

## **For Information**

### **Information Paper for Legislative Council Panel on Security**

#### **Construction of Mong Kok Ambulance Depot with Ambulance Command and Fire Safety Command Headquarters at Anchor Street, Mong Kok**

#### **Purpose**

This paper informs Members of our plan to construct an eight-storey ambulance depot-cum-office building at the junction of Anchor Street and Tai Kok Tsui Road, Mong Kok for Fire Services Department (FSD).

#### **Proposal and Justifications**

##### **Ambulance Depot**

2. There is currently no ambulance depot within the areas of Mong Kok, Tai Kok Tsui and West Kowloon Reclamation from Yen Chow Street to Jordan Road. At present, these areas are serviced by ambulances deployed at Cheung Sha Wan Ambulance Depot, Yau Ma Tei Ambulance Depot and the out-station at Mong Kok Fire Station.

3. With an increasing number of emergency ambulance calls in these areas, at an average annual growth rate of 4.8% from 1999 to 2001, the facilities at the above ambulance depots and out-station have already been stretched to the limit. FSD's response time performance of the emergency ambulance service in the areas concerned has gradually dropped from 92.4% in 1999 to 88.8% in 2001, or at an average annual rate of 1.8%. Of the 16 854 emergency ambulance calls received from January to October 2002, only 87.8% were responded within the 12-minute target response time, as against the performance pledge of 92.5%. We anticipate that with increasing housing supply and continued growth in population (from 256 018 in 2000 to 271 497 in 2006) in the

areas concerned, the demand for emergency ambulance service will continue to rise. To improve the existing service and to cope with future expansion, we need to provide the proposed ambulance depot in time. With the provision of the proposed ambulance depot at this strategic location supported by well-developed transport infrastructure, FSD will be able to deploy more ambulances to service the areas and improve the service.

### FSD Offices

4. To optimise the utilisation of the site, we shall take the opportunity to relocate the following FSD offices currently accommodated in other government/leased premises to this new building:

- (a) the Ambulance Command Headquarters at Fire Services Headquarters Building at Tsim Sha Tsui East;
- (b) the Ambulance Command Kowloon Regional Headquarters at Cheung Sha Wan Ambulance Depot; and
- (c) the Fire Safety Command Headquarters and three of its subsidiary offices<sup>1</sup> at leased offices in Mong Kok.

5. To meet the operational needs, more offices have been set up in FSD in recent years and there is insufficient office accommodation in the Fire Services Headquarters Building at Tsim Sha Tsui East. As the Building is overcrowded, some offices have been accommodated in other premises. For example, since its establishment in 1989, the Ambulance Command Kowloon Regional Headquarters has been occupying temporary offices in Cheung Sha Wan Ambulance Depot with below-standard provision due to space constraints. The relocation of the Ambulance Command Headquarters and its Kowloon Regional Headquarters to the new site will relieve the present overcrowding situation and improve overall operational efficiency. Moreover, the

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<sup>1</sup> The three subsidiary offices are the Railway Development Strategy Division, the Kowloon Office of the Building Improvement and Support Division and the Kowloon Office of the Commercial Buildings and Premises Division.

strategic location of the new site will facilitate improvement in operational and administrative cover of the Kowloon area.

6. The Fire Safety Command Headquarters and its three subsidiary offices are currently occupying leased office accommodation in Mong Kok. The provision of permanent accommodation for these offices at this convenient location can enhance the delivery of public services, provide security of tenure and save the Government's rental payments.

7. Upon the commissioning of the new building, the space to be vacated by the Ambulance Command Headquarters will be allocated to FSD offices now temporarily occupying the Kai Tak Government Building. The space to be vacated by the Kowloon Regional Headquarters will be restored to its original use as a standard ambulance depot. The leased office accommodation in Mong Kok and the released office accommodation at Kai Tak Government Building will be relinquished.

### **Project Scope**

8. We plan to construct an eight-storey ambulance depot-cum-office building at the junction of Anchor Street and Tai Kok Tsui Road, Mongkok.

9. For the ambulance depot, it will have a three-bay appliance room, offices, three store rooms, barracks, a locker-cum-changing room, a drying room, a canteen, an open drill yard and a fuel filling facility.

10. For the FSD offices, it will comprise staff offices and other shared facilities, including a locker-cum-changing room, an exercise room, two conference rooms, an officers mess, two interview rooms, a plan room for storage of building plans, a plan processing room, two rooms for staff on standby duties, a lecture room, six store rooms and five pantries.

## **Public Consultation**

11. We consulted the Community Building Committee of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council on 17 February 2000. The Committee supported the project and urged the Administration to proceed with the project as soon as possible.

## **Environmental Implications**

12. We completed a Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) for this project in March 2000. The PER concluded that the project would have no long-term environmental impact. The Director of Environmental Protection vetted the PER and agreed that an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be necessary.

13. During construction, we will control noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to within established standards and guidelines through the implementation of mitigation measures incorporated in the relevant contracts. During the operation of the ambulance depot, the Director of Fire Services will implement appropriate mitigation measures to minimise noise nuisance.

## **Land Acquisition**

14. This project does not require any land acquisition.

## **Financial Implications**

15. We estimate the total capital cost of the project to be \$108.3 million in money-of-the-day prices.

## **Implementation Plan**

16. We plan to seek funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee in January 2003. The construction works are expected to

start in mid-2003 for completion in mid-2005.

**Security Bureau**  
**December 2002**