Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars

Current Situation and Experience of Bazaar Applications

This paper provides information for the meeting in April 2017 as requested by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars (see <u>Annex A</u>).

Bazaars are a neutral platform. For bazaars held in recent years, some were for festive occasions, e.g. the Spring Lantern Festival arts and crafts fair held earlier in Tung Chung. Some aimed to promote local economy, create jobs or alleviate poverty, e.g. Lunar New Year cooked food bazaars held in Maple Street and Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po. Tin Sau Bazaar in Tin Shui Wai is another example of bazaars for poverty alleviation. Therefore, if the relevant bureaux wish to make use of this platform to achieve their policy objectives, such as promoting local economy, job creation or poverty alleviation, the Food and Health Bureau is willing to offer positive facilitation.

LC Paper No. CB(1)690/16-17(03) (see <u>Annex B</u>) sets out the procedures at different stages. After the support of the local community (including respective District Council) is obtained, some bazaar proposals are required to apply for relevant licences from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). FEHD will play the role of a co-ordinator, particularly when issuing the licences, to ensure environmental hygiene and food safety.

Taking the Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence as an example, FEHD will refer the application received to the relevant departments for comments. In general, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will conduct site inspection of the premises concerned and carry out fire risk assessment. The factors to be considered include location (e.g. emergency vehicular access, fire hydrants), venue layout (e.g. site area and number of stalls of the bazaar), construction material of stalls, the fuel used, and other performances carried out at the venue. After the assessment, FSD will formulate the corresponding fire safety requirements for compliance by the organiser (the operator). Besides, if required by actual circumstances, other departments such as Buildings Department, Mechanical and Engineering Services Department, Transport Department or Hong Kong Police Force will give comments on the

application. FEHD's one-stop service in processing the above licence application enables the operator to obtain the professional views of the relevant departments through its co-ordination.

There are established mechanisms and designated manpowers in government departments for liaision among the relevant bureaux and departments on the use of sites for holding bazaars and / or for handling applications for activities that require Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences and/or Temporary Food Factory Licences. As the staff concerned also carry out other duties, there is no breakdown on the manpower tasked with bazaar-related work.

Annex A

<u>Information as requested by the Chairman of the Subcommittee</u> <u>on Issues Relating to Bazaars for the Meeting in April 2017</u>

Review of licence application procedures for bazaar operation and the Government's support to operators

- Application procedures relevant to bazaar operation and licence applications involved in different forms of bazaars (including licence applications involving heating activities using "naked flame")
- Existing licensing regimes for hawkers and food production or processing
- The Government's support to bazaars operators (including finance, departmental workforce, research and so on)

Situation and Experience of Bazaar Applications

Purpose

This paper provides information for the meeting in March 2017 as requested by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars (see <u>Annex A</u>).

Modus Operandi and Experience

2. The project proponent of a bazaar proposal should provide details of his/her specific proposal in the application for permission to use the venue. If the owner/department in charge of the venue gives the consent, the project proponent would need to apply for the relevant licences/permits required from the respective departments separately. The procedures provided by the various departments in charge of the venue are at <u>Annex B</u>. Information provided by various other departments on issues that are of concern to them in considering a bazaar proposal is at <u>Annex C</u>.

Bazaars already held

3. According to Government's records, no separate breakdown on bazaar activities is kept. However, since the end of 2015, some organisations have come up with bazaar proposals. The proposed locations include Sham Shui Po, Islands, North and Yuen Long Districts. Thus far, bazaars have already been successfully held in Sham Shui Po and the Islands Districts. The majority are not cooked food bazaars. Hitherto, all cooked food bazaars held have used electricity only.

