

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1189/20-21

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by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 20 April 2021, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS (Chairman)  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

**Public Officers** : Item III

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP  
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Ms Chelsea WONG Wing-chee  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 1

Dr Edwin TSUI Lok-kin  
Controller, Centre for Food Safety  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Samuel YEUNG Tze-kiu  
Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and  
Communication), Centre for Food Safety  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Item IV

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP  
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 2

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han, JP  
Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Eric TSAI Yu-sing  
Assistant Director (Grade Management and Development)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Ricky WONG Chi-pan, JP  
Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land)  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr CHOI Wing-hing  
Chief Engineer/Land Works  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Miss Josephine SO  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

**Staff in  
attendance** : Ms Wendy LO  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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Action

**I. Information paper issued since the last meeting**

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

**II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)972/20-21(01) and (02))

2. Members agreed to discuss the following two items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 11 May 2021 at 2:30 pm:

(a) Progress of the initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy; and

(b) Implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630).

3. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern that the Secretary for Food and Health had earlier stipulated a requirement on ventilation in the seating areas of dine-in catering premises under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). Under the relevant requirement, operators of catering premises were required to register with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") on or before 30 April 2021 that the air changes per hour at seating areas of their premises had reached a minimum of six or air purifiers that met the specified specifications had been installed according to the on-the-ground situation, together with a certificate issued by a registered specialist contractor (ventilation works category) providing information related to the air change or air purifier(s) installed in the respective premises. Mr CHAN said that many catering premises operators had reflected to him that they faced great difficulties in meeting the ventilation requirement by the specified deadline. He suggested that relevant issues be discussed by the Panel.

4. The Chairman agreed that issues relating to the requirements on air change or air purifiers in catering premises should be followed up by the Panel. He directed the Clerk to liaise with the Administration after the meeting regarding Mr CHAN Han-pan's suggestion.

*(Post-meeting note: A special meeting was subsequently held on 30 April 2021 to discuss the above subject.)*

**III. Result of the public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF)**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)972/20-21(03) and (04))

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") briefed members on the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the proposal to strengthen the regulation of harmful substances in food and the proposed way forward, as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)972/20-21(03)). Members noted the background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat entitled "Administration's proposals to amend the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations" (LC Paper No. CB(2)972/20-21(04)).

Strengthening the regulation of harmful substances in food

*Proposed standards for Aflatoxins, total*

6. Mr Tony TSE expressed support for the Administration's proposals to amend the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) ("the Regulations") for strengthening the regulatory control over various harmful substances under discussion. The Deputy Chairman expressed appreciation of the Administration's efforts in organizing briefing sessions for the trade and relevant stakeholders to facilitate their understanding of the proposed new regulatory requirements, adding that the trade was generally supportive of the proposed amendments.

7. Mr Tony TSE noted from the Administration's paper that regarding the proposal of tightening up the maximum level ("ML") of "aflatoxins, total" in "any food" other than specified foods from 15  $\mu$  g/kg under the existing Regulations to 5  $\mu$  g/kg, some respondents considered it too strict as there was no common standard for "aflatoxins, total" in "any food" internationally. He enquired about the Administration's views towards those comments.

8. Controller, Centre for Food Safety ("Controller/CFS") responded that an ML of "aflatoxins, total" in "any food" other than specified foods (i.e. peanut or peanut products) had been stipulated under the Regulations since the 1980s. The Administration noticed that while some countries (e.g. the United States, Japan, Korea and Singapore) had set a limit for "aflatoxins, total" in "any food" other than specified foods, some other countries/places had not set relevant standards. The trade had expressed concerns that under the regulatory proposal, foods complying with the statutory requirements of the place of origin might not meet the proposed new standard upon import into Hong Kong, possibly affecting food supply. Taking into account various factors, including the trade's concerns, the fact

Action

that the new regulatory proposals on "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" and "aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub>" in specified foods would enhance health protection for the public (in particular, high-risk groups such as hepatitis B virus-infected individuals) in a targeted manner etc., the Administration proposed to tighten up ML of "aflatoxins, total" in "any food" other than specified foods to 10  $\mu$  g/kg.

