

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)401**

**(Question Serial No. 5279)**

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, it is stated that the Department will oversee the development of new public markets at selected locations and the implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets.

1. Regarding the timetable for the development of the public market in Tung Chung, has the Department set a target completion date? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
2. Will the Department consider providing a temporary market before the completion of the market in Tung Chung? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
3. Regarding the timetable for the development of the public market in Tin Shui Wai, has the Department set a target completion date? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
4. Will the Department consider providing a temporary market before the completion of the market in Tin Shui Wai? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
5. Will the Department consider providing another public market in Tin Shui Wai North? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 276)

Reply:

As announced in the 2018 Policy Address, the Government plans to build new public markets in Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung Town Centre respectively. Well-connected by public transport and close to train stations and public transport interchanges, these new

market sites will be more accessible to the public. These projects are at different stages of planning. We are working with relevant departments in delivering these new markets.

In considering whether to provide a new public market, the Government will take into account factors such as demographic mix of the area, community needs, availability of market facilities and 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 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 Government considers that locations of the new markets as currently proposed can serve the local community as well as the wider areas. Details of the new market projects would be available at a later stage when the scope of works is finalised, and upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

Similar to the case of permanent markets, relevant hygiene and safety requirements will need to be fulfilled for the operation of temporary markets. Considerable amount of resources will be required to provide the basic facilities for temporary markets, such as ceiling, stall partitions, electrical installations, water supply system, drainage system, sewage system, ventilation facilities, lighting systems, fire safety system, refuse processing facilities, loading areas, etc., if they were to be built. Experience also suggests many challenges in identifying a suitable location for the provision of temporary markets. Therefore, the difficulty in planning and providing temporary markets cannot be underestimated. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department currently has no plans to provide temporary markets in the areas concerned.

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