

**For discussion
on 16 April 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Student hostel, phase 4
of City University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on a proposed capital works project for City University of Hong Kong (CityU) to construct its phase 4 student hostels (comprising Hall 10 and Hall 11) within its campus in Kowloon Tong.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of two connected hostel blocks of 14 and 15 storeys respectively, providing approximately 7 513 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA). The following facilities will be provided under the project -

- (a) a total of 700 student hostel places and ancillary facilities such as accommodation for wardens and tutors;
- (b) common facilities including student activities areas, function rooms, computer rooms and common rooms, etc. ;
- (c) supporting facilities including wardens' offices, management offices, emergency/sick room, laundry and store rooms; and
- (d) covered landscape area.

3. The site plan and the view of the building (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 and 2.

JUSTIFICATION

4. Hostel life is an essential part of higher education - providing students with an environment conducive to learning, and allowing greater social interaction which enriches students' personal development as well as the learning experience generally. Under existing policy, University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions are provided with publicly-funded student hostels calculated in accordance with the following criteria¹: all undergraduate students should be given the opportunity to stay in student hostel for at least one year of their courses; all research postgraduates, non-local students² as well as all undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours, should be provided with student hostel places. The Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective institutions using their own sources of private funding.

5. In addition to the above-mentioned standard hostel provision, the Administration decided in February 2006 to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to the UGC-funded sector to support institutions' increasing student exchange activities.

6. As at the 2007/08 academic year, and taking into account the additional hostel places for exchange activities, the approved publicly-funded hostel provision for CityU should be about 4 740 places. Against its current provision of 2 812 publicly-funded hostel places, CityU has a shortfall of about 1 928 hostel places. To address part of this shortfall³, CityU proposes to construct two new publicly-funded hostel blocks (namely Hall 10 and Hall 11) in the northern part of its campus.

¹ The criteria are applicable to all UGC-funded institutions, except for the Lingnan University (which has been provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population having regard to its remote location in Tuen Mun and its aspirations to develop itself into a relatively small, fully residential liberal arts institution) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (which was provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population projected at the time of establishment of the Institute having regard to the potential benefits that hostel life would bring to the quality of pre-service teacher education).

² These refer to non-local students who are undertaking full-time publicly-funded programmes in the UGC-funded institutions leading to qualifications awarded by the institutions themselves. They do not include exchange students.

³ To meet the remaining shortfall and additional demand for student hostel places under the implementation of "3+3+4", CityU is also working in collaboration with other UGC-funded institutions to explore the implementation of joint hostel projects.

7. The two proposed hostel blocks will provide 344 double bedrooms and 12 single bedrooms with study space in each room, and shared bathrooms. A typical floor will provide accommodation for some 64 students with common space and pantry facilities. The ground floor of each block will house common and support facilities such as laundry, function rooms and management offices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The latest estimated cost of the project is \$252.2 million in money-of-the-day prices. The Government will fund up to \$189.2 million, i.e. 75% of the construction cost. CityU will contribute \$63.0 million through its sources of private funding for the remaining 25% of the construction cost.

9. The project has no impact on tuition fees. In accordance with the established practice, CityU will operate these student hostels on a self-financing basis through charges levied on hostel places. The proposal has no additional recurrent implications on the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

10. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 6 May 2009 and 22 May 2009 respectively.

11. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, CityU plans to start the construction works in the third quarter of 2009 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2011.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. The project is located within CityU's campus. The Sham Shui Po District Council (SSPDC) was consulted in September 2008. Members of the SSPDC supported the development and requested CityU to mitigate possible noise nuisance during the construction period. CityU has undertaken to adopt appropriate noise mitigation measures in accordance with the relevant standards and guideline. CityU presented

the project to the staff and student representatives in January 2009 and no adverse comment was received. The project was also published in the “CityU Today” Magazine in February 2009 for the staff’s and students’ information.