9. In response to Mr Tony TSE's follow-up enquiry, Controller/CFS advised that CFS had been conducting tests on various types of harmful substances in food products, including aflatoxins, under its routine Food Surveillance Programme ("FSP"). CFS would continue to monitor the level of "aflatoxins, total" in different foods after the implementation of new standards and review the relevant standards in a timely manner.

10. Mr CHAN Han-pan sought details on the proposed MLs for "aflatoxins, total" in different foods/food groups. He expressed concern about the impact of adopting more stringent MLs for "aflatoxins, total" on the food supply in Hong Kong. Controller/CFS responded that as set out in Annex 3 to the Administration's paper, an ML of 15  $\mu$  g/kg was proposed for "aflatoxins, total" in "non-ready-to-eat peanuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, hazelnuts and pistachios", "non-ready-to-eat peanut products and products of almonds, Brazil nuts, hazelnuts and pistachios" and "spices", whereas an ML of 10  $\mu$  g/kg was proposed for "any other food". The Administration had explained to the trade that as aflatoxins posed grave food safety risks to the local population, there was a genuine need to tighten up MLs for "aflatoxins, total" in foods. It should be noted that a large majority of food products now available for sale in the market could meet the proposed MLs for "aflatoxins, total" and the trade would be given a grace period of about 24 months to get prepared for the new food safety standards. It was believed that the proposal of tightening up MLs for "aflatoxins, total" in foods would not affect the supply or price of food products.

*Proposed regulatory scope for Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>*

11. Mr Wilson OR noted that the Administration proposed to set or update MLs for five harmful substances in formula products intended for infants. He enquired about the views received from professional groups (e.g. Hong Kong Dietitians Association, Hong Kong Nutrition Association Ltd. and Hong Kong Infant and Young Child Nutrition Association) on the proposals.

12. Controller/CFS advised that Hong Kong Dietitians Association and Hong Kong Nutrition Association Ltd. generally supported the direction of strengthening the regulation of harmful substances in formula products intended for infants. Regarding the proposal of setting an ML of 0.1  $\mu$  g/kg for "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" in "any food intended to be consumed by infants and young

Action

children under the age of 36 months", some respondents (including Hong Kong Infant and Young Child Nutrition Association) had pointed out that as the relevant standard of the European Union ("EU") was not applicable to infant and follow-up formula, the proposed regulatory scope for "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" should be clarified. Although the proposed ML of "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" was based on the practice of various places such as Singapore, the Administration agreed that for formula products with milk as the ingredient, it would be more practical and effective to make reference to EU's practice to focus on regulating their "aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub>" (a toxin formed as a result of the metabolic process in the livers of cows or other ruminant animals if they consumed feeds contaminated with "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" and excreted in milk). Therefore, on the basis that the new standard for "aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub>" remained unchanged, the Administration proposed to adjust the regulatory scope for "aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>" to "any food intended to be consumed by infants and young children under the age of 36 months except infant formula and follow-up formula manufactured from milk proteins".

*The proposal to regard "partially hydrogenated oils" as a prohibited substance in food*

13. Mr Tony TSE noted that it was the goal of the World Health Organization ("WHO") to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids ("IP-TFAs") from the global food supply by 2023. He enquired about the regulatory control over the use of "partially hydrogenated oils" ("PHOs") (the main source of IP-TFAs) in food products adopted by neighbouring countries/places.

14. Controller/CFS advised that in recent years, various places had successively formulated policies to prohibit the use of PHOs in food and/or the sale of food containing PHOs. To protect public health at source, the Administration proposed to make reference to WHO's recommendations and the relevant measures adopted in other places to prohibit under the Regulations the import of any edible fats and oils containing "PHOs" and the sale of any food (including edible fats and oils) containing "PHOs".

*Testing capacity of local laboratories and grace period*

15. Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mr Wilson OR expressed concern whether local laboratories would be capable of providing testing services on the relevant substances after the implementation of the new food safety standards and whether the extra testing cost to be incurred to the trade would have an impact on the selling price of food products in the market.

