

For information
on 25 February 2009

BOARD PAPER
AAB/6/2009-10

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE EX-UPPER LEVELS POLICE STATION**

PURPOSE

_____ To present to Members the result of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the ex-Upper Levels Police Station (ULPS), which was conducted in accordance with the HIA Mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 11/2007. A copy of the Circular is at Annex A for Members' reference.

HIA MECHANISM

2. In response to the rising aspiration of the public on heritage conservation, the Chief Executive announced in his 2007/08 Policy Address a package of initiatives for enhanced conservation of historic/heritage sites and buildings. The initiatives include a requirement for assessing the impact on historic/heritage sites and buildings arising from the implementation of Government's capital works projects. Implemented from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasizes that every effort should be made to avoid or minimize adverse impact of the proposed work on the following items -

- (i) all declared monuments;
- (ii) all proposed monuments;
- (iii) all sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board;
- (iv) all recorded sites of archaeological interest; and
- (v) Government historic sites identified by AMO.

The above items are referred to as "heritage sites" in the Circular.

3. Under the HIA mechanism, the works agent is required to check any identified "heritage sites" within or in the vicinity of the project boundary and to conduct an HIA if required by the AMO. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the works agent should include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph, to be cleared by the AMO, stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and, if affirmative, what mitigation measures will be taken and whether the public are in support of the proposed measures in the public engagement process.

THE PROJECT

4. In order to create space for the future entrance/exit of Sai Yin Pun MTR Station of the West Island Line, the existing David Trench Rehabilitation Centre on Bonham Road will be demolished. The ex-ULPS site at High Street will be used for the re-provisioning of the facilities before the Centre ceases operation. The project is initiated by the Railway Development Office (RDO) of the Highways Department and managed by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) as the works agent. Given the heritage significance of ex-ULPS (a Grade III historic building), AMO has confirmed that an HIA as required. The MTRCL has commissioned a heritage consultant to conduct an HIA study on the graded building.

HIA STUDY

5. The purpose of the HIA Study is to identify the historical significance of the ex-ULPS and to design mitigation measures to safeguard the building from adverse impacts in the course of the conversion works. After rounds of discussion among AMO, RDO, Hospital Authority, MTRCL and its heritage consultant, the study has been concluded and a report submitted. AMO has agreed to the proposed mitigation measures as significant character-defining element of ex-ULPS will be preserved. In sum, the façades and major architectural features will be retained; the existing timber windows and doors will be kept, repaired or replaced with similar material and design as per existing; new building series installations, if necessary, will be neatly placed and concealed as appropriate. The proposed mitigation measures have been spelt out in a separate paper at **Annex B**.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to offer their comments and advice on the mitigation measures proposed in the HIA Study.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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