

**LegCo Members meeting with  
Central & Western District Council members  
on 31 January 2002**

**The Administration's reply to the issues raised by members of Central & Western District Council (C&WDC)**

---

- (a) The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) was set up to expedite urban renewal in Hong Kong. It is tasked to implement a 20-year urban renewal programme consisting of 200 new projects and 25 uncompleted projects of the former Land Development Corporation (LDC).

The URA has included all of the 25 uncompleted projects of the LDC in its first five-year corporate plan. Among these 25 projects, three projects are located in the Central & Western District, namely the Peel Street/Graham Street project, the Wing Lee Street/Staunton Street project and the First Street/Second Street project.

As regards rehousing arrangements, proper rehousing of tenants affected by URA projects forms an integral part of our policy to improve the living conditions of residents in older urban areas. In this respect, both the Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society have agreed to be rehousing agents for the URA. The two bodies have each agreed to set aside up to 1 000 public rental housing units each year from their housing stock for rehousing the URA's affected tenants. Separately, the URA or its rehousing agent may build dedicated rehousing blocks in areas with a concentration of urban renewal projects.

- (b) The Government has adopted a comprehensive and holistic approach to rejuvenate older urban areas by way of redevelopment, rehabilitation and heritage preservation.

The Urban Renewal Strategy states that heritage preservation should be part of urban renewal, and that the URA should preserve heritage buildings if such preservation forms part of its urban renewal projects. In its first five-year corporate plan, the URA has earmarked a sum of \$400 million for work in the areas of rehabilitation, revitalisation and heritage preservation.

The URA will work in close collaboration with the relevant authorities over its work in heritage preservation, including the Home Affairs Bureau which has policy responsibility over heritage preservation, the Antiquities Advisory Board which is the statutory body to advise on the declaration of monuments and the Antiquities and Monuments Office which is responsible for work related to preservation in general.

