

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 4 December 2019)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Proposed injection into the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme	January 2020

Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief members on the proposed injection into the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme, with a view to increasing the maximum amount of loan that could be provided to fishermen to help them tide over the annual fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and make preparation for resumption of fishing operations after the moratorium.

At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel ("work plan meeting") for the 2019-2020 session held on 4 November 2019, it was agreed that the Administration should also give an account of its policies and measures for promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry (in particular those measures conducive to the development of mariculture) and the resumption of issuance of new marine fish culture licences, when the subject matter was discussed.

2. Promotion of green burial	January 2020
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Item proposed by the Administration.

The Administration plans to brief members on the Government's efforts in promoting green burial.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
3. Implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and development of new public markets	1 st quarter of 2020
<p>The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets has completed its work and provided the Panel with a report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1000/18-19), recommending the Panel to follow up with the Administration on various issues relating to the provision of new markets, the implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and the management reform of public markets (paragraphs 49 and 50 of the report refer).</p> <p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session held on 4 November 2019, it was agreed that the Administration would report on its work progress in taking forward new initiatives relating to the management of public markets, implementing the Market Modernization Programme and providing new markets in the first quarter of 2020.</p>	
4. Mosquito control work	1 st quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief members on various mosquito prevention and control measures implemented by the Government, as well as the annual work priorities.</p>	
5. Construction of a joint-user building for reprovisioning a refuse collection point and setting up a community recycling centre at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road, Yuen Long	1 st quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project.</p>	
<p>6. Proposals to enhance animal welfare – Report on the outcome of public consultation and the way forward</p>	1 st quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to report to the Panel on the outcome of the public consultation on proposals to enhance animal welfare as well as the legislative amendments arising from the consultation exercise and to be proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration was requested to update members, under this item, on its progress of reviewing legislation relating to animal welfare and its stance regarding the enactment of comprehensive legislation on animal protection.</p>	
<p>7. Implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630)</p>	1 st quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to report to the Panel on the implementation of the licensing scheme for regulating private columbaria, including the progress in processing applications for specified instruments as well as the enforcement actions taken.</p>	
<p>8. Implementation of measures to reduce salt and sugar in food</p>	2 nd quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The Administration plans to report to the Panel on the implementation of various initiatives for reducing salt and sugar in food.</p>	
9. Food Surveillance Programme	2 nd quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to brief members on the implementation of the Food Surveillance Programme conducted by the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2019.</p>	
10. Results of the study on pet food products in Hong Kong	2 nd quarter of 2020
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to report to the Panel on the outcome of the consultancy study on pet food products commissioned by the Government.</p>	
11. Wholesale market consultancy study	2 nd quarter of 2020
<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.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, members considered it necessary for the Administration to brief members on the outcome of the consultancy study (including the timetable, proposed sites and detailed plan for relocating Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Poultry Market and Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market).</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration advised that the study was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2020. It was agreed that the item be tentatively scheduled for discussion in the second quarter of 2020.</p>	
<p>12. Public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF)</p>	<p>2nd or 3rd quarter of 2020</p>
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Administration should be requested to update members on the progress/outcome of the review of the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations.</p>	
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration advised that it was working on proposals to update the regulatory regime of harmful substances in food (including industrially-produced trans fats and mycotoxins) and planned to conduct a public consultation on the proposals in 2020. It was agreed that the Administration should brief the Panel, as part of the public consultation, on its proposals in the second or third quarter of 2020.</p>	
<p>13. Progress of the initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy</p>	<p>3rd quarter of 2020</p>
<p>At the meeting on 8 January 2019, the Administration consulted members on the proposed construction of Phase 1 of the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") in Kwu Tung South. Noting that the Agri-Park is planned to be implemented in two phases, members, after taking into account its proposed scale, considered it necessary for the Administration to regularly report to the Panel on the progress of this works project.</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

To facilitate members' better understanding of the scope and nature of the project, the Panel conducted a visit on 28 February 2019 to the proposed site for establishing the Agri-Park.

At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, it was agreed that the Administration should report to the Panel on the latest implementation progress of various initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy (including the establishment of the Agri-Park) in the third quarter of 2020.

14. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies

3rd quarter of 2020

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 to 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.

At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, it was agreed that this issue be subsumed under the discussion of the item "Progress of the initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy" (Please also see item 13 above).

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15. Use of veterinary drugs in food animals and cultured fish and surveillance of veterinary drug residues in food and food animals	To be confirmed

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concerns were 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. 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)).

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 Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on AMR ("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.

On 6 August 2018, the Administration provided another information paper on the progress of work on tackling the threat of AMR in food animals by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") under the Action Plan (LC Paper No. CB(2)1913/17-18(01)). In September 2019, the Administration provided the Panel with a further information paper updating members on the progress

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>of work on tackling the threat of AMR in food animals by AFCD (LC Paper No. CB(2)1914/18-19(01)).</p> <p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration undertook to provide, by the end of the 2019-2020 session, an information paper reporting the latest work progress in this respect.</p>	
16. Regulatory control of genetically modified food	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 12 March 2013, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal on regulating genetically modified ("GM") food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme ("PMSAS") in Hong Kong. At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Administration advised that it would launch a public consultation on PMSAS in due course, taking into account the international development on regulation of GM food.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration was requested to step up efforts to encourage the trade to voluntarily adopt GM food labelling and to review the trade's receptiveness to those recommendations set out in the "Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food" issued by CFS in 2006.</p>	
17. Government Laboratory's work in respect of food safety and other services	To be confirmed
<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 when ready.</p>	

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| <p>18. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong</p> <p>At previous meetings of the Panel, concern was 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. There was a suggestion that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong should be discussed by the Panel.</p> | To be confirmed |
| <p>19. 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 that the subject matter be discussed at a future meeting.</p> | To be confirmed |
| <p>20. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market</p> <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> | To be confirmed |