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for advice

Increase of Fees under
Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)
Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)
Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311)
Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400)
Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' advice on proposed increases in fees. The proposed increases are in accordance with a phased approach to recover the full cost of the services, and take into account inflation.

BACKGROUND

2. It is Government policy that fees should in general be set at levels adequate to recover the full cost of providing the services. The fees payable under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) associated with waste collection and waste disposal licences, the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358), the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) associated with specified process licences, the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) and the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) were last revised in January 1997.

3. The fees under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) in respect of open burning permits and asbestos registration were introduced on 26 February 1996 and 1 May 1996 based on full cost at 1995/96 prices and 1996/97 prices respectively. The fees under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) for the waste import/export permit were introduced in November 1996 based on full cost at 1996/97 prices.

4. On 28 October 1996, Members endorsed a proposal to achieve full cost recovery of the fees under various environmental ordinances over the next few years in phases. The last fees revision was implemented in January 1997. This paper seeks Members' advice on the next phase of fees increases.

THE PROPOSAL

5. Details of the fee proposal are set out at Annex A. The proposed increases are summarized below:

- (a) The fees under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and the fees in relation to asbestos registration under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance will be revised by 7% based on inflation from 1996/97 to 1997/98;
- (b) The licence fees for discharge or deposit from domestic premises and for discharge or deposit from industrial, institutional or commercial premises of domestic sewage under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, which have been set at subsidized levels, will be revised by 7% based on inflation from 1996/97 to 1997/98;
- (c) The fee for open burning permits under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance will be revised by 14% based on inflation from 1995/96 to 1997/98;
- (d) The fee for a certified copy of an entry in the register under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance will be revised by 7% based on the proposed increase for a similar fee under the Waste Disposal Ordinance; and
- (e) Other fees will be increased according to the second phase of the full cost recovery programme as mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members' advice is sought as to whether the proposed fee revisions as set out in paragraph 5 above and Annex A should be made. The revised fees are expected to be implemented in January 1998.

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