

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

LC Paper No. CB(2)2549/08-09

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 July 2009, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Member attending** : Hon Tanya CHAN
- Members absent** : Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
- Public Officers attending** : Items II to V

Ms Olivia NIP
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Francis HO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Ms Rhonda LO Yuet-yee, JP
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Items III to V

Ms Julina CHAN Woon-ye, JP
Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Adm &
Dev)

Items IV to V

Dr York CHOW, GBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health

Mr CHEUK Wing-hing, JP
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Item II

Ms Alice LAU Yim, JP
Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Environmental Hygiene)

Item III

Mr Patrick HAU Hon-fai
Chief Project Manager 301
Architectural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Mary SO
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Staff in attendance : Miss Joanne FONG
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2)5

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2077/08-09(01) and CB(2)2186/08-09(01))

Members did not raise any queries on the following papers issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Letter dated 25 June 2009 from the Hong Kong Retail Management Association to the Administration regarding registration of small volume exemption products (LC Paper No. CB(2)2077/08-09(01)); and

Action

- (b) Administration's reply dated 8 July 2009 to the Hong Kong Retail Management Association regarding revocation of an exemption under the small volume exemption scheme (LC Paper No. CB(2)2186/08-09(01)).

II. Licensing of bootblack hawkers

(LC Paper No. CB(2)2155/08-09(01))

2. Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (DSFH) briefed members on the Administration's proposal to issue fixed pitch hawker licences to bootblack hawkers who provided bootblack services in the Central and Western District, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

3. Ms Cyd HO expressed support for issuing fixed pitch hawker licences to bootblack hawkers who provided bootblack services in the Central and Western District. Ms HO hoped that the Administration would allow these bootblack hawkers to apply for hawker licences for in-situ operation of bootblack business, as their operation seldom caused environmental hygiene problems, noise nuisance and obstruction to public passageway.

4. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene) (DD/FEH(EH)) responded that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had contacted eight bootblack hawkers in the Central and Western District at this stage and learnt that they intended to apply for hawker licences for in-situ operation of bootblack business. FEHD had consulted the relevant departments and none had raised objection to the current sites of operation of these bootblack hawkers. Subject to Members' views, FEHD would consult the relevant Subcommittee of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) on 23 July 2009 on the issue of new fixed pitch hawker licences for in-situ operation of bootblack business.

5. Dr Joseph LEE asked whether the Administration would issue hawker licences to bootblack hawkers or other tradesmen operating in other districts.

6. DD/FEH(EH) responded that should any bootblack hawker or other tradesman who had been operating in other districts for a long time apply for hawker licences in future, subject to the support of the relevant District Council, the Administration would consider and follow up on their applications with an open mind.

7. Ms Cyd HO and Mr WONG Kwok-hing were of the view that as hawking provided job opportunities for low-skilled persons, the Administration should issue new hawker licences if the hawking activities seldom gave rise to environmental hygiene problems, noise nuisance and obstruction to public passageway as in the case of the bootblack hawkers in the Central and Western District.

Action

8. DSFH responded that the Administration had briefed the Panel on three occasions in the current legislative session on its review on hawker licensing policy. Having regard to the views from the community, as well as from this Panel, to retain and revitalise the hawking trade, the Administration had decided to issue, amongst others, hawker licences to new operators for trading in the vacant pitches, provided that the current number of fixed pitches remained unchanged, and 61 new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences.

Admin

9. Mr WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide information on annual number of prosecutions taken against unlicensed hawkers by trade and by district over the past three years. DD/FEH(EH) undertook to provide the information after the meeting.

10. Miss Tanya CHAN asked the Administration whether consideration could be given to waiving bootblack hawkers from paying the licence and pitch fees which amounted to \$2,590 a year or allowing them to pay these fees by instalment, having regard to their meagre income.

11. DSFH responded that it was not possible for FEHD to waive bootblack hawkers from payment of the relevant fees or allow them to pay by instalment, as the Hawker Regulation (Cap. 132 sub. leg.) stipulated that every application for a licence must be accompanied by the prescribed fee. Nor was it appropriate to waive bootblack hawkers from paying the relevant fees, as to do so would be unfair to other licensed hawkers. DSFH, however, pointed out that as announced by the Financial Secretary in May 2009 on additional relief measures to help tide Hong Kong people over the current economic downturn, fees payable for the new issue or renewal of a licence for fixed pitch hawker and itinerant hawker licence and fees for the allocation and use of fixed pitches would be exempted during the one-year period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

12. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the Administration's proposal to issue fixed pitch hawker licences to bootblack hawkers who provided bootblack services in the Central and Western District. Noting that the size of the fixed pitch for operating the bootblack business only measured some 1.1m², Mr TAM asked whether such an area was adequate. Mr TAM further asked about the arrangements that would be made by FEHD should future land/property redevelopment render the site for using as a fixed pitch for operating the bootblack business unsuitable.

