

**For discussion
on 10 September 2013**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/16/2013-14**

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

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ON BLOCK M AT THE KOWLOON HOSPITAL
AT NO. 147A ARGYLE STREET, MONG KOK**

PURPOSE

This paper presents to Members the preliminary findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”) on Block M, Kowloon Hospital.

HIA MECHANISM

2. The HIA was conducted in accordance with the HIA Mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. As implemented from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasises that every effort should be made to avoid or minimise adverse impact by the proposed works arising from Government’s capital works projects on “heritage sites”¹. If there is any adverse impact, the project proponent/works agent should introduce mitigation measures and engage the public in particular the AAB.

THE PROJECT

3. The project involves conversion of Block M at the Kowloon Hospital, a Grade 2 Historic Building, from storage and function rooms for staff wellness and amenities into offices and training centre for the Hospital Authority (“HA”) with Government funding.

¹ Heritage sites include:

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

The HIA

4. Given the heritage significance of Block M at the Kowloon Hospital (a Grade 2 historic building), HA has engaged a heritage consultant to conduct an HIA with a view to examining to what extent the proposed works would affect the historic building and devising mitigation measures if adverse impact is unavoidable.

5. HA has submitted an HIA report to AMO for consideration. Given that the key character defining elements of Block M at the Kowloon Hospital will be preserved and the new additions and alterations, if necessary, will be kept to the minimum, AMO considers the works proposals agreeable and AMO is satisfied with the recommended mitigation measures. The main points of the HIA report are detailed at **Annex A** and AMO's comments on the report are set out at in **Annex B**. The full HIA report can be accessed via the link http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA_Report_KHBLKM.pdf.

6. Representatives from the Hospital Authority as well as their heritage consultant will present the works proposals at the meeting and their consultant will further refine the proposals in the light of Members' comments.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to offer comments and advice on the findings of the HIA.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
September 2013

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