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ACE Paper 23/2017

For information on 6 November 2017

Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Background Note

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to the “Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste (“MSW”) Charging” (*ACE Paper 22/2017*) prepared by the Environment Bureau (“ENB”) / Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (“ACE”) meeting on 6 November 2017.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2012, EPD conducted a public consultation on MSW Charging and majority of the views received supported the introduction of a quantity-based MSW Charging system as a key policy tool to achieve waste disposal 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. Following the announcement in March 2017, suggestions on how to improve certain aspects of the arrangements have been received by ENB/EPD. The ACE Paper 22/2017 sets out the proposed modifications to the implementation arrangements for MSW Charging and provides answers to address the key concerns raised by different stakeholders and the community at large, including expanding the scope of application of prepaid designated garbage bags to cover MSW collected by private waste collectors, removing the bin-counting arrangement from the MSW charging proposal and providing financial assistance for the needy.

4. ACE had been consulted throughout the process and was last consulted on the implementation arrangements for MSW Charging at the ACE meeting held on 3 April 2017. For Members' easy reference, a table of past discussions regarding MSW Charging is appended below -

| Meeting date | Relevant documents |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 "Implementation arrangements for Municipal Solid Waste Charging" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 6/2017 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting |

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