Forty-ninth Meeting of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee

Agenda Item 4(a): Report on the work of the Joint Meeting of the three Task Forces under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee

Purpose

This paper reports the work of the three Task Forces under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (i.e. Wholesale and Retail Task Force, Food Business and Related Services Task Force and Task Force on Business Liaison Groups) (hereafter collectively referred to as "Task Forces") at the joint meeting of 20 September 2022.

Work progress of Task Forces

Municipal Solid Waste Charging

- 2. At the joint meeting of the Task Forces, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) briefed Members on the charging framework of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Amendment Ordinance) and the latest development for the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging. The bill of the Amendment Ordinance to implement MSW charging was passed by the Legislative Council on 26 August 2021.
- 3. MSW charging will be levied by the dual modes of "charging by designated bags or designated labels" and "charging by weight-based gate-fee". The EPD is inviting the retail sector to actively consider selling designated bags in lieu of plastic shopping bags after MSW charging is implemented, so as to achieve the effect of "dual use bags" and further promote re-use and waste reduction. The EPD is actively taking forward relevant work to prepare the Government, stakeholders and the public for the implementation of MSW charging.

4. The Task Forces have had some good exchange of views on the implementation arrangements of the Amendment Ordinance, and were interested in the implementation details of the Amendment Ordinance and support for trade. The Task Forces suggested the EPD to enhance engagement with trade so as to have a better understanding of their concerns that would help consider the commencement date of MSW charging.

Way forward

5. Members are invited to note the work progress of the Task Forces. The Task Forces will continue to monitor the development of the above matters.

Business Facilitation Team Efficiency Office Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau November 2022