Action

16. Controller/CFS assured members that with the adoption of suitable testing equipment and tools as well as testing methods, private laboratories should be able to establish the capability of providing testing services having regard to the new MLs. Since January 2021, CFS had conducted two technical meetings with private laboratories and the related sectors of the trade to introduce the testing methods for the relevant substances and address enquiries from the trade directly. CFS would continue to organize a series of technical meetings and issue technical guidelines on the proposed amendments by the end of 2021 to assist the trade in understanding and adapting to the new food safety standards.

17. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Wilson OR enquired about the Administration's considerations for extending the 18-month grace period originally proposed in the consultation document. Controller/CFS responded that in view of the business environment of the trade under the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the Administration considered that the trade and the local testing and laboratory sector might need a longer grace period to get prepared for the new food safety standards and to establish the relevant testing capability. Having regard to the arrangement of relevant legislative amendments in the past and WHO's goal of eliminating IP-TFAs from the global food supply by 2023, the Administration proposed to extend the grace period and implement the proposed amendments in two phases: (a) commencement of all proposed amendments except the prohibition of PHOs in food and the labelling requirement for hydrogenated oils on 1 June 2023 and (b) commencement of the proposed amendments concerning the prohibition of PHOs in food and the labelling requirement for hydrogenated oils on 1 December 2023.

18. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan noted that the Consumer Council had made a comment in its submission that since relevant regulatory controls were already in place in many food exporting countries or regions and the testing items related to the proposals under discussion did not involve the use of instruments with a high level of precision, the new food safety standards should be implemented as soon as possible to better safeguard the health of consumers. Ms YUNG said that the New People's Party considered that as infant formula (either powdered or liquid) was the main source of food for infants under the age of 12 months, the Administration should adopt a more stringent approach to ensure the safety of these products. She hoped that the Administration would consider a shorter grace period for infant formula products while keeping the grace period for other products unchanged.

19. In response, Controller/CFS explained that since the Administration's proposals involved the setting or updating MLs for a number of harmful substances in food, a number of trade organizations (covering suppliers of

Action

formula products) had reflected that the trade needed a longer grace period ranging from 24 to 36 months to make the necessary preparation, especially with respect to the labelling requirement for prepackaged foods containing hydrogenated oils. To comply with the new food safety standards, traders might need to inform upstream suppliers, select substitutes, modify recipes, make changes to the product labels and packaging and arrange laboratory tests having regard to the new MLs. In addition, the shelf life of different food products might vary from 18 months (such as some frozen foods) to two or three years (such as canned foods). Sufficient time had to be allowed for traders to phase out their stock which followed the existing requirements, so as to avoid financial loss and food wastage. During the grace period, CFS would keep on monitoring the safety of relevant food products in the market to ensure that they were fit for human consumption.

20. The Chairman asked whether the Administration had collected relevant information (e.g. the quantities of relevant food products already kept by traders, when the existing stock could be cleared and the time required for arranging testing services on the new MLs) to work out a suitable grace period. Controller/CFS replied that in proposing an extended grace period, the Administration had taken into account the actual time and resources required by the trade to get prepared for the new food safety standards. Based on past experience, a grace period of around 24 months would be adequate for the trade to handle food products with a longer shelf life.

Import control on Japanese food

21. Ms Elizabeth QUAT said that the plan of the Government of Japan to start discharging radioactive waste water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean in about two years' time had aroused grave public concern. According to information circulated on the internet, the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") had issued Import Alert #99-33 to prohibit the import of food products (including milk, butter, dried milk, milk-based infant formulae and other milk products, vegetables and vegetable products, rice, whole grain, fish, meat and poultry, venus clams, sea urchin, yuzu fruit and kiwi fruit) from Fukushima and 14 other Japanese prefectures due to radionuclide contamination. Ms QUAT and the Deputy Chairman expressed concern whether and what follow-up actions would be taken by the Administration in response to the decision of the Japanese Government.

22. USFH responded that the Hong Kong Government was gravely concerned about the Government of Japan's plan to release waste water into the ocean and the impact of the discharge plan on food safety. The Administration had already requested the Japanese authorities to provide data



Action

from various aspects and information on control and surveillance. It would closely monitor the latest developments of the discharge plan and review whether monitoring work on Japanese food should be adjusted accordingly.

