## Legislative Council Panel on Housing Supplementary Information

## **Purpose**

Regarding the supplementary information requested on the Head 711 project no. B472RO - Water feature park and landscaped walk at Diamond Hill (the Project) at the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Housing meeting on 9 March 2020, this paper provides the relevant response.

## Follow-up actions

- (a) With respect to the concern that the construction works for the proposed water feature park and landscaped walk had yet to be implemented whereas the public housing development adjacent to the two facilities had commenced construction in 2016 for completion in phases from 2021, (i) list of the preparatory tasks/advanced work that had been undertaken by the Administration for the proposed project and the time when such tasks/work had been carried out (such as their commencement and completion dates); (ii) how the Administration would ensure that the proposed project would be completed as scheduled; and (iii) whether and how the Administration would expedite the implementation of the proposed works.
- 2. The Government consulted Wong Tai Sin District Council (WTSDC) on the preliminary development proposals of the Diamond Hill Comprehensive Development Area (DHCDA) in January 2013, and obtained consensus at the WTSDC meeting held in September 2013. Later in July 2014, the Government consulted WTSDC on the development proposal of DHCDA<sup>1</sup> and its public housing development. DC Members generally supported the proposed public housing development, and raised some suggestions on the design of the water feature park (WFP) and landscaped walk (LW). After the meeting, the Government continued to listen comments from WTSDC and local stakeholders, and conducted a community engagement workshop in January 2015 for the non-public housing facilities (NPHF<sup>2</sup>) at DHCDA. The development proposal of DHCDA was then refined and proceeded accordingly with various technical studies. Eventually, the Master Layout Plan of DHCDA was approved by the Town Planning Board in May 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Development proposal of DHCDA includes public housing development, public transport interchange, religious facilities, associated pedestrian connection facilities, water feature park and landscaped walk.

<sup>2</sup> NPHF includes public transport interchange, pedestrian linkage facilities, WFP and LW.

- 3. In January 2017, the Government consulted WTSDC on the design proposal of NPHF at DHCDA. Having refined the design proposal, the Government consulted WTSDC again in November 2017. In response to comments from DC Members on the design proposal of WFP and LW, the Government further amended the design proposal and consulted WTSDC in July 2018 and January 2019. Eventually WTSDC raised no objection to the proposal. The Project team then immediately proceeded with detailed design and project cost estimation, and consulted LegCo Panel on Housing on 9 March 2020 on this Project.
- 4. To enable the earliest commencement of works, this Project will adopt parallel tendering by carrying out the necessary tendering procedures in advance, such that the construction contract can commence soon after the funding proposal is approved by the LegCo Finance Committee. Moreover, to shorten the construction period, the foundation works and building works of this Project will be combined under a single contract.
- 5. We will strive to accelerate the administrative procedures of tendering and complete the preparation work as early as possible, including detailed design and tender documentation, for a smooth and efficient tendering process. We will closely monitor the contractor's progress throughout the contract period, to strive for timely completion of the works.
- (b) Details of the tree planting arrangements of the proposed water feature park and landscaped walk (including choice of species, planting design and layout/locations/density, etc.); whether and how such arrangements would help mitigate the environmental impacts of nearby Lung Cheung Road (such as traffic noise, etc.) on users of the two proposed facilities and residents of the adjacent public housing development; and whether and how the Administration would enhance the planting arrangements/relevant measures having regard to members' concern on the environmental impacts of the road.
- 6. The wide vegetated slope<sup>3</sup> between WFP and Lung Cheung Road (LCR) will be preserved to form a natural green buffer. Existing trees at the slope will be preserved and nurtured to act as an effective green barrier to mitigate the environmental impacts from LCR on the WFP. In spatial planning aspect, environmentally sensitive facilities such as children's play area will be located at distance away from the concerned road.

- 7. Although LW is located next to LCR, the existing MTR entrance structure, the single storey ancillary building at LW and the well dispositioned planting inside LW will jointly relieve the environmental impacts from LCR on LW. In spatial planning aspect, environmentally sensitive facilities such as pavilion and benches are located at distance away from LCR.
- 8. Besides, the boundaries of WFP and LW along the concerned roads will be densely planted with trees, shrubs and groundcovers to provide a multi-layered and dense greening effect. The landscaping is designed to provide characteristic seasonal plant species to demonstrate vibrant variations in colour and appearance associated with the change of seasons. The planted trees, shrubs and groundcovers are intended to enrich the biodiversity and to complement the overall planning of WFP and LW. Since the public housing development is separated from LCR by WFP and LW, residents of the public housing development will also benefit from the above arrangement.

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