

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 5 June 2018)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Progress of the major initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy	July 2018

To keep members abreast of the latest developments of the major initiatives underpinning the New Agriculture Policy ("NAP"), the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper reporting on the matter (LC Paper No. CB(2)1857/16-17(01)) in July 2017. The Administration undertook to keep the Panel informed of the implementation progress of NAP, including the proposed establishment of an Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park"), the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and designation of Agricultural Priority Areas.

At the meeting on 9 January 2018, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should discuss as early as possible the implementation progress of NAP, the construction of Agri-Park and the designation of Agricultural Priority Areas and to receive public views on these issues. On 10 January 2018, Dr KWOK, Hon Tanya CHAN and Hon Jeremy TAM jointly wrote to the Chairman reiterating the same request (LC Paper No. CB(2)691/17-18(01)). On 16 January 2018, the Administration provided the Panel with another information paper reporting on the progress of the major initiatives under NAP (LC Paper No. CB(2)721/17-18(01)). The Administration has advised that subject to the progress in land resumption, it plans to consult the Panel, the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in late 2018 or early 2019 on the construction works of the Agri-Park Phase 1 for the examination of the relevant funding proposal.

(Please also see item 7 below.)

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| 2. Issues relating to the reprovisioning of livestock farms affected by development plans and the rehabilitation of fallow farmland | July 2018 |
| <p>In his letter dated 10 April 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1195/17-18(01)), Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should discuss at a future meeting issues relating to the reprovisioning of livestock farms affected by development plans and the Government's policy for rehabilitating fallow farmland.</p> | |
| 3. Food safety surveillance mechanism for imported food | 3 rd quarter of 2018 |
| <p>On 9 October 2017, the Administration provided an information paper entitled "Food Safety Surveillance Mechanism for Imported Food" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2188/16-17(01)) for members' reference. At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon Helena WONG requested the Administration to brief members on the content of the Administration's paper which covered the developments of the incident concerning the quality of Brazilian frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat and the follow-up actions taken by the Centre for Food Safety in response to the incident of suspicious health certificate accompanying a consignment of frozen chicken feet imported from Brazil. She also requested the Panel to continue to follow up and discuss the import arrangements for hairy crabs.</p> | |
| 4. Government's policy on bazaar activities | 3 rd quarter of 2018 |
| <p>At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session ("the work plan meeting") held on 3 November 2017, the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to brief members on issues relating to the Government's policy on bazaar activities, including</p> | |

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the Administration's next course of action and progress in following up the recommendations to be put forward by the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars.	
5. Outcome of the review of food-safety related penalties	3 rd quarter of 2018
<p>Having regard to the views of the members of the Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014, the Administration undertook to conduct a review of the food safety-related penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) ("FSO"). The Administration agreed to report to the Panel on the outcome of the review (paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Subcommittee's report (LC Paper No. CB(2)256/14-15) refers).</p> <p>The Subcommittee on Three Regulations Relating to Control Regime for the Import of Eggs also proposed that the Administration should report the progress of the review to the Panel (paragraphs 24 to 26 of its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2123/14-15) refers).</p> <p>The Administration has advised that it would brief members on its review of the maximum levels of penalties of offences under FSO and its subsidiary legislation in the third quarter of 2018.</p>	
6. Liquor licence fee adjustment: outcome of consultation	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Panel was briefed on the Government's proposal to adjust liquor licence fees and the measures put in place to improve the liquor licensing regime. The Panel then held a special meeting on 22 September 2017 to receive public views on the subject. Concurrently, the</p>	

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<p>Administration consulted stakeholders on the fee adjustment proposal at liaison meetings with the trade in September and October 2017. The Administration has advised vide Annex H to LC Paper No. CB(2)804/17-18(01) that it is compiling the views received from various parties and will report to the Panel on the latest position at an opportune time.</p>	
<p>7. Facilitation of development of technology-based crop and aquaculture production</p>	July 2018
<p>Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration has advised that this item will be covered and subsumed under item 1.</p>	
<p>8. Review of legislation relating to animal welfare</p>	To be confirmed
<p>At the Panel meetings on 9 January and 10 April 2018, some members expressed wishes that arrangement be made for early discussion, preferably in the third quarter of 2018, of this subject and other relevant issues including measures to prevent/combat acts of cruelty to animals and the proposed establishment of "animal police" teams. According to the Administration, it will brief the Panel in 2019 on details of the review.</p>	
<p>9. Implementation of the human-poultry segregation measures at retail outlets for the live poultry trade</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>10. Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals</p>	To be confirmed

