For discussion on 6 February 2015

## **Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

# Progress of the Kai Tak Multi-purpose Sports Complex Project

#### **Purpose**

This paper reports on the latest position with regard to the planning of the proposed Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak.

## **Progress Update**

2. In January and February 2014, we briefed Members on the proposed scope of the MPSC and noted Members' support for setting up a dedicated team in the Home Affairs Bureau to take forward the planning of the project. Since February 2014, we have made progress in the following areas.

#### Environmental and Traffic Impact Assessments

3. We began the Environmental and Traffic Impact Assessments in March 2014. Preliminary findings show that one of the key issues that we will need to address will be to develop measures to reduce the impact of noise generated during the dispersal of crowds after major events held at the main stadium of the MPSC. With the advice of the Environmental Protection Department, we are working on developing appropriate measures. We expect the assessments to be completed by the end of 2015.

## Planning study

4. We have engaged a planning consultant to assess the need for relaxing the height limit for the main stadium at the MPSC, based on studies of comparable facilities worldwide. This will help to ensure that we adopt the best available technology for the proposed retractable roof for the stadium, so as to promote multi-purpose and regular use. The consultant will also study the justification for developing a hotel of a suitable scale within the MPSC for visiting athletes, support staff, officials and spectators on and around major event days; and general visitors during other days.

#### Pre-construction work

5. In February 2014, Members supported the proposal to seek the Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC) and Finance Committee (FC)'s support to fund pre-construction work for the project, including ground investigation, topographic and tree surveys, utility mapping, technical services and quantity surveying consultancies. We aim to obtain approval from the FC for the funding proposal in this legislative year.

#### Operations Consultancy

6. We have completed preparations for the engagement of an operations consultant to provide expert advice on the functional requirements of the MPSC, as well as performance standards, business planning and financial projections. The consultant will also engage stakeholders including "national sports associations", the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation and other potential users so that we will be able to take account of their views and needs when supervising the detailed design of the MPSC. The estimated cost of the consultancy is about \$40 million. We shall shortly invite tenders for the consultancy. The funding required will be reflected in the 2015-16 draft Estimates of the Home Affairs Bureau.

# Updated Master Layout Plan

7. We have updated the master layout plan for the complex incorporating comments from stakeholders in the sports sector and the wider community, and the findings to date of relevant studies. The latest schematic layout plan is at the **Annex**.

## Interface with other projects at Kai Tak

- 8. We have reviewed progress with other projects at Kai Tak that have a close physical relationship with the MPSC or that will otherwise be important to the operation of the complex, with a view to ensuring that the MPSC can link up smoothly with these projects. These include
  - The MTRC Sha Tin Central Link: we have formulated potential crowd dispersal arrangements for major events at the main stadium of the MPSC, on the assumption that about 80% of spectators will access the two new MTRC stations close to the complex, namely Kai Tak and To Kwa Wan;
  - The Proposed Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS): we shall provide input into the detailed feasibility study for

the proposed EFLS with the aim of ensuring that its alignment will best connect the complex with other developments in Kai Tak and the surrounding community;

- The Kai Tak cycle track network: we have worked out with the concerned departments how to connect the cycle track inside the complex with the wider Kai Tak Development cycle track network;
- **Distributor Road D2 Shing Kai Road**: we are working with the Highways Department and its contractors to ensure that this road, which bisects the site of the MPSC will not adversely affect the future operation of the complex;
- **District Cooling System**: we are working with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to ensure that an optimal arrangement is made for the System to provide chilled water to support the complex's temperature control systems; and
- Kai Tak Station Square and Sung Wong Toi Park: we are engaged in the planning of these projects, which are in close proximity to the MPSC, with the aims of ensuring that their completion time tallies as far as possible with that of the complex and that the facilities provided in these two large recreational areas complement and blend in with the parkland features of the MPSC.

#### Consultation

9. Whilst taking forward the planning of the MPSC as described in the above paragraphs, we have maintained close liaison with stakeholders, in particular within the sports community. In this context, we have set up the MPSC Task Force under the auspices of the Sports Commission, which allows us to brief representatives of the sports sector on progress and seek their feedback on issues relating to the broader planning work. We have briefed the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, and the Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City District Councils on progress with the project, and the EIA process has also involved a process of public engagement with regard to the potential impact of the project. In addition, we post related materials for public information on a dedicated website: <a href="http://www.hab.gov.hk/mpsc">http://www.hab.gov.hk/mpsc</a>. As noted in paragraph 6 above, when drawing up the detailed operating specifications for the complex, the operations consultant will be required to engage stakeholders to ensure that their views are fully accounted for in the advanced planning process.

## Way forward

10. We plan to engage the operations consultant in mid-2015 and, subject to approval from PWSC and FC we aim to start the pre-construction work in the latter part of this year.

## **Advice Sought**

11. Members are invited to note progress with the planning of the Kai Tak MPSC.

Home Affairs Bureau January 2015