Information as requested by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars for the Meeting in March 2017

Current situation and experience of bazaar application

- List of applications submitted to the 18 DCs in relation to the establishment of bazaars over the past three years and their details (including whether heating activities using "naked flame" were involved in the applications), results of the applications (including reasons for applications being rejected), issues of concern raised by DCs, latest development of the approved cases, and the situation of applications still under consideration
- Modus operandi and experience of existing bazaars and successfully held ones
- Review of current procedures for bazaar application and effectiveness of bottom-up, district-led policies

Procedures and Criteria of Departments in Charge of Venues

(A) Lands Department (LandsD)

On processing an application for the use of unleased or unallocated Government land, the LandsD will generally consider whether the land has already been planned, reserved or designated for long-term uses, whether there are specific development plans and timetables for such long-term uses, and the views of relevant departments on making available such land for the relevant use. Generally speaking, where there is unleased or unallocated government land available for use and its long-term uses are yet to be determined or are not yet due for implementation, LandsD will endeavour to put the land to appropriate temporary use, including letting the land for temporary use by way of a short term tenancy (STT) through tender, or with the support from the relevant bureau, letting the land directly to a party outside the Government for temporary use, or allocating the land through Temporary Government Allocation to а Government bureau/department for the Land relevant bureau/department to implement its policies.

2. The District Lands Offices will provide relevant District Offices (DOs), District Council Members and District Social Welfare Offices with an updated list of vacant land for greening or community uses on a quarterly basis. Interested parties may refer to the "Guidelines for Application for Use of Vacant Government Land that is available for Community, Institutional or Non-Profit Making Purposes on Short Term Basis" on this website (<u>http://www.landsd.gov.hk/en/images/doc/guide_vgl.pdf</u>). With the support from the relevant bureau, the District Lands Office will consult the relevant departments. If the application is approved, the applicant should abide by the terms and conditions of the STT. If there is no support from the relevant bureau for waiving charges, the applicant is required to pay market rent and administration fees. In applying for STT, the organisation concerned should also apply for the relevant licences required from the respective departments / licensing authorities separately.

(B) Housing Department (HD)

3. HD receives applications from community organisations from time to time, seeking to organise various types of community activities in public rental housing (PRH) estates under the Housing Authority (HA). Organisations intending to

organise such activities may submit their applications to the respective estate management offices. If such applications are approved, free venues are provided for such activities, but commercial / advertisement activities and cash transactions at the venues are not allowed. Apart from that, HD has also been, depending on the needs and circumstances of individual estates, providing venues at a fee to the organisations concerned for the provision of various non-profit-making or commercial services as required by its residents, such as mobile Chinese medical clinics or physiotherapy vehicles, mobile banking, etc. The estate management offices will process the applications in accordance with the established procedures and requirements.

4. Regarding proposals to set up bazaars in PRH estates managed by HD, the HD will examine the feasibility of such proposals and their impact on the estates concerned, in light of the needs and actual circumstances of the estates concerned. As for the common areas jointly-owned by HA and other private owners, consent from other owners is required for the establishment of bazaars in such areas.

5. PRH estates are, in general, densely populated. Open spaces on the ground level are often used for public passageways, sitting-out areas or common spaces for residents' use. Therefore, HA should consider the impact of individual proposals on the estates. The considerations include:

- (a) Some PRH estates are located on land lots subject to land leases, and there are restrictions on the floor areas for various facilities under the land leases.
 If the maximum floor area is exceeded, approval from LandsD is required;
- (b) Consent from other owners must be obtained for setting up bazaars in common areas of PRH estates. Views of residents, other stakeholders and the local community on the change in the use of common areas should also be thoroughly considered;
- (c) HA's established policy and on-going work of prohibiting hawkers in PRH estates to minimise nuisances to the residents;
- (d) the public and emergency access must not be obstructed; and
- (e) the goods for sale, in particular fresh food, must not affect food safety and environmental hygiene.

6. If the applications are approved, the applicants should abide by the terms and conditions of use of the venues and pay the relevant fees.

(C) <u>Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)</u>

7. Leisure venues managed by the LCSD are primarily for designated recreational purposes and are governed by the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (Cap. 132BC), under which trading is normally not allowed without prior approval. As a matter of fact, there is great public demand for use of recreational grounds and leisure facilities managed by LCSD. In this high-density city featuring skyscrapers everywhere with thriving commercial activities but limited living space, it is especially important that pleasure grounds or public space are provided in all districts for public enjoyment or for the public to carry out various recreational activities.

8. On the other hand, LCSD understands that the public may sometimes wish to use its venues for other community purposes such as organisation of district community events, cultural activities or charitable functions, some of which are co-organised with the District Councils (DCs) or district organisations. Most of these events are of one-off nature held once a year. In the event that an organisation applies to use a venue under its management to organise short-term bazaar like activities, LCSD will consider and vet the application on a case by case basis using the established procedure as set out in the Guidelines for Use of Leisure Venues for Non-designated Use. Besides, it will consult relevant departments and the subject DC on the applications.

