

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services  
Reprovisioning of Fu Shan Public Mortuary**

**PURPOSE**

This paper briefs members on the proposed reprovisioning of Fu Shan Public Mortuary (FSPM) at Sha Tin to cope with the increasing service demand and enhance the quality of service.

**BACKGROUND**

2. At present, three public mortuaries including FSPM operated by the Department of Health (DH) are specialised forensic pathology facilities for conducting medico-legal investigation of deaths that are reportable to the Coroner in accordance with the Coroners Ordinance (Cap.504). The core functions of public mortuary are receiving deceased bodies round the clock, conducting necessary Coroner's procedures including interviews with families, external examination of bodies, formal identification of bodies, performance of medico-legal autopsies and associated investigations, and releasing deceased bodies to families afterwards.

3. The existing FSPM commenced operation in 1989. To cope with the increasing service demand and enhance quality of operation and hygiene standards in mortuaries, DH proposes to reprovision the FSPM at a site adjacent to the existing FSPM with body storage capacity increased from currently 216 to 830. The reprovisioned FSPM, together with Kwai Chung Public Mortuary (KCPM), will cater for the caseload of Kowloon and New Territories up to 2031. In addition, the Government is planning to reprovision Victoria Public Mortuary (VPM) at Kennedy Town to meet the demand of Hong Kong Island.

**JUSTIFICATIONS**

***Enhance service capacity***

4. According to Chapter 3 of the "Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines" concerning community facilities, public mortuaries should be

provided at locations which are easily accessible by the general public but separated from residential and commercial developments by topographical features and/or such land uses as public services, public utilities or open space. In addition, the design and build of the public mortuaries must meet the up-to-date standards and protocols to enable smooth workflow and safeguard infection control, occupational safety and health, as well as environmental protection. This objective is to ensure that safe and efficient mortuary service is provided to the public. Furthermore, public mortuaries should also provide storage space to cope with emergency need in case of major incidents, such as natural disasters and fire.

5. Currently, the regular body storage capacity of the three operating public mortuaries i.e. FSPM, KCPM and VPM, is 216, 220 and 70 respectively. Apart from the above three public mortuaries, Kowloon Public Mortuary (KPM) at Hung Hom, with a regular body storage capacity of 132, is reserved for storage of bodies during emergency situations. Owing to the increase in population and ageing population, the number of deaths is expected to increase. Based on the population projections of the Census and Statistics Department in 2017, and taking into account the need to provide storage space for use during emergencies or times of disaster, public mortuaries in Hong Kong should provide a total of 1 300 body storage spaces in order to cope with the projected demand in 2031.

6. To cope with the increasing service demand, the body storage capacity of the existing FSPM was increased from 128 to 216 by building two additional cold rooms from functional mortuary space and facilities in 1998 and 2010. In addition, mobile body storage trolleys are deployed in the circulation areas of cold rooms in the three operating public mortuaries when necessary to enhance the temporary body storage capacity. Despite these efforts, the three operating public mortuaries would reach their critical storage limits after long holidays and during winter, whereby KPM will be opened to receive bodies overflowing from these three mortuaries. The overall average utilisation rate of the three operating public mortuaries has reached 101% in 2017.

7. The continuing use of the cold rooms in the existing FSPM over the decades has accelerated deterioration, necessitating temporary suspension of cold rooms for major repair and improvement works. This further poses pressure on the already critical body storage capacity.

### ***Improve architectural design***

8. The outdated architectural design of the existing FSPM makes it difficult to set apart distinctly the working area from the public area, which is undesirable in terms of the current standards. The reprovisioning of FSPM

is necessary to enhance the quality of public mortuary service that meets the current standards in infection control, occupational safety and health standards of modern public mortuary.

## **THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

### ***Project scope***

9. The proposed project will provide —
  - (a) nine cold rooms and one deep freezer with a total storage capacity of 830;
  - (b) eight autopsy suites for routine coroner's cases, homicide cases and suspicious deaths, etc.;
  - (c) functional facilities including X-ray and Computed Tomography Scan rooms, laboratories, body identification areas, interview rooms, facilities for bereavement services, autopsy viewing rooms and office, etc.; and
  - (d) other ancillary facilities including a covered car park, loading/unloading bay, and vehicular lay-bys along nearby roads.
10. The reprovisioned seven-storey FSPM will provide equipment and facilities which meet infection control, occupational safety and health requirements. It also provides more suitable space and more spacious venue for the bereaved families. There will be three indoor ceremonial halls so that the bereaved families can conduct memorial ceremony under a more private setting. The use of memorial halls is free of charge. Construction works of the reprovisioned FSPM will include beautifying the environment and greening so as to better integrate with the surroundings and reduce possible visual impacts. A site and location plan is at Enclosure.
11. The reprovisioned FSPM will also serve as a training venue for law enforcement officers, especially the Police, in criminal investigations.