13. DD/FEH(EH) responded that the area of fixed pitches for operating bootblack business was specified having regard to the actual operation of bootblack hawkers. Larger pitches would require higher fees. As regards Mr TAM's second question, DD/FEH(EH) said that should any fixed hawker pitches become unsuitable due to changing circumstances, FEHD would follow the established practice of consulting the relevant departments and District Council on allowing the affected hawkers to carry on business at other vacant

Action

fixed hawker pitches which were suitable for bootblack business.

14. Mr KAM Nai-wai welcomed the Administration's proposal to issue fixed pitch hawker licences to bootblack hawkers who provided bootblack services in the Central and Western District. Mr KAM, however, pointed out that the hawker licence fee and the fixed pitch fee for operating the bootblack business should be lower than the same fees prescribed for operating other businesses which required larger area, such as shoe repair.

15. DD/FEH(EH) advised that hawker licence fee for the urban area was \$2,100 a year. Pitch fees varied according to the area of the pitch. For instance, the fixed pitch fee for operating the bootblack business was \$490 a year, whereas that for operating shoe repair was \$2,520 a year.

16. In response to Mr KAM Nai-wai's enquiry on the length of time which the bootblack hawkers had been operating in the Central and Western District, DD/FEH(EH) said that according to the bootblack hawkers, one had started operation since 1941 whereas the most recent one was since 2005. DD/FEH(EH) further said that the Administration would not consider issuing fixed pitch hawker licences to persons who had already ceased providing bootblack services even if they might have done so for a long period of time prior to cessation of business.

17. In closing, the Chairman requested the Administration to convey to C&WDC the Panel's support to issue fixed pitch hawker licences to bootblack hawkers for in-situ operation in the Central and Western District.

III. Reprovisioning of Cape Collinson Crematorium
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2155/08-09(02) and (03))

18. DSFH briefed members on the Administration's plan to reprovision the Cape Collinson Crematorium by replacing the old cremators with new technologically advanced cremators, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2155/08-09(02)).

19. Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked about the control of emissions from cremators and the efficiency of the cremators at the Cape Collinson Crematorium after reprovisioning.

20. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Adm & Dev) (DD/FEH(A&D)) responded that the new cremators would be installed with an advanced flue gas filtering system to process and filter out waste gases and particles generated during the combustion process, and would also be fitted with a high temperature secondary combustion chamber to ensure complete combustion during the cremation process. The above design was adopted for the new cremators at the recently commissioned crematoria, such as the Diamond Hill Crematorium, and had proven effective in reducing the emission

Action

of particles/waste gases and dark smoke as well as meeting the statutory environmental standards. The reprovisioned crematorium would be equipped with a computer system to record the emissions from the cremators. The system was connected to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for comprehensive monitoring to ensure that waste gas emissions were in full compliance with the department's air quality standards.

21. As regards Mr TAM's second question, DD/FEH(A&D) said that because of the use of new technology, the cremator could start to handle the cremation of a second coffin after the first coffin had been cremated for about 1¼ hours in the first combustion chamber and was transferred to the second chamber for further processing. Compared with the original flat-back cremators, while the total cremation time for each coffin remained roughly at 2½ hours, the handling time for the first coffin in the first chamber of the new cremators could be shortened from 2½ hours to 1¼ hours. Hence, the cremation capacity of the Cape Collinson Crematorium would increase from about 10 300 sessions a year to about 16 600 sessions a year after reprovisioning.

22. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked -

- (a) whether the emissions from the new cremators of the Cape Collinson Crematorium would meet the environmental standards of World Health Organization (WHO); and
- (b) what measures would be taken by the Administration to ensure smooth flow of traffic around the Cape Collinson Crematorium and Columbarium during the grave-sweeping periods.

23. DD/FEH(A&D) responded that she did not have the information in hand as to whether the emissions from the new cremators of the Cape Collinson Crematorium would meet the WHO's environmental standards. DD/FEH(A&D), however, pointed out that the environmental standards set out in the Guidance Note on the Best Practicable Means for Incinerators (Crematoria) issued by EPD had been tightened since 2006. Furthermore, in practice, the new cremators in the recently reprovisioned crematoria had demonstrated their emissions were well below the most recent standards.

