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Panel on Home Affairs

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 14 December 2012**

Open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai

During the Chief Executive ("CE")'s Question and Answer Session on 16 July 2012, CE had announced a series of policy initiatives to address livelihood issues which included, among others, the proposed establishment of a district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai.

2. Subsequently, in her letters to Members-elect of the Fifth Legislative Council dated 14 September 2012 (see **Appendix I**), the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") advised that it was the plan of the Administration to create a district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai providing some 200 low-rental stalls with an objective to create job opportunities and reduce residents' consumption burden, to demonstrate the potential of addressing district issues at the district level, and to capitalize on local opportunities. CS also advised that the Administration aimed at opening the bazaar before the coming Lunar New Year in February 2013.

3. According to a press release issued by the Administration on 26 September 2012 (see **Appendix II**), Yuen Long District Council ("DC") members were supportive of the proposed creation of a district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai on Tin Sau Road. The Administration would continue to consult them on operation details of the open bazaar. Relevant newspaper cuttings are in **Appendix III**.

4. Implementation of measures to promote the development of local community economy has been an on-going concern to Members. During the examination of the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2005-2006,

Hon CHAN Yuen-han had enquired about bazaar-related activities (including the Wong Tai Sin Bazaar) organized by the Administration. The reply from the Director of Home Affairs is in **Appendix IV**.

5. At the Council meeting of 14 November 2007, a motion on "Developing diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities" moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing as amended by Hon Vincent FANG was passed. The motion and the Administration's progress report in respect of the motion are in **Appendix V**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 December 2012

中華人民共和國
香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

14 September 2012

Dear Members-elect of the Fifth Term Legislative Council,

Further to my earlier congratulatory letter to you following your success in the election for the Fifth Term Legislative Council (LegCo), I would like to send my warmest regards again and wish you all the best in your coming endeavours. My colleagues and I look forward to working closely with all LegCo Members in the next four years for the well-being of the Hong Kong people.

The Chief Executive (CE) attaches great importance to the relationship between the executive and the legislature. As pledged in public, this is also one of my key work objectives.

As you are aware, the CE has earlier announced that he will deliver his first Policy Address on 16 January 2013. This is to allow sufficient time for a full-fledged consultation with Members of the new term LegCo. Upon the commencement of the new term LegCo, the CE also intends to address the Council at the first opportunity, on 17 October 2012, to elaborate on his concept of governance, review progress made in the first three months of the Fourth Term Government and outline his policy directions and work priorities in 2013.

The CE has also pledged that to better address the pressing needs of the community, measures which could improve people's livelihood will be announced as and when they are ready. In this connection, you are no doubt aware that the CE has since mid-July announced a series of policy initiatives to address livelihood issues, such as the introduction of the monthly old-age living allowance; substantial relaxation of the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme; and introduction of a package of short and medium term initiatives to address housing issues, etc with a view to enhancing support for the elderly and those who are in need. A summary of these policy initiatives, with our intended timetable, is set out at the **Annex**.

Despite public expectations for implementation of these improvement measures as early as possible, we accord importance to the needed LegCo scrutiny. I have therefore requested responsible bureaux to approach relevant Panels to arrange for meetings, with a view to providing more details of these initiatives to Members, prior to seeking the necessary approval from LegCo in some of the cases.

The new policy initiatives announced by the Government since mid July are all in response to the calls of the community and are targeted to improve our citizens' livelihood. I am sure we share the common objective to ensure their speedy and effective implementation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carrie Lam', written in black ink.

(Mrs Carrie Lam)
Chief Secretary for Administration

c.c. SG, LegCo Secretariat

**Policy initiatives to address livelihood issues as announced
by the Chief Executive since 16 July 2012**

Support for the elderly and those who are in need

1. To introduce a monthly old-age living allowance of \$2,200 to benefit over 400 000 senior citizens
 - we will consult the Legislative Council regarding arrangements to brief the Panel on Welfare Services on the details of the allowance in October 2012 before seeking funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) in the same month
 - subject to FC's funding approval, our target is to roll out the scheme in early 2013, with the special arrangement to take the LegCo approval date as the effective payment day
2. To double the value of health-care vouchers for the elderly from \$500 to \$1,000 a year, benefitting about 700 000 senior citizens aged 70 or above
 - we aim at briefing the Panel on Health Services on the details in November 2012 and seeking FC's funding approval in December 2012.
 - subject to FC's funding approval, our target implementation date is 1 January 2013.
3. To substantially relax the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme by providing for the option of an individual-based means test as an alternative to the household-based means test
 - we aim at briefing the Panel on Manpower on the details and seeking FC's funding approval in November 2012. The enhancement measure will take effect after FC's approval.

