

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)217**

**(Question Serial No. 0859)**

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:

1. It is mentioned in Programme (3) that the Department will provide or plan new public market facilities at suitable locations. Apart from Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung, has the Department identified other suitable locations for provision or planning of such facilities? If yes, please provide the name of the suitable locations.
2. Given that the Department will revitalise public markets as appropriate, please advise on the name of the markets to be revitalised in 2019-20 and the estimated expenditure involved.
3. Please list the names of the public markets to be closed in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon WAN Siu-kin, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. As announced in the 2018 Policy Address, the Government plans to build 2 new public markets in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung Town Centre. The Government has also initially identified suitable sites in the east of the Tung Chung New Town Extension Area as well as in the southwest of the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA) for public markets. Well-connected by public transport and close to future train stations and public transport interchanges, these new sites will be more accessible to the public. Apart from the above, we are also looking for locations in Tseung Kwan O and the Kwu Tung North NDA to build new markets. These projects are at different stages of planning. We are working with relevant departments in delivering these new markets which will give the public more choices in purchasing fresh food.

2. Having regard to a preliminary assessment of existing markets and views gathered from the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has proposed that, in the first phase of the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), a fundamental overhaul for 4 markets and

refurbishment and minor improvement works for at least another 3 will be taken forward. The pioneering project of the MMP will be the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. We have been actively liaising with the tenants there and other stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on the way forward as soon as possible. The overhaul arrangements for Aberdeen Market will set a model for future similar projects. After the details of Aberdeen Market MMP project are finalised, we will kick-start other first phase projects progressively from 2019 onwards.

The Department has set up a dedicated team to take forward, among other duties, the planning and implementation of MMP projects with the support of 37 staff. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2019-20 is \$33.9 million. The capital works expenditure and recurrent costs of MMP projects can only be determined when the scope of works is finalised, and upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

3. As a result of demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has been diminishing over time, with some having very low patronage and high vacancy rates. Closure of such markets will release precious land resources for more gainful uses to better serve the community. In 2019-20, we are planning to close Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market and Tui Min Hoi Market.

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