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Panel on Development

Meeting on 10 May 2021

**Background brief on reprovisioning of
Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the reprovisioning of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station and a brief account of the major views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Development ("DEV Panel") when the subject was discussed by the Panel in 2014.

Reprovisioning proposal in 2014

2. With an area of about 900 square metres, the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station is one of the key installations of the water supply system supplying fresh water to the Central, Wan Chai, Mid-level and Peak areas.

3. Based on the recommendations of the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront completed by the Planning Department in 2011, office development was proposed at a site occupied by the Hong Kong Red Cross Headquarters and fresh water pumping station on Harcourt Road. To pave way for implementing the proposed office development, the Administration proposed the reprovisioning of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station to a site near the Central Fire Station on Cotton Tree Drive at the periphery of the Hong Kong Park, and consulted the DEV Panel on the reprovisioning proposal at its meeting on 27 May 2014.

Panel discussion in May 2014

Impacts of the reprovisioning project on the Hong Kong Park

4. Members expressed concern about the impacts of the reprovisioning project on the Hong Kong Park as the project would affect the Flagstaff House (Museum of Tea Ware), a declared monument, and a section of the old stone wall which formed part of the boundary wall of the Flagstaff House, and would involve the removal of 118 trees in the Hong Kong Park. Some members considered that the measures proposed by the Administration could mitigate the heritage impact of the proposed reprovisioning project on the Flagstaff House and the old stone wall.

5. The Administration advised that it had engaged a consultant to conduct a heritage impact assessment on the declared monument and the old stone wall due to construction and operation of the proposed new pumping station. The consultant recommended to conserve the affected old stone wall by temporarily removing it during the construction of the proposed new pumping station and then restoring it at the original location on the roof of the reprovisioned pumping station. The relevant recommendation was supported by the Antiquities Advisory Board. Besides, tree experts would be engaged to undertake the tree transplantation and protection work under the proposed reprovisioning project.

Alternative sites for reprovisioning of Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station

6. Members enquired whether the Administration had considered reprovisioning the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station in-situ or at a site near the new Central Harbourfront.

7. The Administration explained that given the constraints that the level of the new pumping station could not be too high as it had to receive water transferred from the network on the Kowloon side, and that the location of the new pumping station had to be close to the existing trunk mains for connecting to such mains, the choices of site for reprovisioning the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station were limited, and each of the alternative sites¹ had its own disadvantages. In respect of the feasibility of in-situ reprovisioning,

¹ The alternative sites included: (a) existing roadside amenity area to the east of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station; (b) existing amenity area within the Harcourt Garden; (c) the former site of the Hong Kong Red Cross Headquarters on Harcourt Road; (d) existing amenity area within the Academy for Performing Arts; (e) a site at the public toilet within the Hong Kong Park; and (f) a site at the café within the Hong Kong Park. (Source: [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)1842/13-14\(01\)](#))

the Administration explained that the presence of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station and associated water mains, together with the Shatin to Central Link tunnels which traversed underneath the site would impose substantial constraints on the proposed office development and significantly reduce its development potential. In-situ re-provisioning of the pumping station was therefore not considered.

8. On account of members' various concerns on the re-provisioning proposal, the Panel agreed to further discuss the subject at a future meeting.

Proposed re-provisioning of Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station to Lockhart Road Playground

9. In April 2017, the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") consulted the Development, Planning and Transport Committee of the Wan Chai District Council on the proposal for the re-provisioning of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station to the Lockhart Road Playground.² To address the recreational needs of local residents, WSD has been working with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to develop an integrated leisure facility cum pumping station development scheme to accommodate the pumping facilities and provide a revamped playground to better serve the public concurrently.³

10. In the 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that to address the long-term accommodation needs of the Judiciary, the Administration would make available Site 5 of the new Central Harbourfront, and the site south of Site 5 where the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station is located, for the development of the Judicial Complex for the High Court ("JCHC").⁴

² Source: Paper to the Development, Planning and Transport Committee of the Wan Chai District Council "Water Supplies Department's PWP Item No. 9347WF — Re-provisioning of Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station" in November 2018 ([Document No. 100/2018](#)) (Chinese version only)

³ Source: <http://newlockhartroadplayground.com/>

⁴ The proposed JCHC will house the Court of Appeal, the Court of First Instance, the Competition Tribunal and the Judicial Institute. (Source: [LC Paper No. CB\(4\)24/17-18\(03\)](#))

Latest development

11. According to the Administration's information paper provided to the Public Works Subcommittee in January 2021,⁵ the proposed project of reprovisioning of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2021 and complete in the first quarter of 2025.

12. At the DEV Panel meeting to be held on 10 May 2021, the Administration will brief members on the proposal of upgrading PWP No. 347WF to Category A for the reprovisioning of the Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station to the Lockhart Road Playground.

Relevant papers

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

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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⁵ Source: Enclosure 2 to [PWSCI\(2020-21\)10](#)

Reprovisioning of Harcourt Road fresh water pumping station

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Development	27 May 2014	<p>Administration's paper on "347WF — Reprovisioning of Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station" [LC Paper No. CB(1)1456/13-14(03)]</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper [LC Paper No. CB(1)1842/13-14(01)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(1)2016/13-14]</p>