Housing and land planning initiatives

4. To set an annual quota of 5 000 for eligible white-form applicants to purchase Home Ownership Scheme flats with premium unpaid on the secondary market

- we aim at briefing the Panel on Housing on the details as endorsed by the Housing Authority at its first regular meeting in October/November 2012
5. To implement a package of **ten** short and medium term initiatives to address the prolonged housing issues
 - please see Appendix for details of the package of initiatives.
 - we aim at briefing the Panel on Housing and the Panel on Development jointly on the details of the initiatives in October/November 2012

Lift projects

6. To launch the “making it easier to get around” lift installation programme at walkways to enhance universal access, particularly for elders and people with disabilities
 - we aim at briefing the Panel on Transport on the details at its first regular meeting in October/November 2012 and seeking FC’s funding approval in January 2013.
 - subject to FC’s funding approval, we will kick-start our programme immediately, and commence construction of lift projects as soon as the consultation, design and pre-construction works are completed.

Support for social enterprises

7. To create a Social Enterprise Development Fund to provide alternative financing sources for the social enterprise sector with a view to facilitating the start-up and growth of social enterprises
 - we aim at briefing the Panel on Home Affairs on the proposed use of the Fund in November/December 2012. Our target is to launch initiatives financed by the Fund as early as possible in 2013.

Youth hostels

8. To build youth hostels in collaboration with non-government organisations using the land they occupy to provide living space for young people who are working

- we aim at briefing the Panel on Home Affairs on the details in November/December 2012. We will seek funding approval as and when individual projects are ready.

Open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai

9. To create a district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai providing some 200 low-rental stalls with an objective to create job opportunities and reduce residents' consumption burden, and to demonstrate the potential of addressing district issues at the district level, and to capitalise on local opportunities

- we aim at briefing the Yuen Long District Council on the details in October 2012 and expect that part of the bazaar will come into operation in February 2013. We are happy to brief the Panel on Home Affairs as needed.

Improving operating environment for hawkers

10. To offer a grant to hawkers operating in fixed-pitch hawker areas to improve fire safety and the operating environment of their areas and to offer a one-off ex gratia payment to hawkers who choose to surrender their hawker licences

- we aim at briefing the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the details in end 2012/early 2013 and seeking funding approval thereafter.

- our current plan is to implement the scheme in May 2013.

September 2012

Appendix

Short to Medium Term Housing and Land Supply Measures Announced by the Chief Executive on 30 August 2012

Short-term measures (6 – 12 months)

1. To expedite the work to put up the Housing Authority's remaining Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) stock (about 800 flats) for sale.
2. To change the 1 000 flats under the first My Home Purchase Plan (MHPP) project at Tsing Luk Street as subsidized sale flats, and revisit the original MHPP Scheme as soon as possible.
3. To speed up the processing of pre-sale consent applications.
4. To continue government-initiated land sale in the quarterly land sale programme for October to December 2012 as announced.
5. To convert the Chai Wan Factory Estate for Public Rental Housing (PRH) use, producing 180 flats, and to commence two redevelopment projects of industrial buildings in the form of a pilot scheme by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in the 2012/13 financial year. One of these projects involves residential use of 180 flats.

Medium-term measures

6. To continue to provide the remaining 4 000 MHPP flats through sale and to explore a new home ownership scheme with long-term sustainability to address the home ownership aspiration of the original target group of the MHPP.
7. To grant part of the 1G1 site at the Kai Tak Development, originally reserved for the URA to provide additional units for the URA's "Flat-for-Flat" Scheme, but which has yet to have any development programme, to the Housing Authority for the development of about 500 HOS flats.
8. To rezone an "Open Space" site without development programme in Cheung Sha Wan to "Residential" for PRH development of 2 300 flats.
9. To change 36 "Government, Institution or Community" (GIC) and other government sites to residential use, capable of providing 11 900 flats.

