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Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 18 March 2013**

Reprovisioning of Yaumatei Specialist Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Purpose

This paper summarizes the concerns of the members of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the reprovisioning of Yaumatei Specialist Clinic ("YMTSC") at Queen Elizabeth Hospital ("QEH").

Background

2. YMTSC was built as an extension to the Yaumatei Jockey Club Polyclinic in 1992. Since it will be demolished to make way for the construction of the proposed Central Kowloon Route, the Administration has proposed to construct a new building for the reprovisioning of YMTSC at the south-east side of QEH. The proposed scope of the project covers (a) the construction of a new Specialist Clinic Building for accommodating expanded ambulatory care services as well as reprovisioning existing services provided at YMTSC such as the Ear/Nose/Throat specialist clinical services; Geriatric Day Hospital and community geriatric assessment services; Renal Dialysis Centre and Linear Accelerators Suite; and (b) the construction of two new link bridges to link up the new Specialist Clinic Building and Ambulatory Care Centre at QEH.

3. The Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal to re-provision YMTSC at QEH at its meeting on 13 July 2009 and was supportive of the proposed project. The Administration originally planned to commence the project in September 2010 for completion in April 2013. The project was expected to cost about \$1,343.3 million in money-of-the-day prices. Subsequent to the Panel meeting in July 2009, the Administration announced that it would withhold the submission of the proposed project to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration as more time was required to finalize the project site.

Deliberations of the Panel

4. The Panel held a meeting in July 2009 to discuss the re-provisioning of YMTSC at QEH. The deliberations and concerns of members are summarized below.

Service capacity after re-provisioning

5. Members noted that the proposed project only covered the re-provisioning of existing service facilities provided at YMTSC such as those at the Geriatric Day Hospital, the Child Psychiatric Centre and the Special Medical Care Centre. In view of the growing population and demand for healthcare services, members urged the Administration to consider increasing the capacity of the above services at the new Specialist Clinic Building.

6. According to the Administration, the Hospital Authority ("HA") had taken the opportunity of re-provisioning the services at YMTSC to QEH to strengthen and enhance the existing services. Although the existing service capacity in the Geriatric Day Hospital would be maintained, more spacious environment would be made available for better quality of service to patients. HA would also continue to strengthen the support services for elderly patients in the community. Additional funding and resources had been allocated to the Kowloon Central Cluster to enhance the psychiatric services, as well as services to patients suffering from AIDs.

Pedestrian flow

7. Some members expressed concern that the increase in the number of attendances in QEH after the reprovisioning of YMTSC would aggravate the already very heavy people flow of QEH.

8. The Administration assured members that HA and the relevant Government departments had assessed both people and traffic flow when deciding the reprovisioning site for YMTSC. Under the proposed project, link bridges would be constructed to connect the new Specialist Clinic Building to other clinical buildings. Members of the public would have easy access to QEH.

Recent development

9. The Administration will consult the Panel on the reprovisioning of YMTSC at QEH in March 2013. According to the Administration, the construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2013 for completion in the second quarter in 2016.

Relevant papers

10. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

**Relevant papers on the reprovisioning of Yaumatei Specialist Clinic
at Queen Elizabeth Hospital**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Health Services	13.7.2009 (Item II)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)2595/08-09(01)

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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