

**For discussion  
on 6 September 2018**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/32/2017-18**

**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 option for the Married Inspectors’ Quarters, i.e. Block 4, of the Compound proposed by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (“HKJC”).

**OPERATION OF TAI KWUN**

2. In partnership with the Government, HKJC is 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 of new buildings, conservation works for historic buildings, infrastructure works within the Compound, and road improvement works in the vicinity of the site. The revitalised CPS Compound operates as Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts.

3. Tai Kwun will be opened by phases. During the first phase which commenced operation on 29 May 2018, 11 historic buildings and two new buildings have been opened offering the public with diverse programmes on heritage appreciation, contemporary art and performing art. Four other historic buildings are currently undergoing interior renovation and are targeted to be opened later in 2018. The footbridge connecting the CPS Compound with the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System was opened for

public use on the opening day of the first phase.

4. At the initial opening phase, access management measures are adopted to keep the number of visitors at an optimal level and to minimise the impacts on the local community. The operation of Tai Kwun since its opening has generally been smooth. There are no queues at the entrances, and the surrounding traffic is not affected. In view of the smooth operation for the first two weeks since its opening, Tai Kwun has admitted walk-in visitors on weekdays since mid-June 2018. Tai Kwun will keep monitoring the visitation pattern as well as its operation, and will review and enhance its access management measures.

## **RECOVERY OF BLOCK 4**

5. Block 4 partially collapsed on 29 May 2016, and the extant portion is now kept safe under protective wrapping and propping.

6. HKJC has devoted considerable efforts in drawing up the recovery options for Block 4 in the past two years. On 8 September 2016, Members' views were sought on the eight preliminary recovery options, namely (A) Restoration; (B) Resconstruction; (C) Adaptation; (D) Preservation; (E) Façade retention; (F) Façade and interior retention; (G) Total reconstruction; and (H) Demolition. These options were then assessed based on three criteria, namely engineering feasibility, heritage value and contextual value.

7. At the Board meeting on 7 September 2017, the three shortlisted options, i.e. (B) Reconstruction; (C) Adaptation; and (D) Preservation, were further discussed. Based on the views expressed by Members, it was concluded that options (B) and (C) were generally acceptable whereas option (D) was least supported.

8. With reference to Members' views, the views of the Central and Western District Council, the findings of the independent review panel and the regulatory investigation on the possible causes of the partial collapse of Block 4, HKJC has embarked on further studies for the recovery option. Key features of options (B) and (C) are outlined and evaluated according to the principal considerations, i.e. structural and building enhancement, appearance

and future use of the building. Details are set out in the paper prepared by  
HKJC at Annex.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

9. Members are invited to note the latest development of the CPS Compound revitalisation project, and offer views on the recovery option for Block 4 proposed by HKJC.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

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