

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON
PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS**

**Progress Report on Development
of the West Kowloon Cultural District**

Purpose

This paper reports on the proposals received in response to the Invitation for Proposals (IFP) for development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

Background

2. The Government announced on 5 September 2003 the IFP for the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District. The submission of proposals closed on 12:00 noon on Saturday 19 June 2004.

Proposals Received

3. The Government has received five proposals before the submission deadline. The proponents who made submissions are: World City Culture Park Limited, Sunny Development Limited, Swire Properties Limited, Dynamic Star International Limited and Lam, Sze-tat.

Next Steps

4. As a first step, we will start immediately to screen the proposals received to ascertain if the proposals comply with the Mandatory Requirements as set out in the IFP. Those proposals that comply with the Mandatory Requirements will then be assessed against the assessment criteria set out in the IFP, which has been posted on the WKCD website since last September.

5. The proposals will be assessed by a Proposals Evaluation Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) and assisted by dedicated assessment teams drawn from relevant bureaux and departments of the Government.

6. Assessment of the proposals will cover three main areas : the technical aspects, the financial aspects, and the operation, maintenance and management aspects, with particular attention to the proponents' capability to ensure a high standard of operation and management of the arts and cultural facilities. Each of these areas is considered equally important, and each will be subject to a detailed and meticulous assessment by the Proposals Evaluation Committee.

7. To safeguard the integrity of the assessment process and ensure that proposals will be assessed in a fair and impartial manner, all officials responsible for the assessment are required to strictly follow guidelines and procedures that have been prepared for this project with the help of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The ICAC will act as an observer throughout the entire assessment process.

8. Due to the complexity of the proposals, the Government anticipates that it will take at least several months to conduct the assessment. To promote public participation in the selection of a preferred proposal, we will arrange the exhibition of all compliant proposals that meet the Mandatory Requirements. We will also consult professional bodies and the arts and cultural sector concurrently during that period. The Government will take all opinions and comments collected into account in the assessment process. Before a decision is made on the selection of a preferred proposal, we will also consult the Town Planning Board and the Legislative Council.

9. We will keep Members informed of progress on the development.