/FEHD</u> responded that apart from the water scrubber system, negative pressure systems and modern deodorization systems would be equipped in the proposed RCP for odour removal. Between refuse collection operations, air purifiers would be used to improve air quality and ventilation. Facilities would also be installed in RCP for treatment of sewage and emissions from refuse collection vehicles and for mitigation of noise generated during the refuse collection process. As for facilities for staff, the proposed RCP would be equipped with a roll call point on the ground floor of JUB, as well as a changing room and storage facilities, toilets, bathrooms, pantry and water dispensers on its mezzanine floor. In response to Mr SHIU Ka-chun's follow-up enquiry, <u>PD3/ArchSD</u> said that dozens of square meters of space in JUB had been reserved for provision of ancillary facilities (including a balcony area) for FEHD staff.

## Operation of CRC

38. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> welcomed the provision of a CRC and a RCP in the same building to achieve optimal use of land resources. Noting from local residents that the proposed CRC to be set up on the first floor of JUB would only operate from 10 am to 6 pm on weekdays and in the morning on Saturdays, <u>Mr OR</u> asked whether consideration would be given to extending CRC's service hours to make it more convenient for use by local residents. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> raised a similar enquiry.

39. <u>Assistant Director (Waste Recycling Review and Special Duties)/EPD</u> ("AD(WRR&SD)/EPD") responded that a non-profit-making organization would be engaged through open tender to operate the proposed CRC. EPD would consider extending CRC's service hours in light of members' views. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry, <u>AD(WRR&SD)/EPD</u> said that a wide variety of recyclables, especially those of low commercial value such as glass bottles, would be collected by CRC.

40. <u>Mr Wilson OR</u> enquired about the difference between the proposed CRC and 綠在元朗(a community green station set up by EPD in Yuen Long) in term of service scope. <u>AD(WRR&SD)/EPD</u> responded that, apart from providing community recycling support, 綠在元朗 had been more focused in organizing various kinds of environmental education activities for the local community. Compared with 綠在元朗, the proposed CRC would be located much closer to residential areas for provision of convenient recycling services to local residents.

Mr Wilson OR further asked whether food waste collection and 41. would recycling services be provided by the proposed CRC. AD(WRR&SD)/EPD responded that given its limited size, it would be difficult to provide food waste collection and recycling services through the proposed CRC. EPD would keep in view the development of technology to see whether it would be feasible to process food waste recycling in limited space with the use of new equipment in the future. PD3/ArchSD added that as the current design of the proposed JUB had already fully optimized its plot ratio, there was no plan to reserve space in CRC for providing food waste collection and recycling services.

<sup>Admin</sup> 42. The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following supplementary information and, as and where appropriate, to include the information in its paper(s) to be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee when funding approval was sought:

- (a) illustrations with detailed building/floor plans (as and where appropriate) on how well the current design of the proposed JUB had incorporated the views/suggestions and addressed the concerns of ECCA&FC of YLDC, local residents and relevant stakeholders;
- (b) the service area and design capacity of the proposed RCP to be set up at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road;
- (c) detailed justifications for reprovisioning the village-type RCP (YL-96) currently at Hung Tai Road to the proposed site mentioned in (b) above, particularly when refuse collection facilities had already been/would be available in nearby housing estates in Hung Shui Kiu;
- (d) whether the Administration had assessed the environmental impact arising from the future operation of the proposed RCP

on residents living close to the proposed site whose residence faced the vehicular ingress/egress of RCP;

- (e) details of the traffic review conducted in respect of the potential traffic impact arising from the operation of the proposed RCP/CRC, with detailed site plans/drawings showing how much space had been reserved within the proposed project site for the ingression and egression of refuse collection vehicles to avoid traffic congestion at Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road; and
- (f) whether consideration would be given to extending the proposed CRC's service hours on weekday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays.

### VII. Any other business

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:04 pm.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 22 December 2020