

For information

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Redevelopment and expansion of Pok Oi Hospital

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the redevelopment and expansion of Pok Oi Hospital (POH).

Background

2. At present, the public hospital services of Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and North District are provided by Hospital Authority's New Territories North (NTN) hospital cluster which comprises POH, Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH), North District Hospital (NDH), Fanling Hospital, Castle Peak Hospital and Siu Lam Hospital. Notwithstanding the opening of the new NDH in 1998, the provision of public hospital services in the NTN cluster still requires to be expanded to meet the increasing needs due to population growth. The Chief Executive announced in his 1998 Policy Address that the POH would be redeveloped to meet the rising demand for medical services in the Northern New Territories.

3. POH currently has a complement of 470 general beds (including the 120 infirmary beds in Tin Ka Ping Centre). Owing to out-dated design, most of its facilities are lagging behind the prevailing standards required for modern practices in medical treatment and care.

The Redevelopment Project

4. To strengthen the provision of medical services in the NTN cluster, we propose to upgrade POH to a modern general acute hospital and to expand its capacity by opening an additional 272 beds. Upon completion of the redevelopment project in 2006, POH will have a complement of 742 in-patient beds. It will be able to handle some 140 000 A&E attendances and some 282 000 specialist outpatient attendances each year. The estimated total capital cost of the project is

in the region of \$2.2 billion.

5. To ensure that POH can continue to provide medical services, at an appropriate level, to the public during the redevelopment period, the redevelopment work will be undertaken in two stages. Under Stage 1 redevelopment, a new building will be constructed on the site where the existing South Wing and Accident and Emergency/Out-patient Department Block (A&E/OPD Block) are located. The new building will accommodate 300 in-patient beds, A&E, General and Specialist Out-patient Departments, operating theatres and other supporting departments as well as carparking spaces. Stage 2 redevelopment will involve demolition of the Central Wing, the North Wing and staff quarters; and the construction of a new building on the same site to accommodate 322 in-patient beds.

Preparatory Works

6. Before embarking on the main redevelopment works, HA will appoint professional consultants to carry out site investigation, develop detailed design and prepare tender documents and building plans. To shorten the project completion programme, the demolition of the existing South Wing and A&E/OPD Block will also be conducted at the preparatory works stage.

Decanting Arrangements

7. The demolition of the South Wing and A&E/OPD Block during the preparatory stage of the project will necessitate the decantation of 80 existing in-patient beds together with the A&E and out-patient clinics, as well as the surgical services. HA will temporarily reprovise the 80 in-patient beds in Tin Ka Ping Centre and the specialist out-patient and family medicine clinics at the Central Wing of POH. To pave way for the redevelopment project, surgical services at POH have already been temporarily reprovise at NDH with effect from July 1999. HA will temporarily suspend the A&E Department at POH during the redevelopment period because medical support required by the A&E services will no longer be available at the Hospital. Commencing from 1 May 2000, a 24-hour out-patient clinic will be set up at POH to treat semi-urgent and non-urgent patients, who at present account for over 80% of all A&E patients at POH. Critical, emergency and urgent cases will

be handled by A&E Departments of TMH and NDH, the A&E services of which will be enhanced.

Public Consultation

8. HA consulted the then Yuen Long Provisional District Board (YLPDB) in December 1998 and April 1999. Members of the then YLPDB supported the redevelopment project, as well as HA's proposal to run a 24-hour out-patient clinic at POH during the redevelopment period. Members were content with the proposed decanting and reprovisioning arrangements outlined in paragraph 7 above.

Way Forward

9. We shall seek the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council to embark on the preparatory works of the project at a cost of \$96 million at the FC meeting to be held in June 2000. Subject to FC's approval, site investigation, detailed design work as well as the demolition works would be conducted in the latter half of 2000. We shall separately seek FC's approval to launch the main works at a later stage.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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