

**Fifty-third Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(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 6 December 2023.

Work progress of Task Forces

“Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme”

2. At the joint meeting, the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited briefed Members on the “Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme” (the Pilot Programme) which aims to accelerate the pace of digital transformation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

3. The Pilot Programme will operate on a one-to-one matching basis to support SMEs in the food and beverage and retail industries to acquire off-the-shelf basic information technology solution packages. Three designated categories of digital technology solutions (i.e. Digital Payment Solutions and Shopfront Sales, Online Promotion, and Customer Management and Loyalty Solutions) will be available for selection by enterprises. The maximum amount of funding support for each eligible SME is \$50,000. It is anticipated that, within two years, at least 8 000 enterprises will be able to undergo business upgrading and transformation and enhance their productivity through the Pilot Programme.

4. The Task Forces appreciated the briefing by the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited but expressed concerns about the

time required for processing and approving applications for the Pilot Programme.

Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware and Other Plastic Products

5. At the same joint meeting, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) briefed Members on the regulatory framework and legislative requirements of the Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Ordinance 2023 (Amendment Ordinance) and the preparatory work for implementation of the regulation.

6. The Amendment Ordinance will regulate the sale and provision of nine types of disposable plastic tableware (including expanded polystyrene tableware, straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, cups, cup lids, food containers, and food container covers) in two phases. The Amendment Ordinance will also regulate the manufacturing, selling and distributing of other disposable plastic products in two phases. The first-phase regulation will commence on 22 April 2024 in support of the Earth Day. The timing of implementing the second-phase regulation will depend on the availability and affordability of alternatives to the respective plastic products, tentatively by 2025.

7. After some good exchange of views on the implementation arrangements of the Amendment Ordinance with EPD, the Task Forces were concerned about possible measures to facilitate trades' compliance. It was also suggested that the EPD should strengthen communications with the trades to ensure their better understanding of the legal requirements and be prepared for the regulation of disposable plastics.

Way forward

8. 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
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