

## Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration hosts briefing session on MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme (with photos)

The Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, together with the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, and the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, today (April 9) held a briefing session on the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging Demonstration Scheme for District Council (DC) members to introduce the background, objectives and details of the survey.

Mr Cheuk said that MSW charging directly affects the daily lives of 7 million citizens, and therefore the Government must act cautiously and assess the process and practical operations of MSW charging, involving different participants in various scenarios, as well as understanding the issues or difficulties faced by the stakeholders and participants. A survey on the MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme will be conducted anonymously at 14 selected premises in the third week after the commencement of the demonstration scheme. It aims to collect opinions and trial experiences from different stakeholders, including residents, cleaning workers, property management and business operators, in order for the Government to have a comprehensive understanding of the implementation status of the MSW charging and the readiness of relevant groups, and make practical arrangements and decisions.

He said, "Respective DC members were invited to participate in the survey. It is hoped that they can collect opinions from members of the public more effectively, independently and objectively than government personnel, and reflect them to the Government faithfully. This is an important and honourable mission to DC members as it realised the purpose of reforming the DC to ensure effective communication between the Government and members of the public."

An interdepartmental task force, led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for overseeing and reviewing every aspect of the MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme. As decided in previous meetings, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB)/Home Affairs Department, and the Environment and Ecology Bureau/Environmental Protection Department will jointly conduct an opinion survey. The HYAB will arrange for relevant DC members to conduct face-to-face interviews with selected respondents at selected premises.

The MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme commenced on April 1 in 14 locations, covering public and private residential buildings, restaurants, residential care homes, shopping malls and government buildings. An

interdepartmental committee led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration will summarise the results of the demonstration scheme and report them to the Legislative Council in May to June this year.