24. DD/FEH(A&D) further said that to help ease the pedestrian and vehicular flows during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, works in and around the crematorium would be carried out soon to widen and enhance the access links to the columbarium. The Highways Department would also provide an additional stopping lane of about 40 metres long at Cape Collinson Road near the junction with Shek O Road to improve the traffic flow in the area. DD/FEH(A&D) also said that consideration was being given as to whether it was cost effective to construct an escalator link system inside the columbarium serving mainly blocks 4 - 6 at an estimated cost of over \$20 million and annual maintenance fee of over \$200,000.

Action

Admin

25. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that it was worthwhile to construct an escalator link system inside the columbarium to provide grave sweepers with more convenient access. Mr KAM further requested the Administration to provide information on the environmental standards used by EPD for cremators in Hong Kong and how these standards compared with the environmental standards for cremators promulgated by WHO and/or other recognised international organisation(s).

26. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked -

- (a) what measures would be introduced to the reprovisioned Cape Collinson Crematorium to prevent staff from stealing things from the deceased;
- (b) whether the cremation room in the reprovisioned Cape Collinson Crematorium would meet industrial safety standards to enable employees to escape safely from the room in time of emergency; and
- (c) whether the number of service halls inside the Cape Collinson Crematorium would be increased to meet demand.

27. DD/FEH(A&D) and Chief Project Manager 301, Architectural Services Department responded as follows -

- (a) a CCTV system at strategic locations would be provided in the reprovisioned Cape Collinson Crematorium to monitor backroom operations;
- (b) adequate circulation space would be provided in the cremation room of the reprovisioned Cape Collinson Crematorium to enable employees to escape safely from the room in time of emergency; and
- (c) the number of service halls in the reprovisioned Cape Collinson Crematorium would remain at three as before reprovisioning, but there would be four waiting rooms, each would be about 10 m².

Admin

28. Mr WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration to provide drawings of the cremation plant room of the new crematorium, prior to making a submission to the Public Works Subcommittee to upgrade the proposed project to Category A of the Public Works Programme and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee before the end of this year. DD/FEH(A&D) agreed to provide these drawings after the meeting.

29. The Chairman noted that the Cape Collinson Crematorium, with 12 cremators and three service halls, was commissioned in 1962. Of these cremators, 10 were replaced in 1995 and two in 2001. After the reprovisioning

Action

works, the number of cremators would be decreased from the existing 12 to 10. Owing to site constraint, the reprovisioning works would be carried out in two phases. Under Phase 1, four cremators and two service halls would first be built at the existing car park site of the crematorium. During this time, the existing cremators would remain in operation to provide cremation service to the public. Upon completion of Phase 1 and the commissioning of the four new cremators, all the existing cremators would be shut down and demolished to make way for the Phase 2 works, i.e. the construction of six cremators, one service hall and other ancillary facilities. It was anticipated that the four new cremators constructed under Phase 1 would commence operation by early 2012, and the remaining six new cremators under Phase 2 would be commissioned by late 2014. In the light of this, the Chairman asked -

- (a) what was the reason for reducing the number of cremators in the Cape Collinson Crematorium from 12 to 10;
- (b) what was the justification for demolishing the two cremators which were replaced in 2001; and
- (c) how the Administration could ensure its cremation service would not be undermined during the Phase 2 reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium.

30. DSFH and DD/FEH(A&D) responded as follows -

- (a) owing to site constraint, it was not feasible to construct in-situ 12 new technologically advanced cremators and other ancillary facilities. It should be noted that although the number of cremators in the Cape Collinson Crematorium would decrease from 12 to 10 after reprovisioning, the cremation capacity would increase from about 10 300 sessions a year to about 16 600 sessions a year;
- (b) if the reprovisioning project was supported, it was envisaged that by its scheduled completion in late 2014, the Cape Collinson Crematorium and the other crematoria would together provide a total cremation capacity of 52 800 sessions a year. This would sufficiently meet the cremation demand up to the early 2020s;
- (c) to retain the two cremators replaced in 2001 would not be compatible with the new technologically advanced cremators. Moreover, these two cremators would only be demolished in Phase 2 of the reprovisioning in 2012 by which time these cremators would have serviced for over 10 years and would have at most two years of service life remained if retained, having regard to the fact that the service life of cremators was generally 15 years; and

Action

- (d) Phase 2 of the reprovisioning of Cape Collinson Crematorium would only commence after the six new cremators at the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium had come into operation in 2012. Adjustment to the operation hours of other crematoria would also be made as and when necessary to cope with demand.

31. In closing, the Chairman said that members were supportive of the proposed project to reprovision Cape Collinson Crematorium.

IV. The positioning, functions and usage of public markets
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2155/08-09(04))

V. Public market stall rentals and charges
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2155/08-09(05) and (06))

32. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to discuss the above two items together.

33. Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) briefed members on the Administration's preliminary thinking, based on findings of the utilisation surveys on 79 wet markets under the management of FEHD conducted from March to June 2009, in reviewing the positioning, functions and usage of public markets, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2155/08-09(04)). DD/FEH(A&D) next briefed members on the Administration's preliminary recommendations on rental adjustment mechanism in respect of public market stalls and the arrangements to recover the air-conditioning cost and rates from tenants, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2155/08-09(05)).

34. The Chairman said that he received a letter from Mr WONG Yung-kan requesting to invite deputations to give views on the recommendations and proposals set out in the above Administration's papers. The Chairman suggested doing so after the Administration had consulted market traders on these recommendations and proposals. Members did not raise any query.

35. Mr WONG Kwok-hing was of the view that the Panel should invite market traders, patrons and academics to give views on the positioning, functions and usage of public markets, public market rental adjustment mechanism and recovery of rates and air-conditioning charges. In view of the complexity and far-reaching implication of the subject matters, Mr WONG suggested that specific topic(s) should be assigned for each public hearing.

36. Mr TAM Yiu-chung was of the view that -

- (a) to prevent unnecessary disputes with tenants, the Administration should take forward measures to respond to the recommendations and comments on the management of public markets of the

Action

Director of Audit and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in their Reports No. 51 by phases in the following order: renew public market tenancies, review the positioning, functions and appropriate level of Government's subsidisation of public market operation, and adjust public market stall rental and charges;

- (b) the Administration should be very careful in using market patronage as an indicator in assessing whether a market had served the primary purpose of its existence. A market might have low patronage, but it might be the only convenient place where the local community could buy fresh food as well as dry goods and daily necessities; and
- (c) the Administration should pay heed to the affordability of those tenants who were former on-street hawkers and currently paying concessionary rental in deciding to introduce a minimum monthly rental of \$600, as the increase rate could be quite high.

37. SFH responded that the Administration would liaise closely with market traders as well as other stakeholders with a view to obtaining a consensus before introducing any measure to change public market functions/operation, adjust public market rental and recover rates and air-conditioning cost. As a tenant was not allowed to sublet his stall according to market stall tenancy agreement, top priority would be given to tackling the problem of stall subletting.

38. Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH) supplemented that although the proposed rental adjustment mechanism aimed at bringing public market rentals generally reaching 80% of Open Market Rental (OMR) in six years' time, no implementation timetable had been set in this regard. The Administration considered that the implementation timetable of the rental adjustment mechanism should be subject to the general economic situation. In determining the timing for the implementation of the proposed rental adjustment mechanism, the Administration would keep track of the trend of the local economy and take into account the operating environment of the tenants. For the mechanism itself, the Administration would consult traders' associations and Market Management Consultative Committees after listening to the views of the Panel. Results of the consultation would be reported to the Panel in due course. DFEH further said that as some 34% of tenants were paying rental at 80% or above of OMR, the proposed rental adjustment mechanism, if implemented, would only affect some 66% of tenants.

39. Mr Alan LEONG said that the fact that the Administration only focused on bringing public market rentals to reach 80% of OMR generally reflected the narrow mindset of the Administration in addressing the problems in managing public markets mainly from a financial perspective. The market surveys conducted by the Administration were also flawed in that non-market patrons were not interviewed. Mr LEONG was of the view that the Administration should place more emphasis on strengthening the social functions of public

Action

markets as a means to, say, promote social enterprises and market organic farm products, and provide more choices for consumers.

40. SFH responded that non-market patrons were also covered by the market surveys, as mentioned in paragraph 11 of LC Paper No. CB(2) 2155/08-09(04)). SFH further said that the market surveys affirmed that public markets remained one of the major sources of fresh provisions as far as the grassroots people were concerned. This important social function of public markets was unquestionable. Another function of public markets was to provide employment opportunities for the grassroots people. Notwithstanding such, there was a need to determine the appropriate level of Government's subsidisation of public markets. The Administration stood ready to listen to the views of this Panel and members of the public in this regard, before deciding on the way forward.

41. Mr Vincent FANG agreed that public markets had important functions and should be retained. Mr FANG was, however, of the view that those markets with extremely low patronage should be closed down. Noting that four markets with extremely low patronage, i.e. Bridges Street Market in Central, Mong Kok Market, Kwong Choi Market and Tang Lung Chau Market, had been included in the list of markets to be closed down by the Administration, Mr FANG asked about the amount of savings that could be achieved. Mr FANG further said that in view of the present poor economic climate, the Administration should only limit to recovering air-conditioning charges from tenants, and defer adjusting public market rentals upwards to 80% of OMR at this stage. In so doing, the Administration should have regard to the adverse impact on those tenants who were former on-street hawkers and currently paying concessionary rental.

