

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)572/12-13(10)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

**Paper for the meeting of the
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
on 5 February 2013**

**Proposal for appointment of a Subcommittee on
Issues Relating to Public Markets**

Purpose

This paper invites members of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") to endorse a proposal for appointment of a Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets ("the Subcommittee") under the Panel.

Background

2. The viability of public markets has been a subject of grave concern of the Panel. Since 2009, the Panel has been closely following up on the subject. In July 2009, December 2010 and January 2013, the Administration put forward various proposals and revised proposals to align the different public market tenancy agreements, address the problems of rental disparity and recovery of air-conditioning cost as well as regularize the status of public market stall operators. Yet, members are generally of the view that these proposals have failed to address the fundamental problems faced by the public markets, which are poor business environment, outdated market facilities and low patronage. Despite repeated requests from members for according high priority to improving the business environment which also include the operating environment of public markets, little progress has been made in this regard. In this connection, members consider it high time to review the

policy of public markets, in particular, the positioning, functions, usage and promotion of public markets with a view to improving the business environment and patronage of public markets. They also consider it necessary to further examine the Administration's proposals for rental adjustment mechanism and air-conditioning charging arrangement.

3. In the light of the above, the Panel passed a motion at its meeting on 8 January 2013 that a subcommittee should be formed under the Panel to follow up on issues relating to the installation of air-conditioning systems, so as to bring early improvement to the operating environment of public markets. Members also agreed at the meeting that the scope of the study of the Subcommittee should also cover related issues such as the policy and business environment of public markets.

Proposed terms of reference

4. The proposed terms of reference of the Subcommittee is as follows -

"To study and review issues relating to the policy and business environment of public markets, examine the Administration's proposals for the rental adjustment mechanism and air-conditioning charging arrangement for public market stalls and make timely recommendations."

Proposed work plan

5. The proposed work plan of the Subcommittee is set out in the table below -

Subject	Number of meeting(s)
Positioning, functions and usage of public markets	1-2
Promotion, patronage and competitiveness of public markets including the provision of air-conditioning facilities in public markets	1-2

Subject	Number of meeting(s)
Proposed air-conditioning charging arrangement	1-2
Proposed rental adjustment mechanism	1

6. The number of meetings of each subject can be adjusted in the light of the progress of discussion. Where necessary, the Subcommittee will invite stakeholders and members of the public to give views on specific subjects.

Proposed time frame for completion of work

7. Under rule 26(c) of the House Rules, the Subcommittee is expected to complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the Panel. Should the Subcommittee consider it necessary to work beyond 12 months, the Subcommittee would, after obtaining the endorsement of the Panel, report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to endorse the appointment of the Subcommittee with the proposed terms of reference, work plan and time frame as set out in paragraphs 4 to 7 above.