

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1228/16-17(08)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 25 April 2017**

Extension of Operating Theatre Block of Tuen Mun Hospital

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes the concerns of members of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the extension of Operating Theatre Block of Tuen Mun Hospital.

Background

2. Tuen Mun Hospital ("TMH") is the regional acute general hospital of the New Territories West ("NTW") Cluster of the Hospital Authority ("HA") serving the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts. TMH runs a 24-hour accident and emergency ("A&E") department and provides a full range of acute, ambulatory, extended care and community medical services. It also serves as a tertiary referral centre for trauma and neurosurgery.

3. The population in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts is projected to reach 1 257 800 by 2023, representing an increase of 15.6% over the population in 2013. To cope with the increasing service demand arising from a growing population, there is a need to expand the clinical service capacity of TMH, particularly its surgical capacity. At the Panel meeting in May 2015, the Administration briefed members on the proposed extension of the Operating Theatre Block of TMH. The proposed scope of the project comprises:

- (a) diversion of existing underground utilities including reprovisioning of the underground oil tank located at the open car-parking area outside the Operating Theatre Block;

- (b) construction of an extension building to the Operating Theatre Block over the open car-parking area to accommodate (i) at least 18 operating theatres, with associated recovery and supporting areas; (ii) intensive care unit; (iii) delivery suites; (iv) expanded central sterile supplies department; and (v) expanded portion of A&E department;
- (c) construction of link bridges to connect the extension block with the existing building; and
- (d) refurbishment and expansion of the existing A&E department, radiology department and Operating Theatre Block to integrate with the extension block for coherent workflows.

The proposed extension project will be carried out in two stages. Stage one covers the service diversion of underground utilities and foundation works, and stage two covers the construction of the extension block with link bridges and refurbishment of concerned areas in the existing Operating Theatre Block.

Deliberations of the Panel

4. The Panel discussed the extension of the Operating Theatre Block of TMH at its meeting on 18 May 2015, and at the meeting on 18 January 2016 in the context of discussing the 10-year development plan of public hospitals. The deliberations and concerns of members are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Scope of the proposed extension project

5. Members noted with concern that the workload statistics on surgical services at TMH was among the highest of all HA hospitals. Over 50% of the operations performed at the operating theatres of TMH were emergency surgery, resulting in long waiting time for elective surgery of surgical and orthopaedic specialties. Most of the ultra-major and major operations of the NTW Cluster were carried out in TMH. However, the size of the operating theatres of TMH is limited in that 10 out of the 11 operating theatres only had an area of around 40 square metres, as compared with the international standard of 60 square metres. This limited the development and modernization of surgical services in TMH. Members therefore were generally in support of the proposed extension of the Operating Theatre Block of TMH. There was a view that the provision of at least 18 operating theatres in the extension of the Operating Theatre Block was not adequate to meet the anticipated increase in demand for surgical services, as

the two other general hospitals of the NTW Cluster (i.e. Pok Oi Hospital ("POH") and Tin Shui Wai Hospital ("TSWH")) lacked supportive facilities (such as intensive care unit ("ICU")) for carrying out emergency surgeries.

6. The Administration advised that the number of operating theatres to be provided in the extension of the Operating Theatre Block would be worked out during the detailed design stage. Upon completion of the proposed extension project, most of the ultra-major and major operations in the NTW Cluster would continue be carried out in TMH, whereas POH and TSWH would mainly provide less complicated and ambulatory surgeries.

7. Members noted that the extension of the Operating Theatre Block would also house delivery suites. Questions were raised about the number of delivery suites to be accommodated therein, and whether the facilities provided and the estimated medical manpower supply could cope with the projected annual number of delivery. Members were advised that HA would monitor the demand of obstetric services of each hospital cluster on an annual basis taking into account the number of female population of childbearing age in the catchment area. HA would work out in the detailed design stage as to how the delivery suites could be integrated with operating theatres in the extension of the Operating Theatre Block.

8. Some members considered that HA should make use of the opportunity of the proposed extension project to provide additional hospital beds, in particular ICU beds, in TMH so as to obviate the need to expand the hospital in future. More resources should also be allocated to enhance the specialist outpatient services and rehabilitation services of TMH.

9. HA advised that the proposed extension project aimed at removing the bottleneck of TMH which mainly rested with inadequate surgical facilities. It would also expand the existing A&E and radiology departments of TMH to meet the increasing demand for emergency care and radiological examinations. Where necessary, more beds in the Rehabilitation Block of TMH could be opened by phases to meet the operational needs. It should be noted that there had been an increase in the number of beds, including acute beds and convalescent beds, in TMH and POH in recent years. The new TSWH would provide an additional 300 beds upon its full operation.

Manpower requirement

10. Concern was raised about the healthcare manpower planning for TMH to align its expansion plan. To attract more medical graduates to serve at TMH, there was a suggestion of developing TMH into a teaching hospital.

11. HA advised that with the number of local medical graduates started to go up to 420 in 2018, it was expected that the medical manpower shortage in HA would improve when the extension project completed in 2020. The strategic review of healthcare manpower planning and professional development, which was underway, would formulate a healthcare manpower strategy to ensure an adequate supply of qualified personnel for meeting future needs. Being an acute public hospital, TMH offered clinical attachment programmes for local medical students and were allocated intern positions for local medical graduates. Experience showed that many medical graduates were willing to work in the NTW Cluster as they might reside in the region.

Recent developments

12. The Chief Executive announced in the 2016 Policy Address that a dedicated provision of \$200 billion had been set aside for the implementation of a 10-year public hospital development plan which covered, among others, the extension of Operating Theatre Block of TMH. In April 2016, the Finance Committee approved a sum of \$167.2 million in money-of-the-day prices to carry out the stage one works for the proposed extension project. According to the Administration, the relevant substructure and utility diversion works have commenced in May 2016.

13. Subject to the funding approval by the Finance Committee, the main works of the extension project, involving the construction of a new block adjacent to the existing Operating Theatre Block of TMH for accommodating nine additional operating theatres and expansion of the existing A&E and radiology departments, is planned for completion in 2021.

Relevant papers

14. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

**Relevant papers on the extension of Operating Theatre Block of
Tuen Mun Hospital**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Health Services	18.5.2015 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)499/15-16(01)
	18.1.2016 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)546/16-17(01)

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
19 April 2017