9. To balance the public demand for leisure venues to conduct recreational and leisure activities and the demand of organisations for these venues to organise activities, each application for non-designated use of LCSD's leisure venues generally should not last more than three days or be on a recurrent basis, unless under exceptional circumstances. This long-established practice is well known and accepted by DCs. Consultation with stakeholders particularly DCs will be necessary for any proposed changes to the uses and management modes of public pleasure grounds.

10. The performing arts venues managed by LCSD aim to promote performing arts through the provision of professional facilities and services for performances. All performing arts venues are governed by the Civic Centres Regulation (Cap.132F), under which commercial activities are normally not allowed without prior approval.

11. All along, fairness and openness are enshrined in the hiring policy for performing arts venues. To achieve LCSD's mission of promoting culture and arts, the prevailing hiring policy accords priorities to applications for events of art nature or related to the designated use of individual venues. For open-air plazas outside the venues in the New Territories, only applications from non-profit-making organisations will be accepted for holding non-commercial activities which do not involve commercial transactions of goods and services. If users intend to apply for the use of open-air plazas of LCSD's performing arts venues for organising short-term bazaars, the department will handle the applications in accordance with the established procedures and the vetting criteria and processes. The vetting procedures, criteria and weighting factors are clearly set out in the Booking Arrangements leaflets available at the venues and on the respective webpages. The Booking Arrangements have been in use for many years, and the booking procedures and vetting criteria are well known to applicants.

12. If the applications are approved, the applicants should abide by the terms and conditions of use of the venues and pay the relevant fees.

(D) Home Affairs Department (HAD)

13. The HAD receives applications from community organisations from time to time for holding different activities in community centres/halls under its purview. Eligible organisations intending to hire relevant venues and equipment may submit their applications to the respective DOs, which will process the applications in accordance with the established application procedure and schedule.

14. Community halls/centres play an important role in community building by providing venues for locals to organise various kinds of activities. In general, the DOs will not approve applications from commercial organisations or allow the conduct of commercial activities in community centres/halls.

15. If the applications are approved, the applicants should abide by the terms and conditions of use of the venues and pay the relevant fees.

Annex C

<u>Issues of Concern to Various Other Departments</u> <u>in Considering Bazaar Proposals</u>

The relevant government departments will handle the bazaar proposals in accordance with the established mechanisms. The issues of concerns to the departments concerned when considering bazaar proposals are set out below.

(A) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

2. Depending on the details, including the location, operation mode and nature, of the activities concerned, the project proponents may be required to apply for the following licences:

- (a) a places of public entertainment licence or a temporary places of public entertainment licence is required to operate or use a place of public entertainment if the bazaar involves any event, activity or other thing as referred to in the definition of "entertainment" under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172);
- (b) a temporary food factory licence is required under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) if the bazaar activities involve the selling of cooked food;
- (c) a restricted food permit or written permission is required under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) if the bazaar activities involve the sale of restricted foods; and
- (d) a fresh provision shop licence or a restricted food permit, depending on the actual trading mode and the venue conditions, is required under the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) if the bazaar activities involve the selling of fresh, chilled or frozen meats or fish etc.

If the applicable applications are approved, the applicants should operate business in accordance with the relevant legislation, and should abide by the licence conditions and pay the relevant licence/permit fees.

(B) Home Affairs Department (HAD)

3. Like handling other district issues, the HAD would promote communication between bureaux/departments and the stakeholders and facilitate their consultation with District Councils, so that the views of different parties could be fully considered.

(C) <u>Fire Services Department (FSD)</u>

4. Upon receipt of referrals of applications for bazaar activities from the licensing authority, FSD will conduct site inspection of the premises concerned and carry out fire risk assessment. The factors to be considered include location (e.g. emergency vehicular access, fire hydrants), venue layout (e.g. area size of bazaars, number of stalls), construction material of stalls, the fuel used (if cooked food stalls are involved), and other performances carried out at the venue. After the assessment, FSD will set out corresponding fire safety requirements for compliance by the organisers/operators.

