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Panel on Security

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 10 February 2011

Redevelopment plan for the Fire Services Training School

Purpose

This paper summarizes past discussions by the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the redevelopment plan for the Fire Services Training School ("FSTS").

Background

- 2. Established some 40 years ago in 1968, the existing FSTS in Pat Heung is the primary training venue for the 26-week initial training of all new recruits of the Fire Services Department ("FSD"). It also serves as the base for some refresher and advanced training courses for serving fire fighters. With an area of 2.89 hectares, FSTS was originally designed to provide 160 residential training places. Only basic fire fighting and rescue training facilities were built for the training school. These include three drill towers and a drill yard.
- 3. According to the Administration, FSD has been making improvements to FSTS over the past years to cope with increasing training needs and evolving techniques. Additional training facilities installed include three fire training chambers to provide simulations of structural fire scenes, and three small-scale fire rigs for the simulation of vehicle fire, transformer fire and screen fire respectively. A breathing apparatus training block was constructed a few years ago to provide better tactical training to new recruits in a simulated and controlled smoke-logged environment.

Redevelopment plan

- 4. At its meeting on 3 June 2008, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's plan to redevelop FSTS. Members were informed that FSD was planning to enhance its simulation-based training for fire fighters substantially. As further expansion of the existing FSTS was not feasible due to site constraints, FSD was conducting a preliminary study on redeveloping a new FSTS. FSD was working with relevant departments in identifying viable sites for the redevelopment of FSTS. Subject to the identification of suitable sites, the Administration would work out the detailed project scope, the financial implications, and its implementation plan and consult the local community before consulting the Panel again.
- 5. A member queried why information about the redevelopment cost of FSTS was not provided in the Administration's paper.
- 6. The Administration advised that the redevelopment plan was only at an initial stage and viable sites for the redevelopment were still being identified. FSD was still determining the facilities to be installed in the redeveloped FSTS and a feasibility study on the redevelopment was still being conducted by the Architectural Services Department.
- 7. The Panel requested the Administration to brief the Panel on further details of the redevelopment of FSTS before submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.

Relevant papers

8. Members may access the LegCo website (http://www.legco.gov.hk) for details of the paper and minutes of meeting.

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