

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)381

(Question Serial No. 3593)

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:

The Chief Executive has mentioned in the Policy Address that the Government has completed the studies on site selection and will plan to spare space at the section of Tin Fuk Road outside Tin Shui Wai MTR Station for building a new public market; the public market in Tung Chung will be built at the lower floors of a commercial building in Area 6, which is adjacent to Tung Chung MTR Station. The Government is also identifying sites for public markets in Tseung Kwan O and the Kwu Tung North New Development Area (NDA).

1. Please advise on the expenditure and the manpower involved in building new public markets and the timetable for implementation.
2. When will the details of the projects be announced, and how will the district councils and the public be consulted?
3. Does the Department have plans to review the planning standards in relation to public markets as set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and re-establish objective standards for building public markets with reference to various factors, such as population and the circumstances in individual communities?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

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. We have also 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 (NDA) for public markets. Well-connected by public transport and close to future train stations and public transport interchanges, these new market sites will be more accessible to members of the public. Apart from the above, the Government is also looking for locations in Tseung Kwan O and 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 be air-conditioned and include new design features so as to provide more choices to the public in purchasing fresh food.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has set up a dedicated team to take forward, among other duties, the planning of new markets with the support of 37 staff. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2019-20 is \$33.9 million. Further details of the new market projects would be available upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

2. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and FEHD consulted the Islands District Council and Yuen Long District Council in October 2018 on the Tung Chung Town Centre and Tin Shui Wai new market projects respectively. Members generally supported the proposals. We will continue to maintain liaison with stakeholders and consult the relevant District Councils on the progress of the various new market projects as appropriate.
3. FHB conducted a policy review on public markets in 2007 to 2008 which concluded that the future provision of new public markets should be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure efficient use of public resources. Apart from the population of the area in question, other relevant factors that should be considered include the demographic mix, community needs, the presence of market facilities nearby, the number of fresh provision retail outlets available in the vicinity, and public sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas in the particular locality. The Government consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and all District Councils on the review findings in 2008. As a result of the policy review, those parts concerning public markets in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) (which deals with retail facilities) were amended in April 2009 and have remained in force since then. The revised HKPSG is based on a more holistic consideration of the relevant factors above, rather than just the size of the population, in the planning of public markets. When preparing or reviewing town plans, the Planning Department will consult the relevant policy bureaux and departments, so as to ascertain whether there is a need to reserve land for public markets. We will, in the light of social developments and the actual situation on the ground, assess the need to review the planning guidelines for public markets as and when appropriate.

- End -