(D) <u>Buildings Department (BD)</u>

5. If necessary, BD would, in processing a places of public entertainment licence or a temporary places of public entertainment licence, offer views on safety of structures.

(E) <u>Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)</u>

6. If necessary, EMSD would, in processing a places of public entertainment licence or a temporary places of public entertainment licence, offer views on electrical and mechanical safety matters.

7. If necessary, the EMSD will offer views on gas safety.

(F) <u>Transport Department (TD)</u>

8. Depending on the details of the proposed activities, including the location, operation and management of the bazaar, TD will offer views on whether there will be obstruction to public vehicular or pedestrian access.

(G) Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)

9. Depending on the details of the proposed activities, including the location, operation and management of the bazaar, HKPF will offer views on whether there will be obstruction to public vehicular or pedestrian access.

10. If necessary, HKPF will offer views on public order and safety matters.

(H) <u>Highways Department (HyD)</u>

11. If necessary, HyD will offer views on whether the transport infrastructure maintained by the department will be affected by bazaar proposals.

(I) <u>Environmental Protection Department (EPD)</u>

12. Depending on the details of the proposed activities, including the location, operation and management of the bazaar, EPD will offer views on environmental legislation (e.g. noise pollution, sewage disposal, air emissions (if applicable)).

Appendix

Details about applications for the relevant licences

	Places of Public Entertainment Licence / Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence	Temporary Food Factory Licence	Restricted Food PermitFresh Provisionor Written PermissionShop Licence
Application documents required	 <u>Places of Public Entertainment</u> <u>Licence (Other Than Cinemas and Theatres)</u>: application form (FEHB 104); complete plans showing elevations and sections; such information and specifications as the Buildings Department / Independent Checking Unit of the Housing Department, the Fire Services Department and the Licensing Authority may consider necessary; and If a temporary structure is to 	 application form (FEHB 201); proposed layout plan of the premises; and food supplier's certificate. 	 application for written permission (should be submitted together with the application for the relevant food business licence) – application form (FEHB 94/; declaration on premises in compliance with Government lease conditions; and proposed layout plan of the premises.

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	be used/erected at the
	proposed place of public
	entertainment, the submission
	drawings should illustrate the
	proposed construction
	method(s), spacing and
	scantling of each structural
	element
	Temporary Places of Public
	Entertainment Licence:
	• submit an application form
	(FEHB 104) in 4 copies
	together with 4 copies of the
	required plans to the Licensing
	Authority; and
	• If a temporary structure is to
	be used/erected at the
	proposed place of public
	entertainment, the submission
	drawings should illustrate the
	proposed construction
	method(s), spacing and
	scantling of each structural
	element.
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	 - (a) a religious, charitable, welfare body, organization or institution recommended by the Director of Home Affairs; and (b) an educational institution or organization recommended by the Permanent Secretary for Education. A fee of \$1,190 will be charged for the issue of Fire Services Certificate for places of public entertainment activities other than cinema/theatre. 			 specified above; and half of the prescribed fee for a full licence for grant of a Provisional Fresh Provision Shop Licence.
Relevant departments involved	 the Hong Kong Police Force; the Fire Services Department; the Housing Department (application in respect of any places under the management of the Hong Kong Housing Authority); the Marine Department 	• Applications will be referred to the Fire Services Department for comment if the gross floor area of the premises is larger than $100m^2$, fuel other than electricity or open fire will be used, or deep frying	 In general, referral of an application to other departments for comments is not necessary; and Depending on the circumstances of individual cases, applications may be referred to other departments 	 Planning Department; and Depending on the circumstances of individual cases, applications may be referred to the Buildings Department for comment (if the premises are not rested on soil and structural

	 (application in respect of any vessels); the Building Authority (application in respect of any other places); and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (application in respect of any places involving the installation or proposed installation of laser equipment). 	 activities will take place; and Applications will be referred to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for comment if gaseous fuel is used. 	for comments such as the Buildings Department (if structural alterations to the premises are involved); the relevant District Lands Office (if lease conditions of the premises are involved); or the Fire Service Department (if fire safety of the premises is involved), etc.	alterations are involved).
Time for processing applications	 Applications for Places of Public Entertainment Licence (Other Than Cinemas and Theatres) shall be submitted to the Licensing Authority not less than 42 days before the commencement of the proposed entertainment, or such lesser period as the Licensing Authority may allow; Applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences and the required plans shall be submitted to the Licensing Authority not later 	 Applications shall be submitted to FEHD at least 12 working days before the proposed commencement date of the Temporary Food Factory Licence; If consultation with relevant government departments is required, the processing time may be longer. 	• Statistics not available.	• Statistics not available.

