

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS**

Work Plans of the Urban Renewal Authority

Introduction

We provided a paper to the Panel for its meeting on 22 January 2002 to report on:

- (a) the progress of the work of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) since its establishment on 1 May 2001;
- (b) the work plan of the URA; and
- (c) the progress made by the URA in taking forward the Government's recommendations on acquisition and rehousing arrangements to the URA, as set out in the letter from the Planning and Lands Bureau to the Panel dated 8 March 2001.

This paper provides some further information to supplement that paper.

Government's Undertakings on Urban Renewal

2. The Panel Secretariat prepared a paper entitled "Undertakings made by the Administration in respect of urban renewal" and a list of these undertakings for consideration at the Panel meeting held on 22 January 2002. We have reviewed the list, and can confirm that the follow-up actions on a number of them have been completed. The rest are being followed up as appropriate. Should Members wish to discuss the progress of implementation on particular items, we will be happy to brief them.

Progress of Work on Urban Renewal

3. Since the establishment of the URA on 1 May 2001, the Government and the URA have undertaken much ground work to facilitate the implementation of the 20-year urban renewal programme. The preparatory work includes:

- (a) drawing up the draft Urban Renewal Strategy and finalisation of the Strategy by the Planning and Lands Bureau after a two-month public consultation to provide the policy guidelines for the URA in the implementation of the urban renewal programme;
- (b) a restructuring exercise conducted by the URA to align the organisation's structure with its new mission and statutory purposes under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance;
- (c) the establishment by the URA of new internal working procedures and new working relationship with relevant Government departments for the implementation of urban renewal projects under the new statutory framework;
- (d) the recruitment and appointment of the senior management of the URA including its Managing Director and the two Executive Directors by the Government;
- (e) the formulation of the acquisition and rehousing policies by the URA;

- (f) the setting up of district advisory committees and urban renewal social service teams by the URA to facilitate the implementation of urban renewal projects and to provide advice and assistance to affected residents; and

- (g) the launching of three “early launch” projects by the URA in Sham Shui Po, Tai Kok Tsui and Wan Chai prior to the submission of the draft five-year corporate plan and the draft annual business plan to the Financial Secretary (FS).

Further Developments

4. The URA submitted its first draft corporate plan and first draft business plan to the FS for approval under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance on 5 February 2002. The Government will study the two draft plans with a view to processing them as expeditiously as possible. In that context, we will consider the necessary financial arrangements for the URA for the implementation of the urban renewal programme.