42. SFH responded that about \$8 million would be saved each year, if the four markets with extremely low patronage were to be closed down, subject to the views of the District Councils concerned. SFH reiterated that the Administration considered that a phased approach should be adopted to gradually recover air-conditioning charges and adjust public market rentals. As to how much the existing public market rentals should be adjusted upwards to meet certain level of OMR would depend on the views of the public on the appropriate level of Government's subsidisation of public markets. The rental target of 80% of OMR was merely a suggestion to initiate discussion on the matter. SFH further said that whilst recognising the historical reasons why some tenants were paying concessionary rental, due regard must be given to the unfair competition that these tenants posed to shops selling similar commodities in the nearby private premises. SFH pointed out that as a matter of principle, market stall tenants should pay the OMR without any further "subsidy". In fact, when rental concessions were offered to attract hawkers to move into markets in the past, it was specified that the concessions were not long-term arrangements and would be valid only within the first three years after their moving into markets. This was to ensure a smooth transition and to assist hawkers in adapting to the mode of operation of public markets.

Action

43. In response to Mr Vincent FANG's enquiry on how OMR was calculated, DFEH said that OMR was a reference provided by the Rating and Valuation Department for use in rental assessment. It was based on various factors, such as the latest bid price for a similar stall in the same market, the location of the market, the different rating factors attributed to the unique features of the stall concerned (such as its proximity to escalators), and customer flow.

44. Mr WONG Yuk-man said that although PAC mainly dealt with value-for-money audit carried out by the Director of Audit relating to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of any Government department or public body, the Administration should not lose sight on the social functions of public markets in its review of the positioning and usage of public markets, which in turn would impact on the extent to which public market operation should be subsidised. Mr WONG further said that the two papers provided by the Administration failed to fully respond to the recommendations and comments of PAC, such as coming up with concrete measures to improve the vibrancy of public markets and assessing the need for the continued operation of the identified Market A in Kowloon, particularly the stalls at the basement.

45. SFH responded that concrete measures on improving the business environment of public markets were set out in the progress report on the motion on "Formulating New Policies on Public and Public Housing Estate Markets" carried at the meeting of the Council on 3 December 2008. SFH further said that the Administration had reported in the Government Minute in response to PAC Report No. 51 tabled at the meeting of the Council on 20 May 2009 that Market A was closed on 18 April 2009.

46. Mr KAM Nai-wai was adamant that the Government should continue to subsidise public markets, having regard to their important social functions and the need to counter the monopolisation of supermarkets. Mr KAM further said that more should be done by the Administration to change the traditional trade mix of public markets to better meet the needs and aspirations of shoppers.

47. SFH reiterated that the Administration recognised the need to progressively align the market stall rentals with OMR. Taking into account that most stall tenants were low-skilled people running their own business in public markets, the rental adjustment mechanism should not be too radical and had to be implemented in a progressive manner, giving due regard to the overall affordability of tenants and the current economic situation, so that the impact upon business operation of tenants could be kept to an acceptable and bearable level. The Administration's initial thinking was that the market stall rentals should be progressively raised by phases to a certain level of the OMR within a period of time while the Government would continue to provide a certain degree of subsidies for public markets. This period of time would allow the market improvement measures to be put in place and bring about the desired results.

48. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that he did not agree to closing down public markets because of low patronage, having regard to the important social

Action

functions of public markets and the need to mitigate the monopolisation of supermarkets. Mr CHEUNG further said that before dwelling on the appropriate level of Government's subsidisation of public markets, it was necessary to first determine whether charging stall tenants with OMR was justified.

49. The Chairman said that the Government should continue to provide a certain degree of subsidies for public markets. To reduce the annual \$160 million subsidy for the operation of 104 public markets, the Administration should explore ways to generate income, such as renting out the external walls and rooftops of markets for putting up advertisements. The Chairman further said that the Administration should first tackle the problem of stall subletting to safeguard public money. The Chairman also said that he agreed that the Administration should recover rates and air-conditioning charges from tenants at an opportune time. Mr Vincent FANG shared the Chairman's views, and further said that the Administration must address the phenomenon that some stalls had for a long period of time been operated by the business partners or assistants of the tenants in tackling the problem of stall subletting.

50. In closing, the Chairman asked the Administration when it would be in a position to revert to the Panel on the outcome of its consultation with market traders on the recommendations and proposals set out in its two papers. SFH replied that the Administration should be able to do so in November 2009.

51. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 September 2009