### ***Environmental Implications***

12. This is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap.499). Notwithstanding this, a Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) for the project was completed in August 2015 and the findings are agreed by the Director of Environmental

Protection. The mitigation measures as recommended in the PER including frequent water suppression, use of quiet construction plant, erection of purpose-built temporary noise barrier during the works period will be properly provided.

### ***Traffic Implications***

13. A consultant has been engaged to carry out a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) for the proposed project. The TIA concluded that the proposed development would not induce adverse traffic impact in both construction and operational phases.

14. Nevertheless, the reprovisioned FSPM will adopt the following enhancement measures in further alleviating the impact on surrounding traffic

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- (a) upon commissioning of the reprovisioned FSPM (see paragraph 18 below), there will be –
  - (i) vehicular entrances at Lower Shing Mun Road and Yau On Street mainly for operational vehicles and private vehicles respectively which will separate traffic of operational and private vehicles and smoothen out the traffic flow in the vicinity; and
  - (ii) there will be a covered car park within the reprovisioned FSPM providing 50 parking spaces for private vehicles visiting the mortuary as well as similar facilities nearby<sup>1</sup>. At present, the existing FSPM does not provide any parking spaces; and
- (b) there will be additional general lay-bys along Yau On Street and Lower Shing Mun Road which will be completed and in use prior to the commissioning of the reprovisioned FSPM (i.e. around the third and fourth quarters of 2021) in response to the request of the nearby community to further smoothen out the traffic in the vicinity.

15. It is believed that with the above measures in particular the provision of a covered car park, the impact on the surrounding traffic would be alleviated and that any increase in parking demand brought by the reprovisioned FSPM and those similar facilities in the nearby areas can be addressed.

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<sup>1</sup> Including Po Fook Memorial Hall and Fu Shan Crematorium.

### ***Existing FSPM***

16. The existing FSPM will remain functional during the construction period of the new FSPM. After the reprovisioned FSPM commences operation, the existing FSPM will cease operation and will be used for administration, disaster drill and training purposes.

