

For discussion
on 4 July 2012

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**Construction of an Ambulance Depot
at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui**

PURPOSE

This paper consults the Panel on the proposal to construct an ambulance depot at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui for the Fire Services Department (FSD).

BACKGROUND

2. At present, FSD does not have any ambulance depot in Sheung Shui / Kwu Tung. The emergency ambulance services of the district are provided by four ambulances and one emergency medical assistant motorcycle at the Sheung Shui Fire Station and two ambulances at the Kwu Tung Temporary Ambulance Post. To improve emergency ambulance services in the district in the long run and to cater for the increasing elderly population in Sheung Shui / Kwu Tung, there is a need for FSD to construct an ambulance depot in the district.

Proposed Construction of an Ambulance Depot

3. We propose to construct an ambulance depot on a site of around 2 500 square metres at the junction of Choi Shun Street and Choi Yuen Road in Sheung Shui. There will be 12 parking spaces for emergency ambulance service vehicle, which are expected to accommodate nine ambulances, one mobile casualty treatment centre, one rapid response vehicle and one emergency medical assistant motorcycle. Those ambulances will be deployed from Sheung Shui Fire Station, Kwu Tung Temporary Ambulance Post and ambulance depots in nearby areas to meet the demand for emergency ambulance services in Sheung Shui / Kwu Tung. Space will also be reserved in the new ambulance depot for additional ambulances when such a need arises in future.

JUSTIFICATION

To meet increasing service demand in the district and to improve the performance of emergency ambulance services

4. In a number of years in the past, the Response Time Performance of emergency ambulance services in Sheung Shui / Kwu Tung was below the performance pledge¹ of FSD. In 2009, FSD established a temporary ambulance post in Kwu Tung as an interim measure to improve the emergency ambulance services in that area. The service performance has improved since then and is able to meet performance pledge of the Department². However, FSD estimates that the number of emergency ambulance service calls in the concerned district would continue to rise. According to population distribution projections by the Planning Department, the population aged over 60 in Sheung Shui / Fanling is projected to increase substantially by around 37 % from 36 900 to 50 400 between 2011 and 2016, which is higher than the overall growth rate of the elderly population in Hong Kong of about 24 % in the same period. Taking these factors into account, FSD considers it difficult to continuously rely on the interim measure in meeting the growing demand for emergency ambulance services in the future.

5. In the long run, FSD considers it necessary to construct an ambulance depot in Sheung Shui to improve emergency ambulance services in that area. The proposed ambulance depot is at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui, which is a strategic location between Sheung Shui and Kwu Tung. Its service coverage includes Sheung Shui town area, Kwu Tung and the neighbouring Fanling. As such, the proposed ambulance depot could also improve the performance of emergency ambulance services in the North District of the New Territories. If there is no increase in the emergency ambulance resources for the district in the long run, FSD anticipates that it will be difficult to maintain its performance pledge in respect of the provision of emergency ambulance services in the district.

Insufficient Parking Facilities for Ambulances at Present

6. The original design of Sheung Shui Fire Station does not reserve parking space for ambulances. The Station has become very crowded after some of the space is being taken up by the existing four ambulances and one

¹ FSD's performance pledge is that for 92.5% of emergency ambulance calls, ambulances should be able to arrive at the scene within a response time of 12 minutes. From 2001 to 2010, only 88% of emergency ambulance calls in average met the performance target annually in Sheung Shui/ Kwu Tung.

² In 2011, the performance in respect of emergency ambulance services in Sheung Shui/ Kwu Tung was 93.8%.

emergency medical assistant motorcycle. There is no room to accommodate additional ambulances. For the Kwu Tung Temporary Ambulance Post, as it has not been equipped with the standard mobilising systems and parking facilities and the space of the Post is limited, it cannot accommodate additional ambulances either.

7. After careful study, FSD considers that the construction of an ambulance depot in Sheung Shui will not only consolidate the emergency ambulance resources of Sheung Shui Fire Station, Kwu Tung Temporary Ambulance Post and the nearby ambulance depots, but will also reserve space for additional ambulances in future. Furthermore, it can enhance the management of emergency ambulance services in the district concerned and tie in with its developments and service demand.

8. Upon completion of the new ambulance depot, the existing space occupied by ambulances in the Sheung Shui Fire Station will be returned for use by the Station, whereas the premise of Kwu Tung Temporary Ambulance Post will be returned to the Government Property Agency.

