

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)160

(Question Serial No. 2334)

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 Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) under this Programme, please advise this Committee on:

1. the progress of implementing the recommendations under the MMP;
2. the implementation of improvement measures in the 6 selected markets in the past 3 years;
3. the details of launching the MMP under this Programme and the expenditure involved; and
4. 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.: 58)

Reply:

1&3. The Government has earmarked \$2 billion for the implementation of the 10-year Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). The pioneering project of the MMP is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) briefed the relevant committee of the Southern District Council on the details and progress of the project in February 2020. ArchSD is engaging consultants and will commence the work of detailed design of plan and preparation of tender documents, etc. as soon as possible. The expenditure of the works can only be accurately estimated upon completion of the design work. Upon completion of the preparatory work, we will seek funding approval from the Legislative Council as soon as possible and expect to commence the overhaul works in 2021.

At the same time, we plan to overhaul another 3 public markets in Kowloon and the New Territories and expect to take forward the consultation and preparatory work

later this year. We also plan to kick-start minor refurbishment and improvement works for at least 3 other public markets in different districts across the territory. The project estimates for taking forward the above minor refurbishment and improvement works, as well as engagement of consultants and the preliminary work for the Aberdeen Market project, is about \$68 million. The estimated expenditure of these projects in 2020-21 is about \$13 million.

2. The 6 markets for which the Government consultant has conducted study and put forward improvement recommendations are Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wing Fong Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market respectively. FEHD has completed the consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these markets. The MMCCs expressed support for some improvement works proposals that did not require temporary closure of stalls or suspension of business. Having considered the MMCCs' views and the results of the feasibility studies, FEHD has taken forward improvement works of different scales in Lockhart Road Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market and Wing Fong Street Market. The works in Wing Fong Street Market and Yau Ma Tei Market have been completed while those in the other 2 markets are scheduled for completion in the first half of 2020. The improvement works in the remaining 2 markets will be considered under the context of the MMP.

4. With 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 low patronage and high vacancy rates. Closing such markets may release precious land resources for more gainful uses to better serve the community. In 2020-21, FEHD plans to close Tui Min Hoi Market and consult market tenants and other stakeholders on the closure of 4 markets.

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