23. Controller/CFS added that currently, the import of vegetables, fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from Fukushima was still prohibited in Hong Kong. Radiation certificate had to be produced for the import of game, meat, poultry, poultry eggs and aquatic products from Fukushima and its four neighbouring prefectures (i.e. Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma), whereas radiation certificate and exporter certificate were required for the import of vegetables, fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from the four prefectures. CFS started implementing additional control and surveillance measures in 2011 for food products imported from Japan. Since then, CFS had tested a total of more than 750 000 samples of such products and none of the samples were found to have radiation levels exceeding the guideline levels of the Codex Alimentarius Commission ("Codex"). CFS would continue to adopt a risk-based principle in conducting radiation tests on Japanese food products under its routine FSP.

24. Controller/CFS further said that FDA imposed import restriction on Japanese food (i.e. Import Alert #99-33) by making reference to the list of food products that were restricted from export by the Japanese Government. When the Japanese Government updated the list based on their food surveillance results, FDA made changes to the import alert accordingly. In other words, the Japanese food products and prefectures subjected to import restrictions in the United States mirrored the export prohibition measures taken by Japan.

25. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Ms Elizabeth QUAT asked whether the Administration would consider following the practice of FDA to impose import restrictions on Japanese food based on the Japanese Government's list of food products restricted from being exported to other places. Controller/CFS responded that in the wake of Fukushima nuclear power plant incident, individual country/region had implemented measures deemed fit to the local circumstances and risk assessment results. As such, the number of prefectures and categories of food products covered under their import control measures might differ from those implemented in Hong Kong. Controller/CFS stressed that apart from the food items that were restricted from export by the Japanese Government, Hong Kong had banned all vegetables, fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from Fukushima.

26. Mr Wilson OR expressed concern that in recent months, raw oysters from Japan were sold by vendors in some fresh markets without relevant written permissions issued by FEHD. He considered that the Administration

Action

should step up enforcement actions against such illegal selling activities and conduct a comprehensive review of prevailing food safety laws in order to plug any loopholes. USFH responded that the Administration had been closely monitoring international developments on ensuring of food safety, including making reference to the food safety standards of Codex and other places, with a view to reviewing local food safety standards and regulatory arrangements from time to time. Regarding the sale of raw oysters, CFS would monitor the situation and take follow-up actions as and where necessary.

**IV. Site formation and associated infrastructural works for development of columbarium at Siu Ho Wan, Lantau Island (5841CL)**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)972/20-21(05))

27. At the invitation of the Chairman, USFH briefed members on the proposed project to carry out site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of a columbarium at Siu Ho Wan, Lantau Island, as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)972/20-21(05)).

Works timetable

28. Ms Elizabeth QUAT noted that the Administration planned to commence the proposed site formation and associated infrastructural works upon obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee ("FC") for target completion in around four years to support the subsequent columbarium development. She sought details on the works timetable. Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land), Civil Engineering and Development Department ("DHCEO(P&L)/CEDD") responded that CEDD planned to commence the proposed site formation and associated infrastructural works by the end of 2021 for early handover of the formed land to the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") in 2023 for construction of the proposed columbarium and its related facilities. The whole columbarium project was expected to be completed by 2027.

29. Ms Elizabeth QUAT queried why it took so long for relevant departments to complete the site formation and associated infrastructural works as well as the subsequent construction of the proposed columbarium. She expressed concern whether efforts could be made to compress the works schedule for early completion and commissioning of the columbarium for the benefit of the public. Mr Tommy CHEUNG suggested that in the long run, the Administration should work with the Development Bureau to identify suitable sites for columbarium development and explore how to expedite the

Action

relevant land resumption and site formation processes for smooth and speedy development of columbarium projects.

30. Mr CHAN Han-pan and the Chairman asked whether the Modular Integrated Construction ("MiC") method would be adopted for constructing the proposed columbarium and related facilities and if yes, the estimated construction cost and time to be saved under the said construction method.