than:
(a) 42 days before the commencement of the
proposed entertainment for
a function requiring erection
of any temporary structure;
or
 (b) 18 days before the commencement of the proposed entertainment for a function other than dance party not requiring erection of any temporary structure; or (c) 7 working days before the
commencement of the proposed entertainment for a dance party not requiring erection of any temporary structure.
Otherwise, the application will be rejected.

imposed by relevantthe submission of a licence application is to ensure publicdepartmentssafety and orderliness at places of entertainment where members of the public gather together and covering various aspects such as fire safety, building safety, electrical and mechanical equipment, ventilation, crowd management and hygiene. All places of public entertainment shall comply with the requirements imposed by FEHD and the relevant department, the Buildings Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Hong Kong Police Force).	Standard requirements Source of food supply: All pre-cooked food sold on the premises shall be obtained from a licensed food factory or other lawful sources. Documentary proof to this effect shall be furnished to FEHD for retention. Fuel: Only electricity shall be used as fuel on the premises and no cooking other than warming of food shall be allowed. Standard conditions Except with approval or otherwise specified, the premises must not be used for any other purpose or class of business. The licence shall remain valid only if the activities in the immediate surroundings of the licensed premises and	•	Depending on the type of restricted foods sold, licensing requirements for each written permission/permit may vary. Generally speaking, they relate to requirements on facilities to maintain hygienic condition of the premises and food. For applications for the sale of Chinese herb tea, the formulary and dosage of each ingredient in the formulary of each type of Chinese herb tea sold on the premises shall be submitted to the Director of Health for vetting and approval. For applications involving the sale of sashimi, sushi, oysters/meat to be eaten in raw state, frozen confections, etc., Food Supplier's	• Mainly related to health requirements, building structure and means of escape.
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the conditions thereat are of	health certificates shall be
such a nature as not to	submitted.
prejudice the hygienic	For applications involving
operation of the licensed	the sale of non-bottled drinks
business.	in pressurized containers by
• All water used in connection	means of a manual
with the licensed business	dispensing machine,
must be drawn from public	chilled/frozen shellfish, food
mains or such other sources	sold by means of vending
as approved by FEHD.	machine, etc., a sketch
• Sufficient containers must be	showing the approved
provided for the	location of the
transportation, storage or	machine/refrigerator shall be
display of all open food	submitted.
which must be protected, as	
far as possible, against	
contamination from dust and	
vermin.	
• Only food supplied by	
licensed food factories or	
from other lawful sources	
shall be sold on the premises.	
• No cooking other than	
heating up of pre-cooked	
food obtained from licensed	

food factories or other lawful
sources shall be allowed on
the premises.
• Only clean new wrapping
materials and disposable
paper or plastic eating and
drinking utensils shall be
used in the sale of take-away
food on the premises.
• All drinking straws (or tubes)
shall be supplied to
customers in the
manufacturer's original
dust-proof wrappings or
other dust-proof containers.
• All unused disposable
utensils shall be stored in
dust and vermin-proof
cupboards or containers.
• Sufficient dust-bins with
close-fitting lids must be
provided for the storage of all
refuse and other waste matter
awaiting disposal.
• Sufficient clean overalls or

outer garments must be
provided for all employees
on duty.
• No scullery work shall be
carried out on the premises.
• No seating accommodation
for customers shall be
provided on the premises.
• Only electricity shall be used
as fuel on the premises.
• The licensee, or a manager
nominated by the licensee in
writing and acceptable to
FEHD, shall conduct the
business in person on the
licensed premises.
• Purchase invoices showing
the date of food supply,
descriptions and quantities of
food, name and address of
the food supplier shall be
kept during the entire licence
period and be readily
available for inspection and
for making copies by any

	health inspector on demand	
	at all times.	