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concerns were

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

raised about the regulation of animal feed for livestock and cultured fish and the presence of veterinary drug residues, including antibiotics, in meat and aquatic products for human consumption. It was suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting. According to the Administration, it was considering measures to strengthen control over veterinary drug residues in food and food animals and planned to launch a public consultation on a proposed regulatory framework.

On 3 January 2017, the Administration provided the Panel with an information paper on its work plan regarding antimicrobial resistance ("AMR") (LC Paper No. CB(2)519/16-17(01)). At the Panel meeting on 10 January 2017, members considered it necessary for the Administration to explain at a meeting in detail its work progress in tackling the threat of AMR.

In recognition of the major threat posed by AMR to global public health, the Administration has set up a High Level Steering Committee on AMR ("HLSC") to formulate strategies and action plans for tackling AMR in Hong Kong. The Expert Committee on AMR ("Expert Committee") formed under HLSC has made recommendations to HLSC. Taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the "One Health" framework which apprehends the correlation among human, animal and environment health and that AMR must be tackled at all three levels, HLSC has formulated a holistic Action Plan on AMR. On 10 July 2017, the Administration formally launched the Action Plan (2017-2022). The issue was discussed by the Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 17 July 2017, and members of this Panel were invited to join the discussion.

At the work plan meeting held on 3 November 2017, the Administration advised that it would brief members on the implementation of the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on AMR to tackle issues related to local livestock farms, when ready.

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11. Policies on promoting the development of the fisheries industry	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Hon Steven HO suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the following issues:</p>	
<p>(a) the impact of the changes to the fisheries policy of the Mainland (e.g. the implementation of the annual fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and the provision of fuel subsidy to fishermen by the Mainland authorities) on the Government's implementation of various loan schemes for local fishermen; and</p> <p>(b) the assistance provided for fish farmers affected by natural disasters.</p>	
<p>The Administration has indicated its intention to brief members on Hong Kong's mariculture development in 2018.</p>	
12. Public consultation on the proposed regulation of cooked meat	To be confirmed
<p>At the special meeting on 3 September 2014, members expressed concern about inadequate regulation over cooked meat and considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up the matter. The Administration advised that it would review the relevant legislation and seek the views of members and the trade before deciding on the way forward.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 18 October 2016, a request was raised that the Administration should revert to the Panel on the progress of its review on legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat.</p>	

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<p>13. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief members on the re-development of the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory, once ready.</p>	To be confirmed
<p>14. Wholesale market consultancy study</p> <p>At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and analyse the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspectives of land use and food safety. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel when the outcome of the consultancy study was ready.</p>	To be confirmed
<p>15. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry</p> <p>At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concern was raised about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. Noting that the trade had made repeated requests to the Government for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks, members requested for early discussion of the subject.</p>	To be confirmed
<p>16. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong</p> <p>At the meeting on 9 February 2010, a suggestion was raised that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture within Hong Kong waters should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.</p>	To be confirmed

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<p>During the discussion on the implementation of FSO at the Panel meeting on 11 July 2012, concerns were expressed about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and the need of introducing in Hong Kong a licensing mechanism for regulating the activities of oyster culture.</p>	
17. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies	To be confirmed
<p>In his letter dated 12 December 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)413/16-17(01)), Hon CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on the need for the Administration to review the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) and draw up measures for promoting local community economy by facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies. He suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting. The Administration's response to issues raised in the letter from Hon CHU was set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)514/16-17(01) issued on 3 January 2017.</p>	
18. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Panel should follow up and discuss issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market, including how the Administration would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of Tung Chau Street Market.</p>	