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民政事務局

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26 October 2017

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Raymond SZETO)

Dear Mr SZETO,

Follow-up to Meeting of Finance Committee on 20 October 2017

Reprovisioning of Shanghai Street refuse collection point and street sleepers' services units to the site on Hau Cheung Street, Yau Ma Tei for the phase II development of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre project

At the meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) on 20 October 2017 when Members discussed the captioned reprovisioning project, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung requested the Government to provide supplementary information. Having consulted the Government departments concerned, the relevant information is provided as follows –

When the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) deliberated on the reprovisioning project in 2014, some Members recommended that the Government construct additional floors in the proposed building with a view to optimising land use. We have adopted Members' suggestions and submitted a revised building design to the Panel on Home Affairs and the PWSC in 2016. It was suggested that two additional floors be constructed between the refuse collection point and the street sleepers' services units with a view to increasing their vertical distance apart, and to providing storage and office space for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

The proposal put forward by Dr Hon CHEUNG involves relocating the office and multi-purpose room on 3/F of the proposed building to 2/F and putting in place extra shelter bed spaces on 3/F. This would substantially alter the design of the proposed building and its plant rooms and necessitate a new round of feasibility assessment. The reprovisioning project will be further delayed, which would not only delay the phase II development of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre, but also impede the improvement of the environment of the street sleepers' services units. The construction costs would also increase due to change of design and delay of construction works.

At present, the short-term accommodation service for street sleepers (including subvented and self-financing ones) in the Yau Tsim Mong District can satisfy service demand in general. If the demand for facilities and services of street sleepers' shelters becomes keen in the district in the future, we could consider changing part of the floor use, subject to the LCSD's future need for space, and provided that the prevailing laws and regulations (e.g. those on building safety and fire safety) are complied with and resources are available. We would like to reiterate that, as compared to the original proposal in 2014, the reprovisioning project has already been delayed for four and a half years and Members as well as stakeholders all urge for its early implementation.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Sandy CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Director of Architectural Service
(Attn: Ms Jennifer YIP)
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Attn: Miss YIP Yee-wah, Eva)
Director of Social Welfare
(Attn: Miss FUNG Hing-sum, Fanny)