

Translation

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

For discussion
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Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Proposed House Rules and Press Release Arrangements

I. Purpose

This paper seeks the views of Members of the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum (“Kowloon City DURF”) on and their endorsement of the proposed House Rules and press release arrangements.

II. House Rules

2. The new “Urban Renewal Strategy” proposes that the Government should adopt the “People First, District-based and Public Participatory” approach in urban renewal. To strengthen urban renewal planning at the district level, the Government has set up the first pilot District Urban Renewal Forum (“DURF”) in Kowloon City, with an aim to advise the Government on district-based urban renewal initiatives from a holistic and integrated perspective. To facilitate the efficient operation of the Kowloon City DURF and enhance its transparency, a set of proposed House Rules has been drawn up. This paper outlines the proposed House Rules of the Kowloon City DURF (see **Annex**) for Members’ consideration. The major components of the proposed House Rules are highlighted below.

Chairmanship and Membership (Sections 4 and 5 of the House Rules)

3. Meetings of the Kowloon City DURF will be presided over by the Chairman. If the Chairman cannot attend a meeting or part of a meeting, Members present shall elect among themselves a Member to preside at the meeting. If the Chairman of a Panel under the Kowloon City DURF cannot attend a meeting or part of a meeting, Panel Members present shall elect among themselves a Panel Member to preside at the meeting.

4. Non-official Members of the Kowloon City DURF are appointed in their personal capacity. There is no representation system.

Declaration of Interests (Section 11 of the House Rules)

5. To maintain public confidence in the integrity of Members (including the Chairman) and in the impartiality of their advice tendered to DURF, all Members should declare their pecuniary interests as set out in the registration form (see **Appendix I of Annex**). The registrable interests are the pecuniary interests Members hold and those of their spouses and children under the age of 18. If Members have any direct or potential personal or pecuniary interest in any matter under consideration by the Forum or its Panels, they must, as soon as practicable after they have become aware of it, make disclosure. All declared interests shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Mode of Meeting (Section 12 of the House Rules)

6. The Kowloon City DURF will undertake public engagement activities and planning studies as well as technical assessments for formulating a district urban renewal blueprint. As such, it will hold meetings from time to time. The Kowloon City DURF shall meet as Members consider necessary.

7. DURF shall, as far as practicable, operate and conduct its proceedings in an open and transparent manner and members of the public may observe the meetings except in situations where sensitive, confidential or specific commercial information is involved. The finalized agenda, papers and minutes of meetings of DURF shall be uploaded onto the official website of DURF for public viewing, except in

situations where sensitive, confidential and specific commercial information is involved.

8. The Panels shall meet as Members consider necessary. The Panels shall make progress reports to DURF on its major findings and recommendations. DURF shall have the final decision on the major recommendations made by the Panels.

Rules on Public Observation of Meetings (Section 13 of the House Rules)

9. Any observer who fails or refuses to follow any of the rules on observation of meetings or causes any disturbance to the observation of the meeting will be required to leave the venue.

Amendment to the House Rules (Section 15 of the House Rules)

10. The Kowloon City DURF and its Panels may in future amend the House Rules having regard to its operational experiences or actual need.

III. Press Release Arrangements

11. Arrangements for issuing press release to the media are proposed to tie in with the open and transparent mode of operation of the Kowloon City DURF. Such arrangements are outlined below for Members' consideration.

12. The date, agenda and papers of each meeting of DURF will be uploaded onto the website of DURF prior to the meeting. The website will also contain the confirmed minutes of meeting and the latest news of DURF for public and media viewing.

13. The media and the public may be admitted to the meetings of DURF but advance registration is required so that the Secretariat can make corresponding arrangements. Simultaneous interpretation service in English will be provided as needed during the meeting. Members of the public and the media who are in need of such service should contact the Secretariat four days before the meeting.

14. If some important decisions or proposals are made by DURF, the Chairman of DURF or any person(s) assigned by DURF will hold press briefings or briefing sessions after the relevant meeting or on preset dates for promulgation of relevant news.

IV. Views Sought

15. Members are requested to comment on and endorse the proposed House Rules and press release arrangements.

Secretariat

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

June 2011