

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments
on the Heritage Impact Assessment in respect of
Activity Centre for the Promotion of Chinese History
and Culture in Kowloon Park**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”) report in respect of Activity Centre for the Promotion of Chinese History and Culture in Kowloon Park, and has the following comments :

- (a) It is noted that through appropriate measures, a graded structure of the Former Whitfield Barracks, Block 58 (Grade 1) within the project area will be converted to accommodate the reception and the major multi-purpose rooms/classroom for the Activity Centre for the Promotion of Chinese History and Culture. The proposal, is agreeable from the heritage conservation perspective;
- (b) heritage values of the entire Kowloon Park/ the Former Whitfield Barracks and the identified heritage items inside it shall be respected and preserved, by enhancement with some form of connection (in terms of physical, visual, activity and even interpretation, trail, etc);
- (c) the usage of the Former Whitfield Barracks, Block 58 (Block 58) as a military barrack building cannot be continued, the new use shall be compatible to the Site or neighbouring context (e.g. leisure and cultural related use);
- (d) the Low-rise nature (2 storey) of Block 58 and other old barrack buildings in Kowloon Park as well as rich greenery environment of Kowloon Park shall be retained, and any new ancillary building would be lower than Block 58 and of compatible massing and avoid disturbance to existing trees in Kowloon Park, in particular Old and Valuable Trees, as far as possible;
- (e) public-accessible areas shall be reserved for interpretation in Block 58 to explain and promote to the general public the cultural significance of the building and the Site. Areas in Block 58, including open veranda and the future reception area shall be reserved for interpretation that allows public accessibility;

- (f) Character Defining Elements (CDEs) which are of significance of Block 58 listed in HIA shall be preserved or restored in the future adaptive reuse for the Site as far as possible (e.g. Building mass and form, facades, roof, chimneys, cast iron air grille, timber flooring, etc.);
- (g) for areas where impact of the conversion works could not be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented (such as new glass balustrades, staircases, ramp, fall arrest system on flat roof, doors and windows) with minimize structural strengthening works, disturbance to CDEs and avoidance of visual impact;
- (h) a Maintenance Plan and a Maintenance and Operational Manual shall be drawn up, to ensure that the building is kept in good condition and properly used during operation, for the property management and operation teams of the adaptive reused Block 58 and Kowloon Park to understand the cultural significance of Block 58 and the Site;
- (i) all the studies, researches, investigation findings, mock up results should be kept in proper filing. Any future repair works during operation of the new use should be properly documented; and
- (j) Cartographic and photographic surveys to properly record the historic building shall be conducted before and after the alteration works. A set of such records will be provided to AMO for record purpose and future use, such as research, exhibition and educational programmes.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

June 2023

Ref: AMO 82-1/28