Legislative Council

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Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs

Joint Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating to the Redevelopment, Maintenance and Management of Aged Buildings

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 20 January 2020

Urban Renewal Fund

The Urban Renewal Fund ("URF"), incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 15 August 2011, was set up pursuant to section 6(2)(s) of the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance (Chapter 563) to act as the trustee and settlor of the Urban Renewal Trust Fund. The Urban Renewal Trust Fund, with an endowment of \$500 million from the Urban Renewal Authority ("URA"), provides an independent funding source to support the operation of the social service teams ("SSTs") that render assistance to the affected owners and tenants of the urban redevelopment projects implemented by URA. Urban Renewal Trust Fund also supports activities of the District Urban Renewal Forums¹ as well as initiatives related to heritage preservation and district revitalization proposed by non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and other stakeholders in the overall context of urban renewal. Pursuant to the Articles of Association of URF, the directors of the Board of URF shall be nominated by the Secretary for Development and appointed by URF.

2. The URF Board is responsible for managing the business of URF, including the appointment of SSTs and the approval of funding requests to support its various initiatives. The appointment of SSTs is conducted by way of open tender every four years. Details of the tendering exercise including the assessment criteria and weightings will be provided to interested NGOs and explained at briefing sessions prior to inviting tenders from NGOs.

District Urban Renewal Forums are advisory platforms set up in old urban districts to collect views from professionals and local residents.

operate independently of URA and report to the URF Board. They render assistance to owners and tenants affected by URA's redevelopment projects in accordance with the objectives and scope of services specified in the tender documents.

3. Relevant Panels of the Legislative Council have not discussed the subject of URF since 2012-2013 session. The Administration will brief the Joint Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating to the Redevelopment, Maintenance and Management of Aged Buildings on URF at its meeting on 20 January 2020.

Council Business Division 2
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
14 January 2020