Revised Scheme of the Preservation-cum-development Proposal of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Compound in Central

Background

In 2011, the Chief Executive in Council ordered that approval should be given for the preservation-cum-development scheme of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui ("HKSKH") Compound in Central (the "2011 Scheme"). In addition to the preservation of the four historic buildings, the site would accommodate facilities including the following:

- (a) a church and religious purposes with ancillary accommodation;
- (b) a kindergarten;
- (c) medical facilities (such as a medical centre, and health education and awareness centres);
- (d) social welfare facilities (such as welfare council office and a counselling centre);
- (e) environmental protection facilities (such as environmental education and awareness centre); and
- (f) a semi-covered open plaza of about 900 m² for public enjoyment.

2. Having taken into account the relocation of a public hospital (i.e. Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital) to another district, and the growing population arising from the development in the Central and Western District, HKSKH revisited the plan to redevelop its Central site and has decided to build thereon a non-profit-making private hospital. The aim is to provide the residents in the Central and Western District with healthcare services other than the public ones. The details of the non-profit-making private hospital are as follows.

The Revised Scheme

3. The proposed non-profit-making private hospital will be 25

storey high (including three levels of basement) measuring 134.8 mPD, with a total gross floor area of 46 659 m² (of which 36 228 m² will be occupied by the hospital block). The new hospital will house 293 beds, 12 operating theatres, and a roof garden. To improve ventilation on the site and to minimise visual impact, the new hospital is designed to be of a triangular shape and will make use of matt glass for its exterior walls. Besides, in the overall landscape design, a large tree on Glenealy near St. Paul's Church will be retained. Artistic impressions of the revised scheme are at <u>Appendix</u>.

4. The hospital block will blend in with the four historic buildings in the design. Three Grade 1 historic buildings (i.e. Bishop's House, St. Paul's Church, and the Church Guest House) will be preserved, while the façades of the Old Sheng Kung Hui Kei Yan Primary School (a Grade 2 historic building which was the south wing of St. Paul's College) will be retained with its interior altered limitedly and appropriately as necessary. To strike a proper balance between preservation and development, HKSKH has engaged a heritage consultant to draw up a conservation management plan for the revised development scheme.

5. To make sure that there will be sufficient space to provide for the community's much needed medical services, and at the same time bearing in mind the conservation of the historic buildings, the usable area on the site for development is rather limited. The new hospital block can only be built basically upon the site of what was once the Hong Kong Central Hospital. To cater for the space required for a hospital's facilities and services, the revised scheme will take up slightly more gross floor area and building height than the 2011 Scheme did. HKSKH is mindful of the difficulty to balance between the increase in floor area and building height in the revised scheme and the benefits to be enjoyed by the hospital users. In comparison with the 2011 Scheme, however, all usable area on the site has been utilised completely for the provision of medical services to the public, instead of the religious and administrative uses (e.g. an office) by HKSKH. In other words, the revised scheme will allow the general public to use relatively more of the area available.

6. Separately, in the revised scheme, there will be a four-storey-high covered atrium with an area of 1916 m^2 (which is larger

than the semi-covered open plaza of 900 m^2 in the 2011 Scheme). Open to the public and decorated with Christian artworks and other visual arts, the covered atrium will be the hub of the site connecting the four preserved historic buildings. Speaking of the site as a whole, the revised scheme blends traditional heritage buildings with modern hospital architecture, in order to express more concretely the integration of medical technology and the faith, thereby conveying beliefs in healing and eternal life.

Way Forward

7. HKSKH hopes that the Antiquities Advisory Board will support the latest revised scheme.

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui June 2018

Appendix to Annex B

Revised Scheme of the Preservation-cum-development Proposal of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Compound in Central

Artistic Impressions



