

Recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”)

Under the policy review on the conservation of built heritage, the AAB recommends the Government:

- (a) “to set up a dedicated fund on conservation of built heritage to provide funding for public education and publicity work as well as academic research undertaken by non-government organisations and other bodies to enhance the understanding and awareness of the public on built heritage conservation. The fund should also cover certain government initiatives and activities on built heritage conservation, such as the revitalisation of historic buildings and promotion on the importance of timely maintenance to the owners to avoid dilapidation. The AAB considers that the fund should not be used to purchase or resume privately-owned historic buildings”;
- (b) “to build on the existing public education and publicity work to enhance the understanding and awareness of the public (including private owners of historic buildings) on the conservation of built heritage, such as the importance of timely and proper maintenance for historic buildings to avoid dilapidation. Assistance to non-government organisations and other bodies to undertake this could be supported by the proposed built heritage fund. More creative means such as electronic platforms and innovative devices could be explored”; and
- (c) “to step up efforts in public engagement and consultation on issues concerning built heritage conservation. On individual conservation projects and issues at the district level, the community could be better consulted through collaboration with partners including District Councils and other non-government organisations. Assistance to non-governmental organisations and other bodies to undertake this could be supported by the proposed built heritage fund. The AAB would continue to advise the Antiquities Authority on policies and territory-wide subjects following thorough public consultation and engagement”.