10. To actively explore, under the policy on revitalization of industrial buildings, the potential for allowing the use of certain industrial land/buildings for residential purpose having regard to the current regulatory constraints under the town planning regime and the Buildings Ordinance.

Separately:

- To formulate a long term housing strategy (the formation of a committee chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing was announced on 13 September 2012.)
- To follow up on the implementation arrangements for “Hong Kong properties for Hong Kong residents” (the details were announced by the Chief Executive on 6 September 2012.)

Press Releases

CS visits Yuen Long (with photos)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Yuen Long this morning (September 26) to exchange views with Yuen Long District Councillors. She also inspected the land use development of Tung Tau Industrial Area and a site for the Home Ownership Scheme in the vicinity.

Mrs Lam started the visit by meeting with some 30 Yuen Long District Councillors to listen to their views. The District Councillors who attended the meeting conveyed residents' concern over issues including the proposed district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai, the need for community facilities (such as markets, hospitals and swimming pools), local employment opportunities and external transport links with other districts.

Mrs Lam was glad to learn of the Yuen Long District Councillors' support for the district open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai on Tin Sau Road, and assured them that the District Officer (Yuen Long) will take heed of their views on operation details for the open bazaar. She expressed her wish that the bazaar could start operation before the coming Lunar New Year.

The meeting was followed by a tour of the latest development in the district, with officers from the Planning Department and the Housing Department providing updates on the land uses of Tung Tau Industrial Area and the new site for the Home Ownership Scheme in the vicinity.

Accompanied by the Acting District Officer (Yuen Long), Mr George Tsoi, Mrs Lam went to a time-honoured cake shop in the district and chatted with the shop owners to learn about sales of mooncakes with the advent of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Ends/Wednesday, September 26, 2012

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NNNN

天水圍搞墟市 打破領匯壟斷

領匯幾近壟斷天水圍商場，致令區內物價高漲，居民苦不堪言的局面有望扭轉。港府昨宣布，擬斥資約一千萬元，於天水圍北一幅空置官地，設立有二百個攤檔的廉租墟市，並交由東華三院以社會企業形式營運。墟市月租八百至一千元，料部分攤檔最快明年二月的農曆新年前啟市。將負責墟市營運的東華三院表明，墟市的入場資格不設限制，若檔戶經濟有困難，更會考慮酌情處理。

將闢作天水圍廉租墟市的土地（紅框）鄰近民居。（何天成攝）

廉租市場增加就業

政務司司長林鄭月娥昨日視察天水圍時宣布，港府會把位於天水圍北一幅面積約三萬八千方呎，鄰近民居的空置官地打造成一個廉租墟市。她解釋，不少區內街坊曾向政府反映，區內的物價偏高、消費選擇少，且天水圍地理位置偏遠，若要外出購物的交通費沉重。政府為回應訴求，決定在區內設一個墟市，盼可推動經濟發展，增加就業機會。

當局將斥資約一千萬元，由建築署進行土地平整和鋪設水電設施，及建造二百個固定攤檔，並由東華三院以社會企業形式營運，准許商販出售熟食、蔬果及日用品等，但不准售賣生肉。

最快農曆新年啟市

她又說，墟市會以八百至一千元月租出租攤位，料部分攤檔最快明年農曆新年前啟市，讓區內居民在預備過年時可以有多一個消費的去處。

為協助墟市營運，政府又特別動用行政長官可自行批准、名為「特別金幣」的戶口直接批出一百萬至二百萬元，作為東華三院的前期營運費用；土地以五年短期租約形式批出，免地租五年，日後再收取廉價地租續租；部分獲社工推薦的商販，更可寬免一至兩個月租金。對於為何不按慣例先進行公開招標，直接把墟市批予東華三院營辦，林鄭月娥指招標需時，且特事特辦。

不設入場資格限制

東華三院主席陳文綺慧補充，墟市不設商戶入場資格限制，任何弱勢社群、區內失業或低收入人士均可申請，若商戶經濟有困難，可考慮酌情寬減租金。初步計劃墟市營業時間為早上七時至下午七時，年中無休。

