

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

發展局
文物保育專員辦事處
香港九龍尖東麼地道 68 號
帝國中心 7 樓 701B 室



Commissioner for Heritage's Office
Development Bureau
Unit 701B, 7/F
Empire Centre, 68 Mody Road
Tsim Sha Tsui East
Kowloon, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our reference : () in DEVB/CHO/1C/CR/10/1
來函檔號 Your reference : CB4/PAC/R75
電話號碼 Tel No. : 2906 1529
傳真號碼 Fax No. : 2906 1574

13 January 2021

(By email)

Ms Wendy Jan
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 6 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 75
Funding schemes for conservation of built heritage managed by
the Development Bureau

Thank you for your letter dated 8 January 2021 regarding the Public Accounts Committee's consideration of Chapter 6 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 75. Our response is at Appendix.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Karen Kam'.

(Ms Karen Kam)

for Secretary for Development

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (email: sfst@fstb.gov.hk)
Director of Audit (email: john_nc_chu@aud.gov.hk)

**Chapter 6 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 75
Funding Schemes for Conservation of Built Heritage
Managed by the Development Bureau
Questions Asked and Information Requested**

In response to Question 1, part 2 of the report mentioned that some projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme had received smaller number of applications, and some of them even had to be re-launched. Has the Development Bureau (DEVB) ever re-evaluated these less attractive projects and considered if there are other alternative means of revitalisation? If not, will DEVB implement the above practice in future? Moreover, will DEVB introduce more different and flexible modes to allow more organisations to participate in the conservation and revitalisation of government-owned historic buildings? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Reply

The government all along adopts different modes to conserve and revitalise historic buildings according to their individual circumstances. In addition to incorporating historic buildings into the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), the government also lets out historic buildings to interested organisations for proper uses. The government also invites non-governmental organisations to revitalise and operate projects through other forms of partnership to make good use of historic buildings. For example, “Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts” was revitalised from the Central Police Station Compound, and “PMQ” was revitalised from the Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters. Moreover, the government also operates and revitalises relevant historic buildings directly, if appropriate. For example, the Ex-Ma Tau Kok Animal Quarantine Depot was converted into “Cattle Depot Artist Village”, which is available for lease by artists and art groups and is open to the public for visit and participation in the activities.

Under the Revitalisation Scheme, there were cases where re-launched projects could successfully identify suitable partners and new uses. For example, although no proposal was selected to revitalise the Old Tai Po Police Station under Batch I of the

Revitalisation Scheme, a proposal was selected under Batch II and it has been successfully revitalised as the “Green Hub for Sustainable Living” to promote sustainable living. The government re-launched King Yin Lei under Batch VI of Revitalisation Scheme upon review and made more flexible arrangement to increase the usable area. Without affecting the heritage significance of King Yin Lei, applicants are allowed to construct new structures compatible with the landscape of King Yin Lei at part of the rear garden area in order to meet their land usage requirements. There were also cases where although only a small number of applications was received under individual projects of the Revitalisation Scheme, more applications were received when the projects were re-launched in subsequent batches. For example, Fong Yuen Study Hall only received two applications under Batch V of the Revitalisation Scheme. However, a total of five applications were received when it was re-launched under Batch VI of the Revitalisation Scheme.

The incorporation of the relevant historic buildings into the Revitalisation Scheme and the selection of the revitalisation proposals through an open, fair and competitive mechanism is conducive to finding the most suitable partner and use for these historic buildings through tapping of community’s wisdom and creativity. The Development Bureau (DEVB) considers that this an appropriate method. Nevertheless, DEVB will continue to explore different and flexible modes to allow more organisations to participate in the conservation and revitalisation of government-owned historic buildings.