PROJECT SCOPE

9. The proposed project will include the construction of a 5-storey ambulance depot on a vacant site northwest to the junction of Choi Shun Street and Choi Yuen Road in Sheung Shui. The ambulance depot will provide 12 parking spaces for emergency ambulance service vehicle and other standard facilities, including watch room, offices, disinfection room, exercise room, barracks, toilets and shower facilities, drying room, kitchen and canteen, an open drill yard, stores and fuel filling facilities. A plan showing the location and layout of the project and the perspective drawings are at **Enclosure 1** and **Enclosure 2** respectively.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. We estimate the capital cost of the project to be about \$170 million in money-of-the-day prices. Subject to the endorsement of the Panel, we plan to proceed with the related tendering procedures for the project in mid 2012. Basing on the price submitted in the tender, we will consult the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) and Finance Committee (FC) on the project in late 2012 and early 2013 respectively. The additional annual recurrent expenditure arising from this project is estimated to be about \$7 million.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. We consulted the Social Services, Labour and Economic Affairs Committee of the North District Council on the proposed project on 8 May 2012. The Committee supported the project, and suggested adopting measures to minimise traffic impact on and noise nuisance to the nearby areas during the construction period and upon completion of the ambulance depot. The FSD responded at the meeting that the environmental and traffic impact assessments for the project had been completed and it was confirmed that the project would have no adverse impact on the local traffic. The Administration would take measures during the construction period and upon completion of the ambulance depot to minimise noise nuisance to the areas around. The Committee noted the information.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The project is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). The specialist consultant commissioned by the Architectural Services Department submitted a Preliminary Environmental Review Report to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for approval in December 2011. The report concludes that this project would have no long-term adverse impact on the areas around. The specialist consultant also submitted a soil contamination report to the EPD. According to the report, no soil contamination would be caused by the past and current usage of the project site, and the excavation works would not result in environmental pollution. As such, it is not necessary to conduct a further study on soil. The two reports above have been accepted by the EPD.

13. During construction, we will control noise, dust and site runoff nuisances through the implementation of mitigation measures in the relevant contracts such that it meets established standards and guidelines. These include the use of silencers or mufflers for noisy construction activities, frequent cleaning and watering of the site and the provision of wheel-washing facilities. Upon commissioning of the ambulance depot, suitable measures such as appropriate call-out system locations and directions will be implemented to mitigate noise impact to the areas around.

14. We have also considered measures in the planning and design stages to reduce the generation of construction waste as far as possible. We will require the contractor to use inert construction waste on site as far as

possible, in order to minimise the disposal of inert construction waste to public fill reception facilities. We will encourage the contractor to maximise the use of recycled or recyclable inert construction waste, and the use of non-timber formwork to minimise the generation of construction waste.

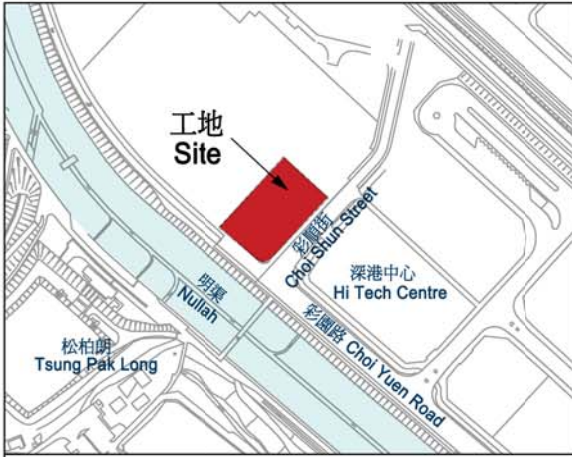
LAND ACQUISITION

15. The project does not require land acquisition.

IMPLEMENTATION

16. Subject to Members' views, we plan to proceed with the related tendering procedures for the project in mid 2012. Basing on the price submitted in the tender, we will submit the proposal to the PWSC in December 2012 and seek funding approval from the FC in early 2013. Subject to funding approval, we plan to start construction in the first quarter of 2013. We expect the works to be completed by the first quarter of 2015.

Security Bureau
Fire Services Department
June 2012



位置平面圖 Location Plan
比例 Scale 1:5000



工地平面圖 SITE PLAN

title 037BA 上水彩順街救護站 A NEW AMBULANCE DEPOT AT CHOI SHUN STREET, SHEUNG SHUI	drawn by 繪圖 K. W. KWONG	date 日期 06/12	drawing no. 編號 7917/XA001	scale 比例 1:750
	approved by 批准 H. K. LI (CA/2)	date 日期 06/12	 ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 建築署	
	office 辦事處 ARCHITECTUAL BRANCH 建築設計處			



從彩園路及彩順街交界望向救護站構思圖
 VIEW OF AMBULANCE DEPOT FROM JUNCTION OF CHOI YUEN ROAD AND CHOI SHUN STREET



從東面鳥瞰救護站構思圖
 BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF AMBULANCE DEPOT FROM THE EAST DIRECTION

title 037BA 上水彩順街救護站 A NEW AMBULANCE DEPOT AT CHOI SHUN STREET, SHEUNG SHUI	drawn by 繪圖 K. W. KWONG	date 日期 06/12	drawing no. 編號 7917/XA001	scale 比例 N/A
	approved by 批准 H. K. LI (CA/2)	date 日期 06/12	 ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 建築署	
	office 辦事處 ARCHITECTUAL BRANCH 建築設計處			