31. USFH responded that the Administration would explore with relevant departments to see whether there was room for compressing the works schedule. Deputy Director (Environmental Hygiene), FEHD ("DD(EH)/FEHD") advised that ArchSD was actively promoting the use of MiC method and would apply it to construct facilities for new columbaria like the Shek Mun columbarium. More information on the Siu Ho Wan columbarium project (including the scope of works and the construction method to be adopted) would be provided when the Administration was ready to brief the Panel on and seek funding approval for the subsequent development of the columbarium.

Traffic and transport arrangements in relation to the columbarium project

32. Mr CHAN Han-pan sought details of the traffic and transport arrangements to be adopted on normal days and during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals to facilitate members of the public to commute to and from the proposed columbarium. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that on normal days, members of the public could take New Lantau Bus Route 36 at Tung Chung Tat Tung Road Bus Terminus to Siu Ho Wan and then walk for about 10 minutes to get to the proposed columbarium. Also, taxis and private cars would be allowed access to the proposed columbarium on normal days. As shown in Annex 1 to the Administration's paper, pick-up/drop-off points for private cars and taxis would be respectively provided at Cheung Tung Road and Sham Shui Kok Drive for passengers boarding and alighting.

33. DD(EH)/FEHD added that during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, the following traffic arrangements would be adopted:

- (a) special bus services would be provided between MTR Sunny Bay Station and the proposed columbarium (with driving distance of 6.5 km) and the journey time for a single trip would be around eight minutes. Five buses would be departing from MTR Sunny Bay Station at a frequency of about six minutes; and

Action

- (b) special bus services would also be provided between Tung Chung Town Centre Bus Terminus and the proposed columbarium (with driving distance of 9 km) and the journey time for a single trip would be around 19 minutes. One bus would be departing from Tung Chung Town Centre Bus Terminus at a frequency of about 30 minutes.

The frequency and operating hours of these special bus services might be adjusted to suit actual passenger demand and traffic conditions. A pick-up/drop-off point for specially-arranged bus (with 10 spaces for buses) would be provided at Sham Shui Kok Drive. During the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, visitors might go to the proposed columbarium by taxis and alight at the pick-up/drop-off points at Sham Shui Kok Drive near the columbarium.

34. Mr CHAN Han-pan said that as the Siu Ho Wan site was far away from urban areas, members of the public and practitioners of the funeral trade might need to drive to the proposed columbarium on normal days to handle interment of the cremated ashes of the deceased. He asked whether metered and/or free parking spaces for private cars would be provided on normal days at Cheung Tung Road/Sham Shui Kok Drive or along other roads in the vicinity of the proposed columbarium. He also enquired whether the Administration would consider providing a car park at Siu Ho Wan in order to meet the parking demand arising from the operation of the proposed columbarium in the future.

35. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan opined that the proposed pick-up/drop-off points for private cars to be built at Cheung Tung Road was too far away from the proposed columbarium. Grave sweepers going there by private cars would need to walk a long distance. She asked whether pick-up/drop-off points for private cars could be provided near the proposed columbarium for the convenience of grave sweepers. She also enquired whether the Administration could identify some space near the proposed columbarium for car parking purpose.

36. DHCEO(P&L)/CEDD advised that on normal days, part of the area of the proposed pick-up/drop-off points for specially-arranged bus to be provided at Sham Shui Kok Drive could be converted into metered parking spaces for private vehicles. The proposed pick-up/drop-off points for private cars to be built at Cheung Tung Road could also be converted into 14 metered parking spaces. Grave sweepers going there by private vehicles could park their cars and walk for about 10 minutes to the columbarium. During the grave sweeping festive periods, certain traffic management and crowd control measures would be adopted. No parking would be permitted at the

Action

proposed pick-up/drop-off points for private cars. Specially-arranged buses and taxis could drop off passengers at the designated drop-off points at Sham Shui Kok Drive (i.e. in front of the proposed columbarium), while private cars had to drop off passengers at Cheung Tung Road.

37. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern that the number of metered parking spaces to be provided for private cars on normal days was far from adequate. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan considered it necessary for the Administration to provide a car park at Siu Ho Wan to facilitate members of the public to commute to and from the proposed columbarium. She asked whether an existing underground car park was available or additional parking facilities could be provided in the North Lantau Refuse Transfer Station ("NLRTS") or in the vicinity of the proposed columbarium.

