

**For discussion
on 16 September 2014**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/40/2013-14**

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

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN RESPECT OF THE
REVITALISATION OF THE BRIDGES STREET MARKET**

PURPOSE

This paper presents to Members the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in respect of the Bridges Street Market at No. 2 Bridges Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.

HIA MECHANISM

2. The HIA in respect of the revitalisation of the Bridges Street Market was conducted in accordance with the HIA mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau (DEVB) vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. Since its implementation 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. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the works agent is required to include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph to be cleared by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and if in the affirmative, what mitigation measures will be taken and whether the public, in particular the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), are in support of the proposed measures in the public engagement process.

¹ Heritage sites include:

- (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 the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

THE PROJECT

3. The revitalisation of the Bridges Street Market is one of the projects under Batch III of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme) launched by DEVB. The Revitalisation Scheme invites non-profit-making organisations with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to apply for the adaptive re-use of selected Government-owned historic buildings in the form of social enterprises.

4. Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme was launched on 7 October 2011 and the selection results were announced on 21 February 2013. Approval-in-principle has been granted by the Secretary for Development to the Journalism Education Foundation Hong Kong Limited to convert the Bridges Street Market into “The Hong Kong News-Expo”, which will become a landmark in Central for providing media education programmes, experiential studios, lectures and workshops to promote the news media and also to provide an exhibition-cum-education facility with news as the main theme. Through the display of news reports on historical events and developments, the Hong Kong News-Expo is expected to benefit the community by demonstrating press freedom as one of Hong Kong’s key success factors.

5. Given the cultural significance of the Bridges Street Market (a Grade 3 historic building), AMO confirmed that an HIA would be required for the revitalisation works. The Journalism Education Foundation Hong Kong Limited has subsequently commissioned a heritage consultant to conduct the assessment.

The HIA

6. The purpose of the captioned HIA is to prepare a set of heritage impact assessments which aims at designing mitigation measures to avoid adverse impact on the building in the course of the revitalisation works and outlining the future interpretation, maintenance and management strategies.

7. The Journalism Education Foundation Hong Kong Limited has prepared an HIA report based on AMO's Conservation Guidelines in the Resource Kit for Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme and subsequent discussions with AMO. The main points of the HIA report and AMO's comments are set out in **Annexes A and B** respectively. The full HIA report can be accessed through the link: http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA_Report_BSM.pdf.

ADVICE SOUGHT

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

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Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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