

**For discussion  
on 19 May 2014**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services  
Refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the proposed refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital (HKBH).

**Background**

2. HKBH is a community hospital in the Kowloon Central Cluster (KCC) of the Hospital Authority (HA). It provides inpatient services covering medicine, orthopaedic joint replacement, palliative care (hospice) and general convalescence. The hospital currently has 324 beds, most of which are for convalescent care. It also delivers both general and specialist outpatient services which comprise ear-nose-throat, gynaecology, medicine, palliative care, as well as a day rehabilitation centre. It provides allied health and supporting services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, diagnostic radiology and pharmacy.

3. Built in 1970, the HKBH has four blocks, namely Blocks A, B, C and D. Blocks A and B accommodate all clinical facilities and 11 inpatient wards while Blocks C and D were staff quarters which are currently being used as Chinese Medicine Clinic and staff facilities (including call rooms,

overnight rooms and recreation room) and stores respectively.

#### *Enhance service capacity in HKBH*

4. In 2013, the number of patient days at HKBH was around 84 000, of which around 80% were accounted for by patients residing in Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City districts. The average occupancy rate of inpatient beds at HKBH in 2013 was 84% which was about the same as the HA-wide average. According to the latest projection by the Planning Department, the population aged 65 or above of the two districts will surge from 141 300 in 2013 to 181 300 in 2021, representing an increase of 28% while their overall population will increase by 7% from 809 800 in 2013 to 864 600 in 2021. In the long-run, inpatient convalescent and rehabilitation service at HKBH will be insufficient to meet the increasing needs arising from rapidly ageing population which is also characterised by growing prevalence of chronic diseases. To cope with the escalating healthcare demand as a result of the ageing population, we propose to strengthen the longer-term care and rehabilitation services for elderly patients suffering from chronic diseases by providing 130 additional inpatient beds for convalescence and rehabilitation.

#### *Deteriorated Building Conditions*

5. Apart from expanding inpatient service capacity at HKBH, a comprehensive refurbishment of the hospital is imperative in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for delivery of quality medical service. Over the years, the physical conditions of Blocks A and B have deteriorated with perennial problems of spalling concrete, water leakage, electrical malfunctioning. While routine maintenance and ad-hoc repair works have been carried out at HKBH in the past years to minimize adverse impact of

such problems on operational efficiency and potential infection risks, there has been no major refurbishment or renovation since the commissioning of the hospital. As a result of prolonged utilisation and natural wear and tear, many of its building services installations are either outdated or inadequate to meet the present day requirements for provision of a safe and comfortable environment for healthcare services. In particular, the provision of fire services installation in the hospital is not in line with current standards.

#### *Enhance connectivity*

6. To enhance operational efficiency of Block C, a link bridge between Blocks B and C is proposed to be constructed. This will facilitate clinical and operational support among the blocks. Further, the existing bed-passenger lift in Block A serves only up to 5/F while the proposed additional inpatient beds will be located on 6/F. It is therefore necessary to extend bed-passenger lift services to 6/F.

7. In view of the above, we plan to carry out a major refurbishment to rectify deficiencies of building conditions and bring the facilities and services of HKBH up to present-day standards.

#### **The Proposed Project**

8. The scope of the proposed refurbishment of HKBH comprises the following -

- (a) refurbishment of 11 existing inpatient wards and associated facilities and building installations in Blocks A and B;
- (b) conversion of 6/F of Blocks A and B into new inpatient wards to

accommodate 130 additional beds and refurbishment of Block D for reprovisioning of staff facilities including call rooms and overnight rooms and;

- (c) conversion of two floors of Block C for day rehabilitation, geriatric day services and pilot integrative medicine in palliative care;
- (d) construction of a covered link bridge between Blocks B and C;
- (e) refurbishment of the departments, offices and ancillary facilities in Block B to meet current standards;
- (f) installation of fire services sprinkler system for Blocks A, B and D and modification of sprinklers in Block C; and
- (g) provision of a new lift tower with two additional bed-passenger lifts adjacent to Block B.

9. A site plan of HKBH is at Enclosure.

### **Project Implementation**

10. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) in July 2014. Subject to FC's approval, we aim to commence the refurbishment works in August 2014 for completion in September 2018. HKBH will remain functional at all times and any disruption of services, if unavoidable, will be kept to a minimum.

11. The estimated cost of the proposed refurbishment works mentioned in paragraph 7 above is in the order of \$480 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. HA invited tenders for carrying out the proposed

refurbishment works in February 2014 and are conducting tender assessment. The contract will only be awarded to the successful tenderer after we have secured funding approval from FC.

