

**For discussion  
on 3 June 2008**

**Legislative Council Panel on Security  
Redevelopment Plan for the Fire Services Training School**

**PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the Administration's plan to redevelop the Fire Services Training School (FSTS).

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Fire Services Department (FSD) is committed to providing safe, effective, and high-quality training for its staff to acquire the necessary know-how and specialised techniques for carrying out their fire fighting and other life saving duties. The FSTS is the mainstay facility for the delivery of such training.

**THE EXISTING FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL**

3. Established 40 years ago in 1968, the existing FSTS in Pat Heung is FSD's primary training venue for the 26-week initial training of all new recruits. It also serves as the base for some refresher and advanced training courses for serving fire fighters. With an area of 2.89 hectares, the FSTS was originally designed to provide 160 residential training places. Only basic fire fighting and rescue training facilities were built for the training school. These include three drill towers and a drill yard.

4. To cope with increasing training needs and evolving techniques, FSD has been making improvements to the FSTS over the past years. Additional training facilities installed include three fire training chambers to provide simulations of structural fire scenes, and three small-scale fire rigs for the simulation of vehicle fire, transformer fire and screen fire respectively. A breathing apparatus training block was constructed few years ago to provide better tactical training to new recruits in a simulated and controlled smoke-logged environment.

## CHANGING TRAINING NEEDS

5. While the number of major fires in Hong Kong has decreased with better fire prevention practices and safer buildings, our fire fighters are facing more complex and wide-ranging emergency scenarios nowadays. Large-scale infrastructure and facilities, such as underground railways, present new and significant challenges for fire fighting and rescue operations. With the proliferation of high-rise buildings, it has become imperative that our fire fighters be well trained in the relevant advanced techniques for fire fighting to ensure public safety.

6. Advanced fire brigades around the world (e.g. in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore) are making increasing use of simulation-based training to prepare fire fighters for complex emergency scenarios. The advantages of such training are many. Such learning and exercise are interactive and take place in realistic environments. Trainees can make mistakes and appreciate their consequences without causing bodily harm or property damage. The management of crisis events can be practised and rehearsed to enable fire fighters to be better prepared when such events occur in real life. Most importantly, teamwork can be established to work in a coordinated and effective manner.

7. To facilitate the delivery of simulation-based training, many overseas fire training schools are equipped with a range of specialised simulators and training grounds. Some common examples of these training facilities include –

- “Burn building” for the simulation of different types of building fires, e.g. basement fires, fires in industrial buildings, hotels fires, etc;
- Model motorway with mock road;
- Simulated road and railway tunnel;
- Tanker, ship and aircraft model simulators;
- Fuel spillage fire simulator;
- Bulk gas storage simulator; and
- Ruined buildings and rubble ground for urban search and rescue training.

## **REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

8. In order to enable FSD to meet the changing training needs, the Department is planning to enhance its simulation-based training for fire fighters substantially. As further expansion of the existing FSTS is not feasible due to site constraints<sup>1</sup>, FSD is conducting a preliminary study on redeveloping a new FSTS. A major focus of the current study is to explore the introduction of specialised simulators and training grounds, taking into account the local situation and risk factors. Additional simulation-based training is planned to be incorporated in the initial training for new recruits. A comprehensive skills upgrading programme will also be considered for all serving fire fighters with the use of the new simulators and training grounds. Besides, a driving nursing ground may also be provided at the new training school as well. This will minimise the use of public roads for training purposes, and facilitate the delivery of driver training of heavy fire appliances in a safe and controlled environment.

9. FSD is working with relevant departments in identifying viable sites for the redevelopment of the FSTS. Subject to the Administration's funding allocation and the identification of suitable sites, we will work out the detailed project scope, the financial implications, and its implementation plan. When concrete plans become available, we will consult the views of the local community before seeking the advice of Members again.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

10. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Fire Services Department**  
**Security Bureau**  
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<sup>1</sup> According to the initial assessment by the Architectural Services Department, the new FSTS would require an approximate area of 10.5 hectares.