過去幾年一直爭取在天水圍設墟市的天水圍社區發展陣線社工黃穎姿，對政府的決定表示高興。不過，她坦言對計劃仍存疑問，包括墟市會否為配合港珠澳大橋落成，迎接內地個人遊

來港消費而設。此外，現時區內的天光墟位置與政府擬設的墟市選址有一段距離，擔心墟市開業初期人流及生意或未如理想，建議當局應降低租金。她又希望，墟市的租約條款應保持彈性，稍後會約見東華三院，反映對墟市管理和運作細則的意見。

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林鄭：關地交東華營運 廉價日用品降區內物價 圍城明春開墟 平貨助民解憂

香港文匯報訊（記者 廖穎琪）被形容為「悲情城市」的天水圍，當中不少屬基層家庭，生活捉襟見肘，但偏偏該區缺乏購買廉價日常用品的地方，物價幾乎冠絕香港。政務司司長林鄭月娥昨日宣布落實天水圍區建設廉價墟市，選址天秀路一幅面積約3,800平方米的空置政府休憩用地，交由東華三院以非牟利、社企形式營運，料可提供200個攤檔，部分最快明年農曆年前可開業。不少該區居民和商戶歡迎新建議，認為有助降低區內物價。據悉，「天光墟」約40個檔攤有意搬到新的墟市經營。

特首梁振英的競選綱領強調「地區問題，地區解決；地區機遇，地區把握」。林鄭月娥昨晨視察天水圍墟市計劃用地時稱，自新政府班子上任後，一直很關注天水圍，理解到北面社區並無多元化的商業舖位，令基層居民的消費選擇少，日常用品和食物的價錢偏高，甚至較市區更貴；此外，由於地點偏遠，外出購物會造成交通費額外負擔。她期望，透過政府適度介入，在地區建設墟市可幫助基層市民消費，以及為該區帶來經濟動力、創造就業機會。

展前期設計工程費約千萬

相關土地的三分之二擬建墟市，其餘則為公園，鄰近港鐵天秀輕鐵站、天富苑和天晴邨等，早年由土木工程拓展署用作工地辦公室，至2008年開始空置。現時，建築署已開展前期設計，例如攤檔擺放方式等；而供電、土地平整和相關工程估計約需1,000萬元，需時約5個月。林鄭月娥表示，部分攤檔最快明年農曆年可開業，可讓居民辦年貨，售賣物品亦包括日用品、蔬果和乾貨。由於營運機構東華三院會以一個非牟利、社會企業形式營辦墟市，地政總署會以短期租約形式批出土地，首5年免租，期後收取低廉租金，政府預計營運初期會虧本，所以向東華撥款200萬元支付管理費用。

攤檔月租800元至1,000元

東華三院主席陳文綺慧透露，攤檔月租約800元至1,000元，倘個別商戶有經濟困難，首兩個月可免租。據了解，每個攤檔面積約4平方米，墟市每天營業，由早上7時至晚上7時，東華三院已承諾會優先租予天水圍和元朗區的居民。元朗區議員李月民表示，地區設施管理委員會最快月內與東華三院商討營運細節，包括建議設立社工隊，扶助弱勢社群創業。

據悉，民政事務署曾接觸多個非政府機構，了解是否有意承辦墟市，但得到的回覆多憂慮天水圍的消費力弱，令虧損嚴重，而東華三院的財務較穩健，加上於天水圍和元朗區的服務經驗較豐富，所以政府公布新措施時已指定東華三院為營運機構。

創就業機會 起示範作用

林鄭月娥強調，千萬的投資金額雖然不算多，但意義十分重大，希望天水圍墟市可以起示

範作用，展示如何透過政府牽頭來部署一個地區問題的解決方法，期望相關措施可延伸至其他地區。

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'City of sadness' to get cheap market

Tin Shui Wai scheme will tackle high commodity prices and create jobs

A new market offering 200 stalls at low rents will provide business opportunities and cheaper basic goods for poor residents of *Tin Shui Wai*, one of the city's most troubled districts, the government says.

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor yesterday unveiled a pilot scheme for a market on 38,000 sq ft of government land in the new town in the northeast New Territories, known as the "city of sadness" for its high level of poverty and a spate of suicides.

Lam said government departments had pledged HK\$10 million to finance the necessary infrastructure, and that the first of the stalls, available for just HK\$800-\$1,000 per month for the sale of groceries and other necessities, could be available as soon as the Lunar New Year holiday in February.

"We know that local residents might not have many choices in shopping, while the prices for daily necessities are even more expensive than in the urban districts," Lam said.

