

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)446

(Question Serial No. 4683)

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:

Please advise this Committee on:

- 1) the details of launching the Market Modernisation Programme in 2019-20 under this Programme and the expenditure involved;
- 2) the progress of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market; and
- 3) the locations of the targeted public markets which are under-utilised and intended to be closed over the next 3 years.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

Reply:

- 1) 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 (FEHD) has proposed that, in the first phase of 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 revitalising Aberdeen Market will also set a model for similar future projects. After the details of the Aberdeen Market project are finalised, we will kick-start other first phase projects progressively from 2019 onwards.

FEHD 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 any project under the MMP can only be determined

when the scope of works is finalised, and upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

- 2) FEHD has followed up the improvement measures for Sheung Fung Street Market recommended by the consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau. Having consulted the Market Management Consultative Committee concerned, FEHD has commenced the improvement works supported by the tenants for completion in the second quarter of 2019 at an estimated cost of \$5.0 million.
- 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 may release precious land resources for more gainful uses to better serve the community. When considering whether an under-utilised market is to be closed, FEHD will take into account a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant District Councils, etc. FEHD will consult the relevant District Council(s) and the market tenants to be affected on any market closure plans. FEHD is planning to close Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market and Tui Min Hoi Market in 2019-20.

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