

**For information
On 14 May 2001**

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Redevelopment and Expansion of Pok Oi Hospital

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the progress made with regard to the redevelopment and expansion of Pok Oi Hospital (POH).

Background

2. At present, the public hospital services for Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and North District are provided by the Hospital Authority's New Territories North (NTN) cluster which comprises POH, Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH), North District Hospital (NDH), Fanling Hospital, Castle Peak Hospital and Siu Lam Hospital. The provision of public hospital services in the NTN cluster is however insufficient to meet its increasing needs due to population growth. The population in the NTN cluster is projected to increase by 19% from 1 176 000 in 2000 to 1 400 000 by 2006, resulting in a projected shortfall of about 1 000 beds in the cluster by then.

3. The Chief Executive announced in his 1998 Policy Address that POH would be redeveloped to meet the rising demand for medical services in the NTN. We have proposed to upgrade POH to a modern general acute hospital and to expand its capacity by opening 272 additional beds. Upon completion of the redevelopment project in 2006, POH will have a complement of 742 in-patient beds (including the 120 infirmary beds in Tin Ka Ping Centre). On 9 June 2000, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (FC) approved funds amounting to \$96.37 million for conducting the preparatory works for the redevelopment and expansion of POH.

Progress of the Preparatory Works

4. HA has appointed professional consultants in August 2000 to carry out site investigation and detailed design works for the project. The

site investigation work has been substantially completed and the detailed design for site formation and foundation works finalised. The demolition of South Wing, Accident and Emergency (A&E) / Out-patient Department Block and other ancillary buildings will start in end May 2001. To maintain an appropriate level of medical services for the community, HA currently operates a 24-hour out-patient clinic at POH to treat semi-urgent and non-urgent patients. Critical, emergency and urgent cases are being handled by the A&E Departments of TMH and NDH. In this connection, HA has opened two new wards providing about 100 additional in-patient beds at TMH to cope with the additional patient load. And a bed capacity of about 270 in-patient beds will be maintained at POH during the construction period.

Modification of the Redevelopment Programme

5. HA's original plan was to carry out the redevelopment of POH in two stages which would entail the construction of the hospital's main building in two separate stages. During the design process, HA's consultants recommended single-stage redevelopment, the more cost-effective option, instead of two-stage redevelopment. The consultants conducted a structured evaluation to appraise the two options against key parameters in the design, delivery and operation of the redeveloped hospital. Their conclusion was that single-stage redevelopment would eliminate interfacing problems inherent in staged redevelopment, reduce programme and cost risks, improve site utilization by making available a larger footprint for the redeveloped hospital, and reduce the extent of decanting and reorganization of services. The consultants also confirmed that POH would be able to maintain an appropriate level of services during the whole construction period under the single-stage redevelopment option.

6. To tie in with the proposed single-stage redevelopment, we propose to modify the works packages of the project such that the detailed design for the entire redevelopment project will be undertaken at the preparatory works stage, and the site formation and foundation works will be advanced and carried out in parallel with the preparation of tender documentation for the main works. We shall be able to complete the project by 2006 under the single-stage redevelopment option.

Public Consultation

7. HA consulted the Social Services, Housing & Publicity Committee of the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) in November 2000. Members of the YLDC supported the proposed single-stage option for the redevelopment and expansion of POH.

Way Forward

8. We shall seek the approval of the FC to embark on the site formation and foundation works, and preparation of tender documentation for the main works of the project at a cost of about \$320 million at the FC meeting to be held in June/July 2001. Subject to FC's approval, the site formation and foundation works will commence in November 2001 with a view to completion by December 2002. We shall separately seek FC's approval to launch the main works at a later stage.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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