She said the scheme had been introduced to address the concerns of residents, in line with promises by Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying.

Residents have long considered *Tin Shui Wai* badly planned, and Leung faced calls during the election to tackle expensive commodity prices in the town.

The Link Reit, which manages malls and other facilities on public housing estates, has been accused of squeezing out small businesses by pushing up rents. The Link operates all but one of the nine malls in *Tin Shui Wai*.

Lam said the market would be run by the non-profit Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the government would provide HK\$2 million to help run the operation.

Viola Chan Man Yee-wai, chairwoman of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, said: "We target rents of between HK\$800 and \$1,000 a month, but we would consider waiving the first two months of rent to tenants who encounter financial difficulties."

A spokeswoman for the group said low-income residents would be given priority in renting the stalls, along with non-governmental organisations and other social enterprises.

District councillors welcomed the government's initiative - which is in line with Leung's election manifesto - to create more jobs and business opportunities in the remote new town where residents often

face long and expensive journeys to work.

Ken Chow Wing-kan, a Yuen Long district councillor, said the rent levels were acceptable and the new market stalls would not affect the businesses of shopping malls in the area - most of which focus on luxury commodities.

Another district councillor, Lee Yuet-man, said the district's popular dawn market - where hawkers sell cheaper food and clothing every day from 7-10am - could be a nuisance to those living nearby.

The new market stalls could provide an alternative venue for the hawkers to run their businesses, Lee said.

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天光墟方案捱轟小販盼參與設計

【明報專訊】政府上月宣布以公帑資助天水圍北發展廉價墟市，交予東華三院營辦，但關注天水圍小販大聯盟代表近月與東華商討墟市設計，昨指方案未有照顧到社區實際需要，例如並無加設小儲存倉和單車停車位等，又擔心管理規則太多，會像「領匯翻版」，希望有關當局設立一個墟市管理委員會，讓資深小販參與。

無儲存倉單車位開會似家長定規範

關注天水圍小販大聯盟代表「森哥」廖潮森指出，他們在9月曾兩次與東華三院及政府代表開會，但發現對方展示的設計圖則有不少問題。他說：「佢哋想一格格咁排，但又無設計小儲存倉、單車停車位。」另一代表王太則指出，在會上感受到政府似家長式般定出各種規範，欲以企業化模式發展，擔心新墟市只是領匯街市的翻版，「不知會否規範我們只能賣單一類型的物品，搞到我地無晒自由，無晒墟市的特色！」王太希望政府設立墟市管理委員會，加入小販委員，「我們才是專家，知道用什麼模式發展。」她認為最好的模式就是維持舊有天光墟模式，把空地劃作小販合法區，並保留目前在河邊的天光墟。

東華：繼續溝通學者：應尊重小販經驗

東華三院發言人回應表示，會與現時天光墟商販繼續溝通，亦會到不同屋苑舉辦諮詢大會，並研究商販關注的租金問題，如考慮推出合租攤位模式。

浸會大學社工系助理教授馮國堅質疑，政府不尊重小販實際經驗，更令一直與小販發展天光墟的社工在新墟市發展模式上，與東華三院形成對立，擔心新墟市重演黃大仙「龍騰墟」的覆轍。他建議政府汲取民間經驗，採取參與式管理，讓小販參與設計。政府今年9月公布，在天水圍天秀路公園旁一幅約3.8萬方呎的空置官地設廉租墟市，為該區創造就業機會。計劃以5年短期租約形式免費租予東華三院營運，小販可以800至1000元月租攤位，經營困難者首兩月可免租。

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HAB05

Question Serial No.

S67

Head : 63 – Home Affairs Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : 6302 Community Building

Controlling Officer : Director of Home Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In Reply HAB084 (Question Serial No. 1290), the Administration mentioned a series of measures to promote the development of local community economy and stated that a sum of \$2.5 million had been set aside for this purpose. However, it is noted that no bazaar-related activities are included. Will the Administration organise such activities? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