Education Bureau
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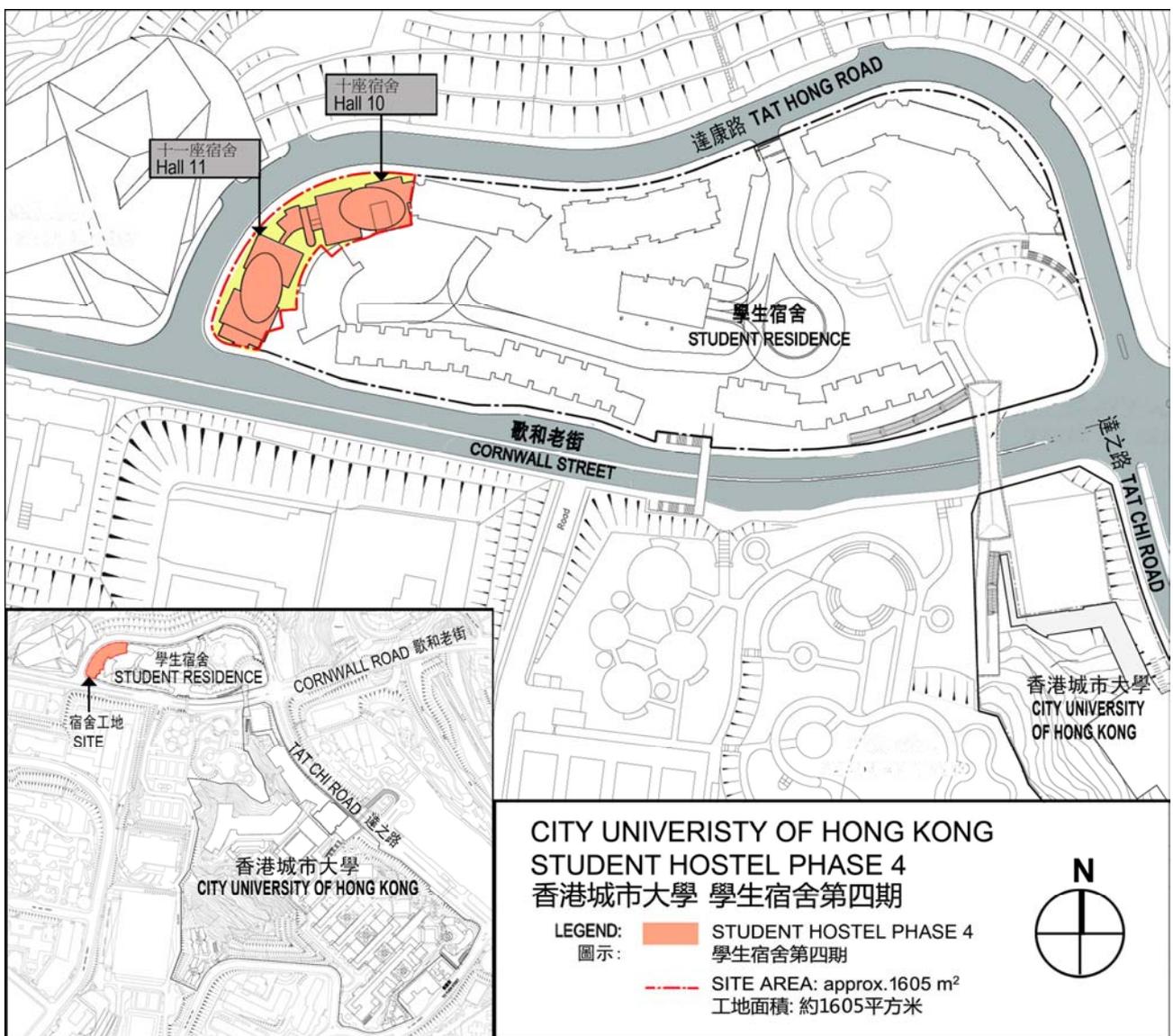
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香港城市大學

學生宿舍第 4 期

Site Plan

工地平面圖



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View of the building (Artist's impression)

外觀構思圖