### **PROJECT ESTIMATE AND TIMETABLE**

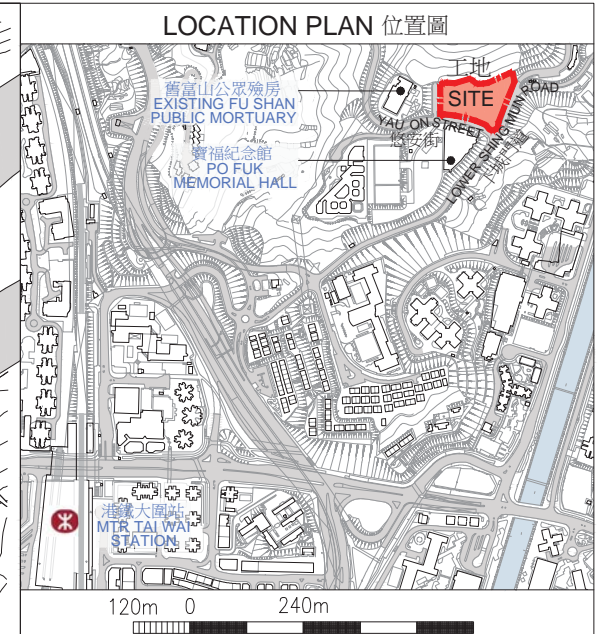
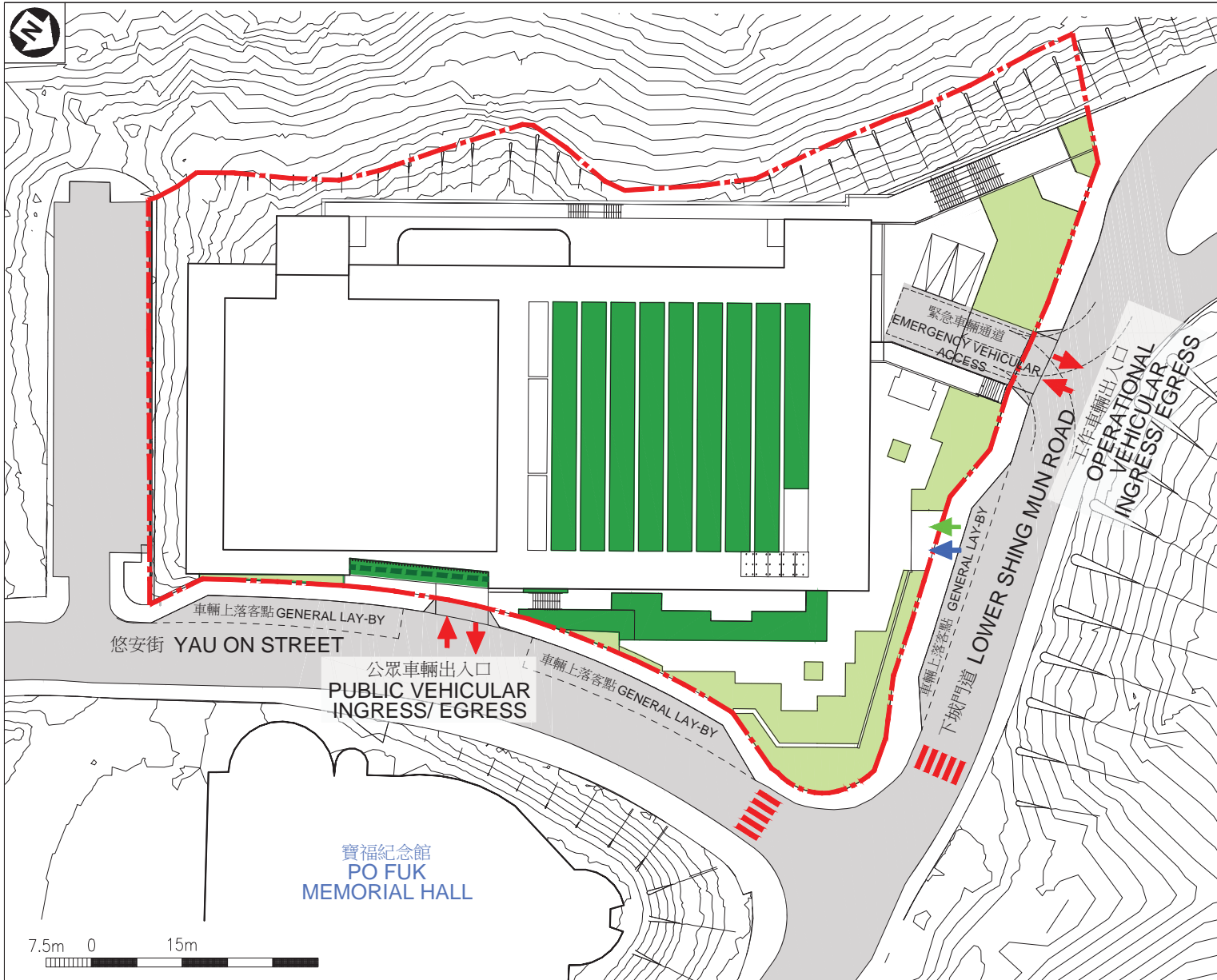
17. The estimated project cost is about HK\$1,038 million in money-of-the-day prices.

18. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, construction is planned to start in the first quarter of 2019 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2021. DH expects that the reprovisioned FSPM will commence operation around mid-2022.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

19. The Government consulted the Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) on the proposed project on 10 March 2016. Members of STDC supported the proposed project. The subject proposal was also discussed and supported at the Shatin District Lands Conference at its meeting on 18 July 2017. In addition, the Government has engaged stakeholders including local residents from time to time in the past to listen to their views and concerns on the proposed project particularly on traffic conditions in the vicinity. The Government will continue to communicate with stakeholders with a view to formulating feasible ways to improve the traffic conditions.

**Food and Health Bureau  
Department of Health  
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圖例	LEGEND
	工地界線 SITE BOUNDARY
	車輛出入口 VEHICULAR INGRESS/ EGRESS
	無障礙出入口 BARRIER FREE ENTRANCE/ EXIT
	行人出入口 PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE/ EXIT
	現有行人過路處 EXISTING AT-GRADE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
	屋頂綠化 LANDSCAPED ROOF
	地面綠化 AT-GRADE GREENING
	垂直綠化 VERTICAL GREENING

工地平面圖  
SITE PLAN

020NB  
沙田富山公眾殮房重置工程  
REPROVISIONING OF FU SHAN PUBLIC MORTUARY AT SHA TIN