

(Translation)

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

For discussion
on 9 November 2011

Paper No.: DURF KC/09/2011

Proposal of Undertaking Revitalisation Initiatives with Non-government Organisations

Purpose

This paper outlines a proposal for the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum (“DURF”) to undertake revitalisation initiatives with non-government organisations (NGOs) and invites Members to consider and endorse the proposal and the recommended implementation framework.

Background

2. At the second DURF meeting on 25th of August, Members agreed to commence the Study on Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City (“the Study”) and conduct a social impact assessment (SIA) at an early stage with a view to formulating an urban renewal plan and action area plans for Kowloon City. Besides, the timetable for various work items such as public education was also agreed by Members.

3. As the Study will take time to complete, some Members raised that DURF could explore the feasibility of implementing some short-term revitalisation initiatives in order to rejuvenate the old areas. According to its terms of reference, DURF will advise the Government on preservation

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and revitalisation initiatives. In addition, DURF will assume a public education role through an outreach programme to all the relevant stakeholders with a view to fostering district partnership in urban renewal work. Based on Members' views and DURF's terms of reference, the Secretariat recommends that DURF could join hands with NGOs to write out the revitalisation initiatives with appropriate scale for the old areas in Kowloon City. This will not only help facilitate the renewal of Kowloon City, enhance sense of belonging among local residents, revive local vitality, but will also help foster district partnership between DURF and local organisations.

Implementation Framework

4. For implementation of the "People First, District-based and Public Participatory" approach in urban renewal and to achieve DURF's objective of revitalising old areas, the Secretariat recommends that DURF work with those NGOs with rich experience in district work and undertake revitalisation initiatives, such as organizing activities showing the history and culture of the area, including featured restaurants and shops, displaying sculpture/art installations to enhance the streetscape or holding related exhibitions, etc. These will deepen public understanding of the history, culture, urban fabric, economic characteristics and potentials of the area, and hence enhancing the sense of belonging, which will help encourage the public to provide valuable opinion on how to

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promote local vitality and business opportunities and input impetus to Kowloon City through urban renewal.

5. On selection of collaborating parties, the Secretariat suggests that the concerned parties must fulfill one or more of the following conditions:

- (a) Having thorough understanding of Kowloon City;
- (b) Managing an extensive district network in Kowloon City;
- (c) Having considerable experience in implementation of urban revitalisation and district service etc.; and
- (d) Having relevant experience in organising historical, cultural and artistic activities, etc.

6. As for the financial arrangement of implementing the revitalisation initiatives, the collaborating parties may solicit other funding support or submit planning application to the Urban Renewal Fund (URF). According to the new Urban Renewal Strategy, the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) has made an endowment of \$500 million for the establishment of URF to fund various activities to be conducted by DURF, the social service teams who are providing assistance and advice to residents affected by URA-implemented redevelopment projects and, applications from NGOs and other stakeholders involved in heritage

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preservation and district revitalisation initiatives in the overall urban renewal context to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Secretariat will make recommendations on the financial arrangement when formulating the details of the revitalisation initiatives with the collaborating parties.

7. The Secretariat will introduce the proposal through DURF's website and other channels to seek opportunities for co-operation with major NGOs in the district.

Advice Sought

8. Members are requested to comment on and endorse the proposal for DURF to foster partnership with NGOs in urban renewal work to undertake urban revitalisation initiatives and its implementation framework. Recommendations on collaborating parties are also welcome. The Secretariat will identify suitable parties and work out the action details based on Members' discussion and seek early approval from Members for implementation.

Secretariat

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