

For Discussion on
12 May 2006

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Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs Renovation of Libraries – Phase 2 Works

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' support for the proposed project 'Renovation of Libraries – Phase 2 Works' (Phase 2).

Background

2. The project 'Renovation of Libraries' comprises two phases, with Phase 1 covering five libraries, already upgraded to Category A in June 2004, and Phase 2 covering six libraries. Under Phase 1, works have been completed for two libraries while that for the remaining three will be completed before the end of this year (**Annex A**). Phase 2, which has the policy support of the Home Affairs Bureau, includes the following six Libraries –

- (a) Fa Yuen Street Public Library;
- (b) Shui Wo Street Public Library;
- (c) To Kwa Wan Public Library;
- (d) Lockhart Road Public Library;
- (e) Quarry Bay Public Library; and
- (f) Sha Tin Public Library.

Project Scope

3. Similar to Phase 1, the proposed scope of facilities for Phase 2 comprises –

- (a) Refurbishment of the overall setting of the libraries, including replacement of worn-out fixtures and furnishings, and improvement of the circulation, lighting and ventilation system;
- (b) Upgrading of the audio-visual rooms in the libraries into multimedia libraries, and provision of computer and information centres in these libraries;
- (c) Installation of electronic and automation systems in the libraries; and
- (d) Alteration of the layouts and facilities in the libraries, to bring them in line with the present-day requirements on building safety, fire safety, means of escape and barrier-free access.

A brief on the six libraries under Phase 2 is at **Annex B**.

Justifications

4. The Government is committed to providing quality library services, promoting life-long learning and further enhancing the use of information technology in public libraries. In 2001, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services identified a total of 16 public libraries for inclusion in a Library Renovation Programme, with the aim to improve the physical environment and upgrade the facilities of the public libraries concerned for meeting the needs of the community in the pursuit of knowledge and life-long learning. In addition, these libraries have been operating for more than 10 years without undergoing any major repairs. The proposed renovation works would bring the libraries in line with the up-to-date requirements regarding building and fire safety.

5. Upon further review of the Renovation Programme, the number of libraries included as one single capital works item was reduced from 16 to 13 libraries as three had been taken out from the package and carried out as minor works items¹ instead. Phase 1

¹ Lung Hing Public Library, Kowloon City Public Library, and the Shun Lee Estate

covers the five libraries listed in Annex A. In the course of planning for Phase 2, which had originally been planned to cover the remaining eight libraries, we decided to take out two libraries, namely, the Yuen Long Public Library and the Yau Ma Tei Public Library. The Yuen Long Public Library would be carried out as a minor works item while the Yau Ma Tei Public Library has been put on hold awaiting the outcome of the review of the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) to be announced later this year. If the CKR project materialises, the Yau Ma Tei Public Library has to be reprovioned and any major renovation works at this stage will become not justified. In case it does not materialise, the renovation of the library will be carried out as a separate minor works item. In the circumstances, Phase 2 covers only the six libraries as mentioned in paragraph 2 above.

Public Consultation

6. We have consulted the respective District Councils between January to April 2006 and obtained their support for the implementation of Phase 2.

Project Estimate and Implementation Plan

7. Phase 2 was upgraded to Category B in 2002. The estimated cost of the renovation of the six libraries is about \$140 million in money-of-the-day prices.

8. The Contract is expected to commence in February 2007 for completion in January 2009. The schedule of renovation works is at **Annex C**.

Way Forward

9. In order to take the project forward, the Administration intends to submit the Phase 2 to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee on 29 May 2006 for upgrading to Category A.

Public Library are implemented as minor works items. The renovation works for the first two libraries had already been completed in 2004 and 2005 respectively, while the last one will be carried out in late 2006 to mid 2007.

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to support the implementation of Phase 2 of the project.

Home Affairs Bureau
May 2006

Renovation of Libraries – Phase 1

Implementation Programme

	Duration/ Estimated duration of works (months)	Works Start Date	Completion/ Estimated Completion Date
Kowloon Public Library	18	May 2005	November 2006
Aberdeen Public Library	8	June 2005	January 2006
Po On Road Public Library	7	July 2005	January 2006
Tuen Mun Public Library	15	August 2005	October 2006
Ngau Chi Wan Public Library	8	March 2006	October 2006

Annex B

Renovation of Libraries – Phase 2

A Brief on the Six Libraries

	Fa Yuen Street Public Library	Shui Wo Street Public Library	To Kwa Wan Public Library	Lockhart Road Public Library	Quarry Bay Public Library	Sha Tin Public Library
Type of Library ²	District Library	District Library	District Library	District Library	District Library	Major Library
Approximate Construction Floor Area(m ²)	1,800	2,300	1,600	2,100	2,300	4,000
Library Materials Stock as at 31 March 2006	165,817	184,003	157,117	190,981	205,413	512,181
Attendance of the library in 2005	878,479	923,725	785,583	723,811	716,841	1,944,419
Library Materials Borrowed in 2005	831,884	993,849	758,330	756,401	762,948	1,901,942

² The Hong Kong Public Libraries provide a network of 64 static libraries and 10 mobile libraries, offering a wide range of materials to meet the community's need for information, informal education and the creative use of leisure and to promote the literary arts in Hong Kong.

District Libraries provide basic library services including lending services for adult and children, Newspapers and Periodicals Section, Students' Study Room, Extension Activities Room, Audio-visual/Multimedia Library and Internet search facilities.

At present, there are five major libraries. Each of them is about double the size of a district library. In addition to the provision of a larger collection of more in-depth library materials of broad subjects as well as the services and facilities of a district library in larger scale, they also provide comprehensive reference and information services.

Renovation of Libraries – Phase 2

Schedule of Renovation Works

	Tentative start date	Estimated duration of works (months)
Fa Yuen Street Public Library	Mid 2007	7
Shui Wo Street Public Library	Mid 2007	7
To Kwa Wan Public Library	Mid 2007	7
Lockhart Road Public Library	Mid 2007	7
Quarry Bay Public Library	Mid 2008	6
Sha Tin Public Library	Mid 2007	15