

(Translation)

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

For discussion
on 9 November 2011

Paper No.: DURF KC/10/2011

Proposed Criteria on and Arrangements for Handling Public Requests for Personal Attendance at Meetings to Make Representations on Urban Renewal

Purpose

This Paper seeks Members' views on and endorsement of the proposed criteria on and arrangements for handling public requests for personal attendance to make representations on urban renewal at meetings of the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum ("DURF")

Background

2. As a consultative platform, DURF seeks to enhance district participation in urban renewal by providing adequate channels (e.g. organizing workshops and seminars, etc.) for various sectors of society and local communities to give comments on different issues during the urban renewal planning process for implementing the "People First, District-based and Public Participatory" approach under the new Urban Renewal Strategy. Since the formation of DURF, members of the public have requested to attend meetings personally to make representations to DURF Members on urban renewal. Some Members also opined that as a consultative platform for gauging public views, DURF should be open to the public suitably by allowing individuals and organizations (e.g. concern groups, residents' organizations and private developers, etc.) to attend its meetings personally to make representations and to exchange views with Members on urban renewal.

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/10/2011

3. To facilitate DURF in handling public requests for personal attendance at meetings of DURF in an orderly manner, the proposed criteria of making representations and handling arrangements have been laid down in this paper for Members' consideration and discussion.

Criteria on Making Representation

4. Any individual or organization who intends to attend the meetings of DURF personally for making representations on urban renewal in Kowloon City (the "representer") has to submit his/its representations in writing to the Secretariat of DURF 4 weeks before the DURF meeting (the meeting schedule has been uploaded to the DURF's website). In general, the subject of representations must fall within the terms of reference of DURF (see **Annex 1**) and meet the following criteria:

- (a) The subject of representations must be related to the formulation of urban renewal plans for Kowloon City. In other words, it must be related to the proposals on redevelopment, rehabilitation, revitalization on preservation in Kowloon City, highlighting:
 - (i) significant local and public benefits to be brought from the proposals;
 - (ii) concrete planning gains (e.g. provision of open space/community facilities and landscaping measures, etc.) to be achieved by implementing the proposals; and
 - (iii) local communities can be revitalized or community cohesion and vibrancy can be enhanced through implementation of the proposals.
- (b) Representations should not involve matters that fall outside the

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/10/2011

terms of reference of DURF, such as matters concerning urban redevelopment compensation policy and rehousing arrangement etc..

Proposed Handling Arrangements

5. Upon receipt of a written representation, the Secretariat will first assess the representation in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 4 above before reporting the assessment result to the Chairman. Subject to agreement of the Chairman, the Secretariat will make arrangements for the representers whose proposals can meet the criteria to attend a meeting of DURF and make available the written representations for Members' circulation before the meeting. As the proposals mentioned in paragraph 4(a) may involve different professional aspects, the Secretariat will prepare a simple document providing supplementary information on the background and policy aspect based on the content of the representation to facilitate Members' consideration of the representation. For proposals which fail to meet the criteria, the Secretariat will still report to DURF before notifying the representers concerned in writing in respect of the reasons of not being heard.

6. The Secretariat will arrange for a suitable number of written representations to be heard during a meeting, taking account of the agenda of the meeting and the order of receiving the representations. Representations that cannot be heard will be included in the agendas of subsequent meetings. If there are a substantial number of representations meeting the criteria and hearing arrangements need to be made for such representations, the Secretariat will review and make proposed adjustments to the arrangements as appropriate.

7. In order to achieve the goal of suitably opening the DURF to the public for personal attendance to make representations on urban renewal

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/10/2011

in Kowloon City, the Secretariat will send a written notification to the representer on whether the said proposal will be incorporated in the urban renewal blueprint in Kowloon City prepared by DURF or to provide other responses to the proposal.

Advice Sought

8. Members are requested to comment on and endorse, if considered appropriate, the aforesaid proposed criteria of making representations and handling arrangements. The Secretariat will handle public requests for personal attendance to make representations at DURF meetings according to the endorsed proposals.

Secretariat

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

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