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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 18 November 2014**

Issues relating to establishing new markets

The subject of "issues relating to establishing new markets" has not been specifically discussed by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") in the current term. Nevertheless, members have repeatedly urged the Administration to evaluate the need for establishing new markets in newly developed districts when discussing issues relating to public markets at the meetings of the Panel and the Subcommittee on Issues relating to Public Markets ("the Subcommittee").

2. When the Panel discussed the progress update of the improvement of operating environment of public markets and related issues at the meeting on 9 July 2013, members expressed concerns that owing to the lack of public markets in some new districts, consumer choices were limited and the food prices therein were comparatively higher than other districts. A motion was passed at the above meeting, urging the Administration to expeditiously consider building new markets in Tin Shui Wai and Lai Chi Kok, so as to safeguard consumers' right to choose.

3. When the Subcommittee discussed issues relating to the operating environment of public markets at the meeting on 25 March 2014, some members urged the Administration to examine the need for constructing new public markets in newly developed districts. There was also a view that provision of new public markets could help assist stall operators and promote healthy competition with markets managed by the Link Management Limited.

4. The Administration advised that future provision of new public markets would be considered on a case-by-case basis. As stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, factors that would be taken into consideration included the demographic mix, community needs, provision of both public and private market facilities nearby, and number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity.

5. Members noted that the Subcommittee received three referrals¹ during the 2013-2014 session conveying the views raised by members of two District Councils ("DCs") as well as members of the public about the need to establish new public markets in newly developed districts (such as Ma On Shan, Tin Shui Wai, Tsang Kwang O and Tung Chung), with a view to promoting healthy market competition and stabilizing the prices of fresh produce.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 November 2014

¹ The three referrals were from - (a) Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with Islands DC members on 8 May 2014 relating to the suggestion of constructing a public market/cooked food centre in Tung Chung (LC Paper No. CB(2)1613/13-14(01)); (b) LegCo Members' meeting with Yuen Long DC members on 22 May 2014 regarding the suggestion of constructing a public market/cooked food centre in Tin Shui Wai (LC Paper No. CB(2)2125/13-14(01)); and (c) Public Complaints Office of the LegCo Secretariat regarding the provision of public markets in new towns (LC Paper No. CB(2)2172/13-14(01)).