

**Forty-fifth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

Purpose

This paper reports the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 29 January 2021.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. From 2 December 2020 to 19 April 2021, two Business Liaison Group meetings were held and a total of four issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. Six information dissemination sessions on business facilitation / new regulatory requirements were conducted by the departments concerned.

Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G

3. The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) briefed BLGTF at the meeting of 20 April 2021 on the Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G which aims at encouraging various sectors to deploy 5G technology early to foster innovation and smart city development, and to improve the efficiency of their operations and quality of their services. Under the Scheme, the Government will subsidise 50% of the actual costs directly relevant to the deployment of 5G technology in an approved project, subject to a cap of \$500,000. The deadline for application is 31 May 2021.

4. BLGTF thanked OFCA for the Scheme which is well received by the trades and will contribute to enhancing Hong Kong's overall competitiveness.

Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020

5. The Buildings Department (BD) briefed at the same meeting on the main features of the Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Amendment Regulation) including the addition of some 70 new minor works items and inclusion of certain small-scale works as designated exempted works items to simplify the procedures for carrying out such works as installation of

greening features and installation of supporting frames for suspending air-conditioning/ ventilation plants. The initiative will reduce the trades' administrative burden and enable business operators to apply for licences from the relevant authorities in a more timely manner. The Amendment Regulation has been effective since 1 September 2020.

6. BLGTF welcomed BD's introduction of the Amendment Regulation which has extended the scope of minor works items to facilitate business operations.

Further streamlining measures for renewal of Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences

7. Further to the measure introduced by the Fire Services Department to streamline renewal of Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences (TPPEL) in theme parks and attractions, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Buildings Department (BD) have devised similar measures to further facilitate the renewal process. FEHD will allow the applicants to submit only one application form to apply for multiple TPPELs each lasting for no more than a month covering the whole period of the temporary public entertainment event and will process such applications in one go. BD will accept a single authorised person/registered structural engineer's certification on the structural safety of the concerned temporary structures covering the whole event period provided that there is no change to the event layout and the associated temporary structures. It is expected that the above measures will be implemented by the second or third quarter of 2021.

8. BLGTF welcomed FEHD and BD's measures which will save the operational cost and administrative burden of the trades in renewal of TPPELs.

Way forward

9. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
May 2021**