FEHD and HA invite service providers to indicate interest under subsidy scheme for promotion of contactless payment in public markets and for licensed hawkers

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) today (April 21) invited service providers of contactless payment to indicate interest and submit service package information for promotion purposes under the subsidy scheme for promotion of contactless payment in markets (including cooked food stalls) under the FEHD/HA and for holders of valid hawker licences issued by the FEHD (licensed hawkers).

With a view to reducing the transmission risk of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in market settings, the Government will launch the second round of the subsidy scheme for promotion of contactless payment in public markets under the Anti-epidemic Fund, and extend the scope to cover licensed hawkers. Under the subsidy scheme, the Government will provide a one-off subsidy at a flat rate of \$5,000 per stall and per licensed hawker so as to encourage stall tenants and licensed hawkers to use contactless payment as an anti-epidemic measure to safeguard public health.

The subsidy may be used to meet the initial set-up costs as well as service and other fees (including transaction fees) in relation to the provision of at least one contactless payment means, which is processed through a licensed bank or a stored value facility licensee being regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, or a debit/credit card scheme, for patrons. Details of the subsidy scheme are set out in Annex I.

To provide stall tenants and licensed hawkers with more information on the service packages offered by service providers, interested companies may indicate their interest in joining the promotion activities in relation to provision of contactless payment in FEHD/HA markets (including cooked food stalls) and for licensed hawkers by completing and returning the reply form (in Annex II) and the Service Package Proforma (in Annex III) by 5pm on April 26 (Monday) to the FEHD by post (address: 45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong), or by email (email address: <u>contactlesspayment_market@fehd.gov.hk</u>). The service package information received will be compiled as an information pack for FEHD/HA market and cooked food stall tenants and licensed hawkers.

The subsidy scheme will be open for application from April 30 (Friday). Details will be announced later, and FEHD/HA market and cooked food stall tenants and licensed hawkers will be notified of the arrangements for the processing of their applications by the FEHD and the HA respectively.