

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)183/10-11(04)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 8 November 2010**

Redevelopment of Yan Chai Hospital

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the past discussions by the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the Administration's proposal to redevelop Yan Chai Hospital ("YCH").

Background

2. YCH, founded in 1973, is a community hospital with about 800 in-patient beds providing a comprehensive range of acute and extended care, as well as ambulatory and community medical services mainly to the population in the Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan Districts. Apart from running a 24-hour accident and emergency department, YCH is also providing medicine; surgery; orthopaedics and traumatology; paediatrics; ear, nose and throat; infirmary; and intensive/coronary care services.

3. YCH comprises seven blocks, namely Block A (opened in 1989), Block B (opened in 1993), Blocks C and D (opened in 1973), Blocks E and F (opened in 1983), and the Multi-Services Complex, which is a 13-storey joint-user building accommodating social welfare and rehabilitation services, a nursing home and 150 infirmary beds (completed in late 1998).

Past discussion

4. At the meeting on 11 December 2006, the Administration sought the Panel's support for the proposal to redevelop Blocks C, D, E and F at YCH into a community health and wellness centre. The concept of a community health and wellness centre was to provide "one-stop" integrated services for patients including health promotion, illness prevention, curative intervention of illness and rehabilitation of chronic illness. The redevelopment proposal involved the establishment of three component centres as follows -

- (a) Health Resources Centre providing health resources and information for integrated rehabilitation services to patients;
- (b) Primary Care Centre providing primary healthcare services to individuals at different stages of life. The existing General Practice Clinic ("GPC") at YCH and community nursing services would also be reprovisioned at this Centre; and
- (c) Specialist Care Centre providing assessment and stabilization services for patients suffering from chronic diseases in an ambulatory setting, including day surgery and endoscopic services to reduce reliance on expensive in-patient services. The existing Specialist Out-patient Clinic ("SOPC") at YCH would also be reprovisioned in this Centre.

5. Members were advised that Blocks C, D, E and F, with a total gross floor area of about 22 210 square metres, had become old, dilapidated and outdated over the years. In addition, due to physical and space constraints of the buildings, YCH had not been able to fully develop and meet the increasing demands of the community to deliver comprehensive and integrated healthcare services.

6. Members were further advised that the proposed project would be implemented in two stages -

- (a) Stage I, to be commenced in the second quarter of 2007 and aimed for completion in late 2009, comprised preparatory works covering -
 - (i) site investigations;
 - (ii) building survey; and
 - (iii) consultancy services for outline sketch design, detailed design, as well as tender documentation and assessment for the main works in Stage II.
- (b) Stage II, to be commenced in 2010 and aimed for completion in 2014, comprised main works covering -
 - (i) phase 1 which involved the demolition of Blocks C and D for construction of a new building to accommodate the community and health wellness centre, and ancillary facilities including a pharmacy, a registration and business unit, a medical record unit, a maintenance unit and car park; and
 - (ii) phase 2 which involved the demolition of Blocks E and F to provide landscaped area and parking facilities after the existing outpatient and associate ancillary facilities had been moved to the new community and health wellness centre upon its completion.

The total estimated cost for the redevelopment project was about \$420 million, including about \$21 million in money-of-the-day prices for Stage I of the project.

7. Whilst expressing support for the proposed project, members urged the Administration to explore the feasibility of shortening the completion time of the project. The Administration advised that upon appointing the professional consultants for the preparatory works, the Hospital Authority ("HA") would explore with the consultants on the feasibility of doing so.

8. Concern was raised as to whether the redeveloped YCH would have the capacity to cope with the service demand upon its completion. According to the Census and Statistics Department's projection, the population of Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan Districts was expected to increase from about 811 900 in 2006 to 815 000 in 2014.

9. The Administration advised that whilst the exact floor area of the new community health and wellness centre could only be determined after completion of the detailed design, the capacity of GPC and SOPC at YCH was targeted to be enhanced to 74 000 and 210 000 attendance respectively per year after completion of the redevelopment project.

10. On the suggestion of introducing obstetrics and gynaecology services at YCH, the Administration advised that the clustering arrangement of HA enabled the provision of a full range of comprehensive health care services to meet the health care needs of the community. In the Kowloon West Cluster ("KWC") to which YCH belonged, obstetrics and gynaecology services were currently provided at the Princess Margaret Hospital and Kwong Wah Hospital. In 2006-2007 (up to end January 2007), the occupancy rates of obstetrics and gynaecology beds in KWC were 68% and 86% respectively. The Administration advised that there was no plan to expand such services in other hospitals within the cluster.

Latest development

11. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") approved the funding proposal for Stage I of the redevelopment of YCH on 11 May 2007.

12. The Chief Executive announced in his 2010-2011 Policy Address on 13 October 2010 that the Government planned to redevelop the four hospital blocks at YCH to enhance the services. The redevelopment project was expected to be completed in 2016.

13. At the special meeting of the Panel on 15 October 2010, Hon WONG Kwok-hing urged HA to resume the provision of urology service at YCH and continue to provide the service after the redevelopment of YCH.

Relevant papers

14. Members are invited to access LegCo website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>) for details of the relevant papers and minutes of the meeting.

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2 November 2010