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Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 15 May 2017**

Phase two redevelopment of the Prince of Wales Hospital

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes the concerns of members of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the phase two redevelopment of the Prince of Wales Hospital ("PWH").

Background

2. Located in Sha Tin and commenced operation in 1984, PWH is the acute general hospital and the tertiary referral centre for the New Territories East ("NTE") Cluster of the Hospital Authority ("HA") which served the population of the Sha Tin, Tai Po and North districts,¹ particularly for the provision of neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery and major trauma services. It also serves as the teaching hospital of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

3. Due to the inadequate space provision, outdated building services installations as well as deterioration of building services and facilities, it was proposed to redevelop PWH in phases. The phase one redevelopment involved the construction of a new 14-storey Main Clinical Block and Trauma Centre, providing inpatient services including intensive care unit, operating theatres and

¹ According to the mid-year population estimates by the Census & Statistics Department and the latest projection by the Planning Department, the Sha Tin, Tai Po and North districts have a projection population of 1 315 200 as at mid-2016.

day services with sufficient clinical space and facilities in line with modern design standards. At the meeting on 7 July 2006, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a sum of \$1,882.1 million in money-of-the-day prices for the construction of an extension block at PWH. The redevelopment project, which was commenced in 2007, was completed in 2010.

4. It was announced in the 2014-2015 Budget Speech that planning for the phase two redevelopment of PWH would commence. In the 2016 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that a dedicated provision of \$200 billion had been set aside for the implementation of a 10-year public hospital development plan which included, among others, the phase two redevelopment of PWH.

Deliberations of the Panel

5. Members expressed concern about the phase two redevelopment of PWH at various Panel meetings held between 2013 and 2016. The placement of residents of the social service units affected by the redevelopment was discussed at a special meeting of the Panel held in January 2017. The deliberations and concerns of members are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Timetable for the phase two redevelopment

6. Members noted with concern about the long waiting time for various services at PWH, in particular the accident and emergency ("A&E") service and inpatient admission to medical wards via the A&E Department. To address the increasing service demand from the community, there was a call to expedite the study on phase two redevelopment of PWH. Concerns were also raised about the scope of the redevelopment project.

7. The Administration advised that the original plan for the phase two redevelopment of PWH was to demolish Staff Blocks A, C and D and the lecture hall of the Nursing School for the construction of another new block, without provision of additional inpatient beds. In the light of the projected population growth and expected changes in demographic structure in the NTE Cluster, HA had reviewed the scope of the phase two redevelopment project, including increasing the number of beds and expanding the inpatient services of PWH. Members were further advised that HA had drawn up the Clinical Services Plan for the NTE Cluster in late 2015 to set out its future service delivery model for tackling the long-term healthcare needs of the community in the Sha Tin, Tai Po and North districts. The phase two redevelopment of PWH would focus on expanding its capacity as well as modernizing its services to

become the hub of the NTE Cluster's academic health science network with the provision of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities.

8. According to the Administration, the preparatory works of the phase two (stage 1) redevelopment of PWH included site investigations, minor studies and surveys, as well as consultancy services for outline sketch design, detailed design, and tender documentation and assessment for the main works. The proposed scope of the main works comprised (a) renovation works at the Day Treatment Block and Block B of the Staff Quarters for decanting of Blocks A, C, D and E of the Staff Quarters and the Nursing School Lecture Theatre; (b) diversion/relocation/re-provisioning of building services for Blocks B and F of the Staff Quarters, which were currently located in Blocks A, C, D and E of the Staff Quarters; (c) demolition of Blocks A, C, D and E of the Staff Quarters and the Nursing School Lecture Theatre; and (d) construction of an In-patient Extension Block at the site of the existing Blocks A, C, D and E of the Staff Quarters and the Nursing School Lecture Theatre. The redeveloped PWH would provide 450 additional beds and 16 additional operating theatres. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, the preparatory works were planned to commence in the third quarter of 2017 for completion in the first quarter of 2020.

Placement of residents of the social service units affected by the redevelopment

9. Members noted that there were three social service units located at the to-be-demolished Block E of the Staff Quarters, namely (a) a private residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") operated by Refine Home Company Limited ("Refine Home"); (b) a self-financing supported hostel providing residential care services for mentally handicapped persons operated by Fu Hong Society; and (c) a self-financing supported hostel providing residential care services for ex-mentally ill persons operated by Mental Health Association of Hong Kong. Noting that the tenancies of these social service units would be expired on 31 March 2017, members were concerned about the placement of the residents concerned. In particular, concern was raised over the adequacy of vacant places in RCHEs in the district to accommodate the 90-odd residents of Refine Home. Members urged the Administration to arrange accommodation for the affected residents and provide assistance to the affected social service units in identifying suitable premises for relocation.

10. The Administration advised that the organizations concerned had been notified since December 2014 of the need to deliver vacant possession of the premises. Sufficient vacant places were available in private RCHEs in Sha Tin district for accommodating the residents of Refine Home. If any residents of Refine Home required assistance in arranging residential service, the Social

Welfare Department would refer them to the Integrated Family Service Centres or relevant social service units for follow-up by social workers. As regards the two self-financing supported hostels, six out of the eight residents of the hostel operated by Fu Hong Society and seven out of the nine residents of the hostel operated by Mental Health Association of Hong Kong had been offered placements. Fu Hong Society had undertaken to arrange residential respite service for the two remaining residents if they had yet to be offered appropriate placements before the handover of the premises. The two remaining residents of Mental Health Association of Hong Kong were awaiting allocation of subsidized residential care places.

Relevant papers

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 May 2017

**Relevant papers on the phase two redevelopment of
the Prince of Wales Hospital**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Health Services	15.7.2013 (Item II)	Agenda Minutes
	10.2.2014 (Item II)	Agenda Minutes
	19.1.2015 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes
	18.1.2016 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
	17.1.2017 (Item II)	Agenda

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