38. DHCEO(P&L)/CEDD responded that ArchSD would review whether additional parking facilities could be provided within the Siu Ho Wan site, after completion of the site formation and associated infrastructural works. It should be noted that refuse collection vehicles would keep delivering waste to NLRTS even during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. Although the Environmental Protection Department might enhance the facilities in NLRTS in the future, it was not sure whether an underground car park or car parking facilities could be provided in NLRTS after the upgrading works.

39. The Chairman urged the Administration to explore the feasibility of (a) providing parking facilities or setting up temporary/portable parking spaces in open spaces in the vicinity of the proposed columbarium; and (b) allowing grave sweepers to use the parking spaces for staff in NLRTS (if available).

40. USFH and DD(EH)/FEHD responded that the Administration noted members' views and concerns on the transport arrangements and parking facilities in relation to the proposed columbarium project at Siu Ho Wan. The Administration would examine the estimated visitor and traffic flow on normal days arising from the operation of the proposed columbarium and review whether additional parking facilities should be provided in order to meet the demand.

Design of the proposed columbarium

41. The Deputy Chairman noted that as announced in the 2020 Policy Address, the Siu Ho Wan Depot development project might provide about 20 000 residential units in the medium to long term. He expressed concern about the visual impact of the proposed columbarium facilities on the

Action

surrounding environment. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that there would be a distance of about 1.5 km between the proposed columbarium and the Siu Ho Wan Depot site. The columbarium building would be low-rise. Greening features would be adopted in the design of the columbarium facilities to blend in with the surrounding areas.

42. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the plot ratio of the Siu Ho Wan site had been fully utilized for developing the proposed columbarium. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that unlike the development of a residential or commercial project which was guided by the plot ratio and building height restrictions, the development of a columbarium project was determined by the outcome of a Traffic Impact Assessment ("TIA") Study for the concerned columbarium development. The Administration would take into account the impact on the forecast traffic conditions in deciding the number of niches that could be provided in a columbarium project. Upon completing the assessment, the Administration confirmed that the Siu Ho Wan site could provide about 33 500 niches.

43. The Deputy Chairman opined that the Administration should consider increasing the number of niches to be provided at the Siu Ho Wan site, so as to fully utilize the land resources. DD(EH)/FEHD responded that ArchSD would exercise flexibility in designing the columbarium facilities. A further TIA would have to be conducted if there was a need to provide additional niches in the proposed columbarium. Subject to the findings of the TIA study, additional structures could be built at the Siu Ho Wan site for providing more niches.

44. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party and the New People's Party were supportive of the proposed site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of a columbarium at Siu Ho Wan. Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong considered that the Administration should, when planning for the works project under discussion and the subsequent columbarium development, address members' concerns about the need to provide sufficient parking facilities for visitors to the proposed columbarium.

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45. The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with the following supplementary information and, as and where appropriate, to include the information in its paper(s) to be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee and FC when funding approval was sought:

- (a) details of the traffic and transport arrangements (including public transport service arrangements, provision of

Action

parking space for various kinds of vehicles, parking arrangements, pick-up and drop-off points for private cars) to be adopted on normal days and during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, facilitating members of the public to commute to and from the proposed columbarium at Siu Ho Wan;

- (b) the respective numbers of metered and/or free parking spaces to be provided on normal days for private cars and/or specially-arranged buses (i) at the proposed pick-up/drop-off points for private cars, (ii) at Cheung Tung Road and Sham Shui Kok Drive and (iii) along the roads in the vicinity of the proposed columbarium;
- (c) whether the Administration would consider providing a car park at Siu Ho Wan in order to meet the parking demand arising from the operation of the proposed columbarium in the future;
- (d) whether and how the Administration would compress the works timetable for the site formation and associated infrastructural works under discussion as well as the subsequent development of the proposed columbarium, for early completion and commissioning of the columbarium for the benefit of the public; and
- (e) whether MiC method would be adopted for constructing the proposed columbarium and relevant facilities and, if yes, the estimated construction cost and time to be saved under the said construction method.

**V. Any other business**

46. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:05 pm.