### **Public Consultation**

12. HA consulted the Community Building & Social Services Committee (CB&SSC) of the Wong Tai Sin District Council on the proposed project on 11 March 2014. Members of the CB&SSC supported the proposed project in the consultation.

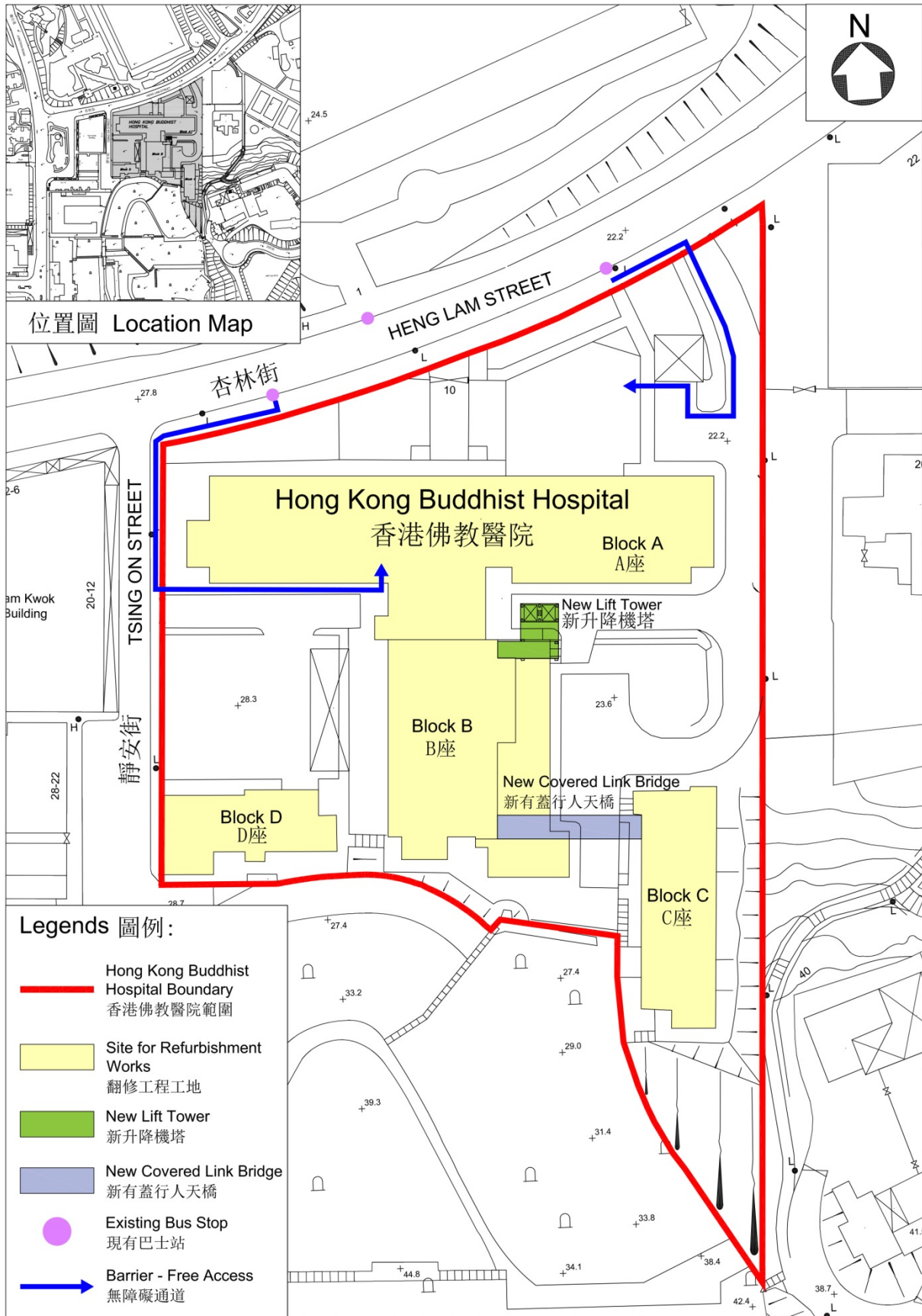
### **Advice Sought**

13. Members are invited to comment on the proposed project as outlined in this paper.

**Food and Health Bureau**

**Hospital Authority**

**May 2014**



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Site Location Plan (Not to Scale)

工地平面圖 (不按比例)