

**For discussion
on 7 September 2017**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/15/2017-18**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**PROGRESS UPDATE OF THE
CENTRAL POLICE STATION COMPOUND
REVITALISATION PROJECT**

PURPOSE

This paper updates Members on the latest development of the Central Police Station (“CPS”) Compound revitalisation project, and seeks Members’ views on the recovery options for the Married Inspectors’ Quarters, i.e. Block 4, of the Compound as proposed by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (“HKJC”).

BACKGROUND

2. The Government in partnership with HKJC are taking forward the revitalisation of the CPS Compound, comprising the CPS, the Central Magistracy and the Victoria Prison, which were declared as monuments in 1995. The revitalisation project includes construction works for new buildings, conservation works for historic buildings, infrastructure works within the Compound, and road improvement works in the vicinity of the site.

LATEST PROGRESS

3. As at September 2017, apart from the partially collapsed Block 4, works have resumed on the other 15 historic buildings, the new gallery and auditorium buildings, the Parade Ground, the Prison Yard and the footbridge. Works on the gallery and auditorium buildings were close to completion. For the historic buildings, in addition to works being carried out on the exterior

walls, interior works have also resumed. Further tests on building materials have been carried out together with the Buildings Department (“BD”) to confirm the strength of the existing building structures, and additional structural enhancement works are being implemented. The footbridge piling has been completed and its construction is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2018.

4. On 31 May 2017, BD issued the report on the investigation of the partial collapse of Block 4. The findings of the investigation revealed that the collapse was most likely attributable to the hollowing out of multiple pockets in brick piers and brick walls for the installation of steel members for the timber floor strengthening works of the first floor of the verandah. BD believed that the failure of one of the internal brick piers due to significant loss of sectional bearing area might have triggered the collapse incident. The report pointed out that there was no evidence to suggest that the stability of the building had been impaired by other building works, and these works were not considered to have directly led to the collapse incident. In the light of the investigation findings and after consultation with the Department of Justice, BD has instigated prosecution proceedings against the contractor concerned with the building works, the authorised signatory of the contractor and a sub-contractor. HKJC takes the findings of the BD’s investigation very seriously and has been reviewing these findings carefully, and will continue to fully cooperate with BD.

PROPOSED RECOVERY OPTIONS

5. HKJC has indicated its full commitment to the CPS Compound project and its recovery. With reference to the current condition of Block 4 and international heritage practice, HKJC has considered a broad range of recovery options for Block 4 in consultation with BD, the Antiquities and Monuments Office and the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office of the Development Bureau. Members’ views were sought on the eight preliminary recovery options for Block 4 on 8 September 2016.

6. With reference to Members’ comments expressed earlier as well as the findings of BD’s investigation, HKJC has further developed these options with public safety as the primary consideration. HKJC has shortlisted three

recovery options among the eight, and wishes to further consult Members.
Details are set out in the paper prepared by HKJC at **Annex**.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to note the latest progress of the CPS Compound revitalisation project and offer views on the three shortlisted recovery options for Block 4.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
September 2017

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

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 51-4/5/2