

**For discussion  
on 3 March 2016**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/23/2015-16**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE  
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF DEDICATED FUND  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE**

**PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the setting up of a dedicated fund for the conservation of built heritage in implementing the Board's recommendations under the policy review on the conservation of built heritage ("Policy Review").

**BACKGROUND**

2. In its report released in January 2015 following the completion of the Policy Review, the Board recommends the Government to, amongst other things, set up a dedicated fund on the conservation of built heritage (the "Fund") to cover certain initiatives and activities on the subject (such as the restoration, maintenance and revitalisation of historic buildings), and to provide funding for research, public education and publicity activities, etc. Extract of the Board's recommendations is at Annex.

3. Subsequently, in the 2016 Policy Address, it was announced that the Government will earmark \$500 million to implement the Board's recommendation to establish the Fund, which will provide subsidies for public education, community involvement and publicity activities and academic research. It will also cover certain existing government initiatives and activities on built heritage conservation.

4. In the government Budget for the year ending 31 March 2017, it is further announced that a commitment of \$100 million (out of the \$500 million

earmarked) will be reserved for non-works initiatives in conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings (details are set out in paragraph 6 below). The remaining \$400 million will be used to cover the capital costs of the revitalisation projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”).

## **FRAMEWORK**

### An administrative fund

5. The Board is of the view that the Fund should be set up in the most effective manner to deliver its functions. It has considered that a fund of administrative nature can be established and start operating within a relatively short period of time. In the long run, the Board does not rule out the possibility of evolving towards a statutory fund given its merits. To ensure an early implementation of the Board’s recommendations, the Fund will be set up as an administrative measure at its inception. The organisation and operation of the Fund will be reviewed when appropriate in the light of the experience in running the Fund to identify the best way forward in meeting the objective of the Fund.

### Scope

6. The Fund will finance two existing initiatives, i.e. the Revitalisation Scheme and the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for privately-owned graded historic buildings (“FAS”). For the latter, we will raise the grant ceiling for works projects and expand the scope of the scheme to cover all historic buildings for non-governmental use, such that more comprehensive maintenance works could be carried out. Further, the Fund will support public education, community involvement activities, promotional activities and academic research. Our preliminary thinking is to collaborate with professional institutions and non-government organisations in enhancing community involvement activities, and to financially support current programmes such as the Friends of Heritage Scheme. We will also carry out a pilot study on the “point-line-plane” approach for conservation, and work with experts and stakeholders to explore the way forward on this subject.

New committee to advise on the operation of the Fund

7. We intend to set up an advisory committee comprising primarily non-official members to advise the Government on the operation of the Fund. The committee will be chaired by a non-official, with non-official members in the fields of historical research, architecture, social enterprise, finance, etc., and official members from the Commissioner for Heritage's Office ("CHO") and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, etc. Its chairperson and members will be appointed by the Secretary for Development. The CHO, with assistance from the Antiquities and Monuments Office, will provide secretariat support to the Fund.

8. The Board and the new advisory committee are expected to play different roles. The Board will continue to advise the Antiquities Authority on any matters relating to antiquities and monuments, mainly from the policy perspective, as stipulated in the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). Specifically, the Board will continue to tender advice on the declaration of monuments, conduct grading assessment on historic buildings, and offer views and comments on Heritage Impact Assessment, amongst other ongoing responsibilities. On the other hand, the new committee will advise the Government on the allocation of funding to support initiatives related to the restoration, maintenance and revitalisation of historic buildings, as well as public education, community involvement and publicity activities, academic research, consultancy and technical studies in relation to the conservation of built heritage.

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

9. Members are invited to note the framework of the Fund and offer views. We will keep Members informed of further progress.

Development Bureau

March 2016

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