

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment in respect of
the revitalisation of the Former Fanling Magistracy**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report in respect of the revitalisation of the Former Fanling Magistracy (FFM) into The Hong Kong Institute of Leadership Development and has the following comments:

- a) The proposal has adopted the principles of minimal intervention and reversibility for the new additions such that changes / disturbance to the FFM could be kept to a minimum. As such, the proposal is agreeable.
- b) The front elevation of the FFM will be kept intact with minor alterations to the side elevation to fulfill barrier free access requirements and provide new building services. This approach can minimise the visual impact to the external elevations, especially to the front elevation, which is a key character defining element exemplifying the architectural values of the FFM.
- c) Apart from the necessary internal alterations to cater for the introduction of new uses, the bulk of the internal layout will be retained. This is meant to demonstrate the spirit of judicial impartiality as embodied in the original segregated access used by the public, defendants and judges, and such circulation route will be retained for interpretation purposes. The existing shroff office on G/F will be converted into the Conservation Corner to help the public to appreciate the cultural significance of the FFM. These measures are commendable.
- d) The proposed outlook of the new hostel block will be compatible with the FFM in terms of height, mass and architectural language, but it is distinguishable from the

historic building. Besides, the proposed building height, including the rooftop plant rooms and lift shaft, will not be higher than the FFM to minimize the visual impact to the FFM.

- e) We note that the Duty Lawyer's Office and the two services blocks behind the FFM, which were constructed in 1997, will be removed and the external area will be designed with new paving and lawn. Such design can facilitate better public appreciation of the rear elevation of the FFM and enhance the surrounding landscape.
- f) We also note that cartographic and photographic surveys will be conducted to ensure proper documentation of the existing features of the site. This is supported.
- g) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose the following further enhancement measures:
 - (i) Details of the upgrading works to the existing staircases should be submitted to the AMO for comment.
 - (ii) The design of the new ramp and railings at the rear elevation should be compatible with but distinguishable from the historic building. Design and fixing details of the new ramp and railings should be submitted to the AMO for comment.
 - (iii) The height of the new lift platform in the central light well should be kept to the minimum and the appearance should be highly transparent to minimise visual impact to the FFM. Design, fixing and interface details of the lift platform should be submitted to the AMO for comment.
 - (iv) The installations and ducting for the building services

facilities should be in less prominent locations to minimise the visual impact to the FFM. The routings should also be carefully designed to minimise the damage to the existing building fabric. The details should be submitted to the AMO for comment.

- (v) To ensure that the mitigation measures recommended in the HIA report are properly implemented, a heritage consultant should be appointed by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to monitor the implementation and record any changes and variations.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2014

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 22-3/0