

**For discussion
on 12 December 2019**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/11/2019-20**

**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 updated recovery plan 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 for historic buildings, infrastructure works within the Compound, and road improvement works in the vicinity of the site.

3. The revitalised CPS Compound operates as Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts, and commenced operation on 29 May 2018. Tai Kwun has received over 3.4 million visitors and offered the public with more than 750 diverse programmes on heritage appreciation, contemporary art and performing art.

4. Through concerted efforts, Tai Kwun has been turned into an iconic cultural destination, where heritage, contemporary art and leisure elements are creatively integrated for all to enjoy. In October 2019, Tai Kwun won the Award of Excellence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The jury selected Tai Kwun for this top honour from 57 entries.

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. On 8 September 2016, Members' views were sought on the eight preliminary recovery options, namely (A) Restoration; (B) Reconstruction; (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. HKJC evaluated the key features of options (B) and (C) with respect to the principal considerations, i.e. structural and building enhancement, appearance and future use of the building, and presented a hybrid option to the Board at the meeting on 6 September 2018. The Board welcomed HKJC's overall design approach.

8. Since then, HKJC has embarked on further studies and revealed new findings regarding the physical conditions of Block 4 during investigations for detailed work planning, leading to the necessary update for the recovery plan. 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 updated recovery plan for Block 4 proposed by HKJC.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

December 2019

Ref: AMO 22-3/0