

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs  
Subcommittee on Heritage Conservation**

**Relocation of Licensed Hawkers  
at Tai Yuen Street (South) and Cross Street (East), Wan Chai**

**Purpose**

This paper aims to inform Members of the present position of the relocation plan of licensed hawkers at Tai Yuen Street (south) and Cross Street (east) in Wan Chai.

**Recommendation**

2. Members are invited to note the current progress as set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

**Background**

3. The Wan Chai Road/Tai Yuen Street Project at Wan Chai Road and Tai Yuen Street originated from the former Land Development Corporation (LDC) in early 1990s. The project, amongst others, includes the construction of a new modern purpose built market to replace the existing Wan Chai Market and the then Wan Chai Temporary Market. One of the planning intentions is to resite all the licensed fixed pitch hawkers at Tai Yuen Street and Cross Street into the new market.

4. In October 1997, after obtaining the agreement of the Wan Chai District Council (DC) and approval of the ex-Provisional Urban Council, the Urban Services Department proceeded with the design for the new market. In June 2000 and March 2003, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) reported to the Wan Chai DC the progress of the project including the proposal to relocate the hawkers. The Wan Chai DC had no disagreement to the relocation plan. Construction works began in 2002 and the Urban Renewal Authority handed over the new market to FEHD in early 2007.

## **Recent Development**

5. Since 2005, some members of the Wan Chai DC expressed different views about the relocation plan. Opinions were also received from other sectors suggesting, among other things, to preserve the continual operation of the on-street hawkers at Cross Street and Tai Yuen Street as much as possible. In early 2006, FEHD and the Wan Chai DC formed a “Joint Working Group with Wan Chai DC on Wan Chai Market Redevelopment” (“the WG”) to follow up on the relocation plan.

6. In the light of the views expressed, FEHD re-visited the earlier plan to relocate all the licensed hawkers at Tai Yuen Street and Cross Street, totalling 158. After careful consideration and having consulted other relevant Government departments, FEHD proposed to the Wan Chai DC that, in order to provide relief to the anticipated traffic problem arising from the redevelopment project at Wan Chai Road and Tai Yuen Street and to enhance road safety, it is necessary to relocate those licensed fixed pitch hawkers at Tai Yuen Street (south) and Cross Street (east), totalling 86 in number. Other fixed pitch hawkers at Tai Yuen Street (north) and Cross Street (west) may continue business in situ on condition that those selling wet goods and food related dry goods have to change trade to selling non-food related dry goods for environmental hygiene reasons. The proposal seeks to address as much as possible the concerns expressed by minimizing the number of affected hawkers that need to be relocated. It will also preserve the continual operation of the open-air bazaar in the district to the greatest possible extent. The proposal was discussed and accepted by the Wan Chai DC at its meetings on 16 May 2006 and 20 March 2007.

7. Thereafter, FEHD have regularly met the concerned parties during the meetings of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee under the Wan Chai DC and the WG to discuss matters relating to the relocation. The Department has also met representatives of the hawker bodies including the Hong Kong & Kowloon Merchants & Hawkers Association and Hong Kong Vegetable Food and Grocery Hawkers Welfare and Fraternity Association Limited, and attended Legislative Council case conferences to discuss the relocation plan with the concerned parties.

## **Present Position**

8. For resiting the affected licensed fixed pitch hawkers at Tai Yuen Street (south) and Cross Street (east) who may wish to continue business in open-air bazaar (totalling 79 as at July 2007), FEHD has identified a total of 99 vacant/new fixed pitches, comprising 27 pitches at Sam Pan Street, Cross Street (west) and Gresson Street, and another 72 pitches in Jardine's Crescent and Tai Hang.

9. According to our plan, the relocation exercise will take place towards the end of this year. The affected hawkers are offered the following options –

- (a) to move, through restricted ballot, to the vacant/newly created hawker pitches mentioned in paragraph 8 above;
- (b) to move, through restricted auction, into the new Wan Chai Market or other designated FEHD markets to continue business, with the granting of rental concession; and
- (c) to return their hawker licenses for an ex-gratia payment of \$20,000.

10. FEHD will continue to liaise with and brief the affected hawkers and other concerned parties to keep them informed of progress and arrangements.

Food and Health Bureau  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
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