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ACE Paper 3/2021

For information on 8 March 2021

Municipal Solid Waste Charging - Invitation for Submissions by the Legislative Council to the Bills Committee Formed on 16 October 2020 to Study the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018

Background Note

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to the “Municipal Solid Waste Charging - Invitation for Submissions by the Legislative Council to the Bills Committee Formed on 16 October 2020 to Study the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018” (*ACE Paper 2/2021*) prepared by the Environment Bureau (“ENB”) / Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (“ACE”) meeting on 8 March 2021.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2012, EPD conducted a public consultation on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging and majority of views received supported the introduction of a quantity-based MSW Charging system as one of the key policy tools to achieve waste reduction. The Government further invited the Council for Sustainable Development (“SDC”) to proceed with a second-stage public engagement on the implementation details, following which the SDC published a report setting out its recommendations on how to implement quantity-based MSW Charging in Hong Kong. Based on the recommendations made by the SDC, the Government formulated the proposed implementation arrangements for MSW Charging and announced the implementation details in March 2017.

3. ACE had been consulted throughout the process and was consulted on the implementation arrangements for MSW Charging at the ACE meetings held on 3 April and 6 November 2017 respectively. Before the Bill was introduced into Legislative Council (“LegCo”), the Secretary for the Environment briefed the ACE on the Bill, together with other 2018 Policy Address initiatives, at ACE

meeting on 5 November 2018. Members had a thorough discussion on the Bill and passed the resolution to support the early implementation of the MSW charging.

4. The Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 (“the Bill”) was introduced into the LegCo for scrutiny on 14 November 2018. A Bills Committee was formed in November 2018 to study this Bill but discontinued its scrutiny work on the Bill in June 2020. A new Bills Committee was formed in October 2020 to continue to study the Bill. The new Bills Committee decided at its third meeting in January 2021 that the scrutiny work of the Bill would start afresh from studying the policy aspects and it would invite written submissions from the public on the Bill.

5. The *ACE Paper 2/2021* informs Members of the latest position of the Bill as well as various waste reduction and recycling initiatives launched and planned by EPD since mid-2020; and invites Members to consider whether to respond to the invitation for submissions by the new Bills Committee.

6. For Members’ easy reference, a table of discussions is appended below -

| Meeting date | Relevant documents |
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| The 184 th ACE Meeting held on 16 January 2012 to discuss the paper on “Public Consultation on MSW Charging” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 1/2012 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |
| The 189 th ACE Meeting held on 10 December 2012 to discuss the paper on “Waste Reduction Through Municipal Solid Waste Charging: Way Forward” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 13/2012 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |
| The 197 th ACE Meeting held on 9 December 2013 to discuss the paper on “Council for Sustainable Development’s Public Engagement on Municipal Solid Waste Charging – Waste Reduction by Waste Charging - How to Implement?” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 18/2013 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |
| The 205 th ACE Meeting held on 11 May 2015 to discuss the paper on “Municipal Solid Waste Charging: Latest Development” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 6/2015 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |
| The 222 nd ACE Meeting held on 3 April 2017 to discuss the paper on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 6/2017 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |

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| “Implementation arrangements for Municipal Solid Waste Charging” | |
| The 227 th ACE Meeting held on 6 November 2017 to discuss the paper on “Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 22/2017 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |
| The 233 rd ACE Meeting held on 5 November 2018 with a “Briefing by the SEN on 2018 Policy Address” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |

ACE Secretariat

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