

**For discussion
on 4 March 2015**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/4/2015-16**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED YOUTH HOSTEL
AT 122A HOLLYWOOD ROAD, HONG KONG**

PURPOSE

This paper aims to present to Members the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in respect of the proposed Youth Hostel at 122A Hollywood Road, Hong Kong.

HIA MECHANISM

2. The HIA in respect of the proposed Youth Hostel 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 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. Under the “Youth Hostel Scheme” announced by the Chief Executive in 2012, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs), with the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)’s support, proposes to redevelop a site at 122A Hollywood Road, which is owned by TWGHs, into a youth hostel. The existing vacant school building at the intended redevelopment site is neither a declared monument nor a graded building. The site, however, is immediately adjacent to Man Mo Temple Compound (a declared monument) and near Ladder Street (a Grade 1 historic site).

The HIA

4. In view of the possible visual impact of the proposed works on the Man Mo Temple Compound and possible interference such as vibration and ground settlement on the heritage sites during the course of the works, AMO considered that an HIA for the project was necessary. The TWGHs thus engaged a heritage consultant to conduct an HIA which aims to examine to what extent the Youth Hostel development would affect the heritage sites and to devise mitigation measures if adverse impact is unavoidable.

5. The TWGHs submitted the HIA report to the AMO recently. Given that the potential impacts of the new youth hostel development on the Man Mo Temple Compound and Ladder Street can be reasonably mitigated, AMO considers the proposal agreeable from the heritage preservation viewpoint and is satisfied with the recommended mitigation measures. Salient points of the HIA report and AMO’s comments are set out at **Annexes A and B** respectively. The full HIA report can be accessed via the link http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA_Report_TWYH.pdf.

6. Representatives of the HAB, TWGHs, as well as their project and heritage consultants, will present the HIA report at the meeting. They will further refine the Youth Hostel proposal in the light of Members’ comments.

ADVICE SOUGHT

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

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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