“2005 Policy Address Part D, Paragraph 94 : Urban Renewal

94. Enhancing the distinctive characteristics of our districts will be conducive to the development of local community economy. Our efforts over the past years to promote local community economy have achieved significant results. The Tsuen Wan Jewellery and Goldsmith Square, the computer shopping centres in Sham Shui Po and the positioning of Sai Kung as the “Leisure Garden of Hong Kong” are successful examples that have brought economic benefits and vitality to their communities. But there have been cases, such as the Sheung Wan Gala Point, where we have not achieved our objectives. We will draw on the experience gained when taking forward other projects to promote local community economy. For instance, we will adopt pragmatic measures to make the Wong Tai Sin Bazaar a success.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Currently, the Government is making arrangement for the early implementation of a short term local community economy bazaar at the vacant site adjacent to the Wong Tai Sin Temple. Taking into account the recommendation of the Wong Tai Sin District Council, the Government has agreed to grant the operation of the short term bazaar to a non-profit-making organisation for 18 months. The bazaar, with trading stalls featuring artifacts and commodities of unique characteristics as well as a performance zone, will help enhance the attractiveness of the area in the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin Temple to local and overseas visitors.

The short term bazaar is expected to commence operation in the latter part of 2005. The resources earmarked for promoting the development of various local community economy activities in 2005-06 will cover this programme as well.

In the longer term, the Government will continue to work closely with the Wong Tai Sin District Council on the possibility of linking up the potential tourist attractions, including the Wong Tai Sin Temple and the Chi Lin Nunnery, to develop a well-integrated cultural hub in the district.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS PAMELA TAN

Post Title _____ Director of Home Affairs

Date _____ 16 April 2005

**Motion on
“Developing diversified hawking and
bazaar economic activities”
moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 14 November 2007**

Motion as amended by Hon Vincent FANG Kang

“That, as open-air bazaars not only feature local characteristics, which are one of Hong Kong’s tourist attractions, their operations are also diversified and have a low threshold of entry, hence conducive to encouraging start-up businesses, and in order to fully utilize human and land resources, develop diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities to enhance the attractiveness of tourism in Hong Kong, as well as to further revitalize on-street economy and diversified economic activities in remote new towns, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) preserve and revitalize existing bazaars which have local economic, cultural and native characteristics, and launch beautification works, enhance management and promotion, so as to foster the viability and promote the sustainable development of such bazaars;
- (b) establish and develop new marketplaces with various characteristics, such as creativity bazaars and marketplaces for organic fishery and agricultural produce;
- (c) set up designated zones for street art performance, arts fairs and the like in order to encourage and promote the culture of street art performance, preserve collective memories, and maintain, discover and nurture the culture and talents of folk art performance;
- (d) set up various types of dawn markets and night markets at suitable locations so that those running small businesses who are self-reliant and self-supporting can have a way out;
- (e) explore the setting up of on-street cooked food designated zones featuring specialty food and drinks;
- (f) expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review on the policies for hawker licensing and management, and handle licence renewal applications with flexibility to tie in with the objectives of increasing employment, promoting diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities; and
- (g) proactively explore with various District Councils to implement the above measures and means for revitalizing the diversified economy and culture in the districts,

so as to provide the grass-roots with opportunities for starting up small businesses and employment.”

**Progress Report on Actions Taken in Respect of the
Motion on “Development diversified hawking and bazaar
economic activities” Moved at the Legislative Council
Meeting on 14 November 2007**

At the Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting on 14 November 2007, Members passed the motion on “Development diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities”. The latest position of follow-up actions taken in respect of the recommendations put forward by Members in the motion is summarized as follows:

Recommendations	Responses of the Administration and the Progress of Work
(a) Preserve and revitalize existing bazaars which have local economic, cultural and native characteristics, and launch beautification works, enhance management and promotion, so as to foster the viability and promote the sustainable development of such bazaars	<p>The relevant Government departments and the Urban Renewal Authority briefed the Subcommittee on Heritage Conservation of the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on the proposed traffic arrangements for the preservation of the entire open-air bazaar at Tai Yuen Street and Cross Street in Wan Chai at the Subcommittee meeting on 13 November 2007, and will consult the Wan Chai District Council on the proposed arrangements in January 2008.</p> <p>The Hong Kong Tourism Board will continue to publicize among visitors various thematic retail links and open bazaars in Hong Kong. These local attractions could help visitors explore Hong Kong’s living culture and enhance their travelling experience, thereby helping us promote the diversity of Hong Kong tourism.</p>
(b) Establish and develop new marketplaces with various characteristics, such as creativity bazaars and marketplaces for organic fishery and agricultural produce	<p>The gathering of people at specific locations to form marketplaces and develop new marketplace economy relies on the uniqueness and attractiveness of the commercial activities themselves. Since 2002, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and District Councils (DCs) have jointly launched a number of new initiatives. For example, the Sheung Wan Promenade, Sham Shui Po Hong Kong Computer Festival, Wan Chai Book Festival, Tsuen Wan Jewellery and Goldsmith Square and FARM Youth Culture and Innovation Bazaar at the Victoria Park have been well received by the public and tourists. In future, HAD will continue to support DCs on these initiatives.</p>
(c) Set up designated zones for street art performance, arts fairs and the like in order to encourage and promote the culture of	<p>“Arts Corners” organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are held at the Hong Kong Park, Victoria Park, Kowloon Park and Lai Chi Kok Park respectively on weekends and public holidays. The scheme aims to make our parks more appealing to</p>

