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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 12 May 2020**

**Implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and
the provision and management of public markets**

According to information available on the website of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), FEHD provides 97 public markets and cooked food markets/centres, with around 14 000 stalls offering a wide choice of commodities ranging from fresh produce, cooked food, clothing to household items. FEHD is responsible for properly managing these markets and keeping them clean and tidy.

2. Issues relating to public markets have always been high on the agenda of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel"). In the Sixth Legislative Council, the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets ("the Subcommittee") was formed under the Panel to, among others, study and review issues relating to the policy and business environment of public markets. Issues which received considerable attention by the Subcommittee¹ include:

- (a) planning and provision of public markets (paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Subcommittee's report refer);
- (b) implementation of the Market Modernization Programme ("MMP") (paragraphs 14 to 25 of the Subcommittee's report refer); and

¹ The deliberations of the Subcommittee are detailed in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1000/18-19) which is available at the Legislative Council website https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr18-19/english/panels/fseh/fseh_pm/reports/fseh_pmcb2-1000-e.pdf

- (c) the management reform of public markets (paragraphs 40 to 43 of the Subcommittee's report refer).

The Subcommittee has recommended in its report that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the above issues.

3. In its replies to Members' questions in relation to the 2020-2021 Budget, the Administration has provided the following information to the Finance Committee concerning the issues as referred to in paragraph 2 above:

- (a) with regard to the provision of public markets, the Administration is taking forward seven new market projects which are at different stages of planning. They include the development of new public markets in Tin Shui Wai, Tung Chung Town Centre, Tseung Kwan O, Kwu Tung North New Development Area, Tung Chung New Town Extension and Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area as well as the establishment of a temporary market in Tin Shui Wai;
- (b) in respect of the implementation of MMP, the Administration plans to overhaul Aberdeen Market and three other public markets in Kowloon and the New Territories and expects to take forward the consultation and preparatory work in 2020. The Administration also plans to kick-start minor refurbishment and improvement works for at least three other public markets in various districts across the territory; and
- (c) as for the management of public markets, FEHD is conducting a comprehensive review of its existing public markets and will formulate specific improvement measures for their facilities and management in a systematic manner. These include rental policy, tenancy renewal, trade mix and daily management, etc.

4. The Administration will report to the Panel on its work progress in taking forward new initiatives relating to the management of public markets, implementing MMP and providing new markets at the meeting on 12 May 2020.