

Panel on Environmental Affairs
List of follow-up actions (position as at 29 March 2023)

**Provision of Sewerage Network in Sai Kung and North District,
Construction and Rehabilitation of Sewage Rising Mains in
Cheung Sha Wan and Southern District, and
Rehabilitation of underground sewers in other districts**

In response to the follow-up actions required, the Administration provides supplementary information below.

- (a) The Government has been working closely with the stakeholders to take continuing actions and allocate resources to the implementation of the village sewerage programme (hereinafter referred to as "the Programme"), taking into account various factors including the level of improvement to the environment by the Programme, density of village population, preference of residents, technical feasibility and cost effectiveness, etc. in progressive extension of relevant sewerage works to unsewered village areas in Hong Kong. This can help improve rural environmental hygiene conditions, and enhance the water quality of rivers and coastal waters. For North District, the Government has provided sewerage system for 44 villages and sewerage works for 6 villages are under construction; while due to the large number of villages scattered across the North District, further planning work for some villages was unable to proceed for the time being in view of the abovementioned factors.

To effectively utilise resources and expedite the project programme, relevant Government departments (including Environmental Protection Department, Home Affairs Department, Drainage Services Department) would arrange consultation through the District Council, Rural Committee and Village Representatives at the preparation stage of the works as early as possible, in order to address common questions on village sewerage works and construction programme, etc. Enhanced communication in reaching consensus with villagers earlier could minimise the impact caused during the construction stage and facilitate timely completion of the works. In addition, taking the opportunity of the Northern Metropolis development, we would explore with the Development Bureau on the feasibility of implementation of village sewerage in parallel within the development areas for villages that are under preliminary or pending planning.

With respect to performance indicators, as village sewerage projects involve various complicated tasks including planning, feasibility study, detailed design, consultation, gazetting, land resumption, etc. In particular, it is necessary to communicate with various stakeholders in reaching consensus on the sewerage schemes, site selection and land resumption matters before projects could progress according to established procedures. As such, it is impractical to set key performance indicator for village sewerage projects prior to obtaining funding approval from the Legislative Council.

- (b) Ancillary works include the utilities diversion, road and drainage works, provision of manholes, abandonment or removal of part of existing rising mains, slope works, modification of pumping station, temporary closure and reinstatement of carriageways/footpaths/open space, and necessary landscaping works that are required to complete the proposed works.

The estimated cost for the relevant ancillary works will be provided in the Public Works Subcommittee submission.

Environment and Ecology Bureau
Environmental Protection Department
Drainage Services Department
April 2023