<p>street art performance, preserve collective memories, and maintain, discover and nurture the culture and talents of folk art performance</p>	<p>park goes and create a relaxed environment for arts appreciation. Stalls are set up for selling of handicrafts and artworks such as pottery, paper craftworks and accessories; and for providing arts services including painting, calligraphy and sketching.</p> <p>The LCSD also organizes the “Arts and Crafts Fair” at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, providing a similar platform for creative talents to display their works and share their creativity with visitors. The LCSD will continue to enhance its projects on arts fairs to enliven the city’s cultural life and nurture creative talents.</p> <p>It is worth noting that some non-government venues like the Hong Kong Gold Coast Shopping Mall also organize arts fairs, which are well received by residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>In respect of promotion and preservation of traditional Chinese arts and provision of performance opportunities for upcoming artists, the LCSD organizes territory-wide festive events in celebration of traditional festivals, including the Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals and Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals. Apart from stage performances, traditional cultural and folk arts activities like palm reading, lantern riddles and spectacular lantern displays are also offered.</p> <p>Furthermore, regular free entertainment programmes organized on a monthly basis at various outdoor/indoor venues in the 18 districts, also cover a wide range of traditional performing arts programmes like Cantonese operas and operatic songs, Chinese folk songs and dances, Chinese acrobatic shows, magic shows, traditional puppet shows, etc, serving to promote Chinese traditional culture.</p>
<p>(d) Set up various types of dawn markets and night markets at suitable locations so that those running small businesses who are self-reliant and self-supporting can have a way out</p>	<p>The Administration is open to proposal for setting up dawn markets and night markets. However, the proposed locations have to be supported by the concerned DCs, residents and the relevant government departments.</p>
<p>(e) Explore the setting up of on-street cooked food designated zones featuring specialty food and drinks</p>	<p>DCs and residents may have different views on setting up of on-street cooked food designated zones. While some people may be supportive of such zones, others are concerned about the food safety and environmental</p>

	<p>hygiene problems brought by these cooked food zones. Some residents have requested the Administration to re-site some existing on-street cooked food stalls in their districts to off-street locations as soon as possible.</p> <p>Given the diverse views of the public on this subject, the proposal of setting up on-street cooked food stalls at designated locations must have the support of the respective DCs and local residents. Should there be available sites and community support for such project and provided that the food safety and environmental hygiene standards are satisfied, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will provide appropriate assistance to facilitate the setting up of these stalls.</p>
<p>(f) Expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review on the policies for hawker licensing and management, and handle licence renewal applications with flexibility to tie in with the objectives of increasing employment, promoting diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities</p>	<p>The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is now conducting a review on hawker licensing policy covering issues such as whether new licences should be issued and arrangements for the transfer and succession of existing licences. FHB will consult various hawker associations, Legislative Council and the DCs concerned in the course of the review. The review is expected to be completed by mid-2008.</p>
<p>(g) Proactively explore with various District Councils to implement the above measures and means for revitalizing the diversified economy and culture in the districts</p>	<p>DCs are key partners of the Government on district matters. Through the concerted effort of the DCs and government departments, various initiatives to improve economic and environment have been successfully implemented in the past and the living quality of residents in the districts have also been lifted. In future, the Government will continue to work with DCs on matters of local concern. HAD will continue to provide funding and appropriate support to assist DCs in revitalizing the diversified economy and culture in the districts.</p>