

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)114

(Question Serial No. 1638)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of providing new public market facilities at suitable locations, please advise on the following:

1. the resources allocated this year to identify sites for the provision of new public markets, the progress concerned, the estimated number of sites for new public markets this year and the commencement dates of construction works; and
2. whether the work of identifying sites for the provision of new public markets will be carried out in all the 18 districts in the territory; if yes, the manpower required and whether recruitment of additional manpower will be required to handle the work.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 36)

Reply:

In her maiden Policy Address in October 2017, the Chief Executive pledges that the Government would make available resources for building new public markets to offer wider choices of fresh provisions to the public in Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai and Hung Shui Kiu. The Government has initially identified suitable sites in the east of Tung Chung New Town Extension Area as well as in the southwest of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area to build sizable public markets. Well-connected by public transport and close to future train stations and public transport interchanges, these two new market sites will be accessible to more members of the public. As regards the proposed new public market in Tin Shui Wai, we are actively exploring the possible locations.

The Government will also study the need and feasibility of providing new public markets in districts where relevant facilities are alleged to be insufficient. The Government will consider factors including the population and demographic mix of the area; community needs; the availability of market facilities and the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity. On the suitability of any potential sites for a new public market when the need for it is confirmed, consideration will be given to their geographical location, existing and planned uses, usable area and ancillary transport facilities nearby, in order to ensure

that, upon completion, the markets will be of a substantial scale and viability and that public finances and land resources can be optimised.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set up a dedicated team of 21 staff to take forward the planning of new markets, among other duties. The estimated staff cost of the team in 2018-19 is \$17.9 million. Details of any new market projects would only be available at a later stage.

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