

**For Discussion
on 20 December 2016**

**House Committee of Legislative Council (“LegCo”)
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars**

Policies and issues relating to Lunar New Year bazaars

Purpose

This paper seeks to brief Members on the existing government policies on bazaars and the proposals for New Year bazaars.

Policies relating to bazaars

2. As mentioned at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy under the relevant Panel of LegCo on 2 March 2015 and pointed out by the Secretary for Food and Health on many public occasions, the Government adopts a positive attitude towards specific bottom-up proposals for organising bazaars, and considers that we should continue to pursue a district-led approach. As long as they will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene and obstruct public access, when suitable sites have been identified by the organisations concerned and that support from local communities and respective district councils (“DCs”) have been obtained, the Government will facilitate liaison with relevant bureaux and departments.

3. Since November 2015, the Government has received from a number of organisations proposals for organising bazaars (“bazaar proposals”) at potential sites in Sham Shui Po, North District, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai respectively. Earlier, we took the initiative to contact the DC Chairmen concerned, seeking their assistance in putting the proposals before the DCs for discussion. We have also been maintaining contact with the Home Affairs Department and the relevant DCs to follow up the proposals. During meetings with DC Chairmen and Chairmen of the Environment and Hygiene Committees of DCs, the Secretary for Food and Health has also encouraged DCs to render active support for bazaar development.

4. Among these districts, the relevant working groups of the Sham Shui Po DC and North DC have given approval to the bazaar proposals respectively, and bazaars have already been successfully held in Sham Shui Po. In addition, the Island DC has formed a working group, which has held a number of meetings to discuss the bazaar proposals in the district. As for Yuen Long District, the proponent of the bazaar proposal is in liaison with the venue owner on the use of the site identified for organising the bazaar.

Lunar New Year bazaars

5. Just like other bazaar proposals, the Government is positive about any proposals to set up bazaars during the Lunar New Year. These proposals are mainly positioned as public events for the celebration of festivities.

6. In early 2016, a cooked food bazaar for the Lunar New Year has been tried out by a community organisation on Maple Street, Sham Shui Po. The same organisation is planning to hold a cooked food bazaar again on Maple Street during the Lunar New Year in 2017. This is a successful example of a project initiated by the local community and supported by the DC and local residents. We have learnt that another Lunar New Year bazaar project in Sham Shui Po is also being planned by a different organisation.

7. In November this year, the Government put forward a proposal of organising a Lunar New Year cooked food bazaar in Mong Kok at a site considered suitable by the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and MacPherson Playground could be a venue for consideration. While the Yau Tsim Mong DC supported the idea of a cooked food bazaar to be held in Mong Kok during the Lunar New Year, there were different views about the venue for organising the bazaar. The potential site of MacPherson Playground was voted down in the end.

Conclusion

8. Members are invited to note this paper.

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