

(Translation)

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

For discussion on
23 July 2012

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

Report on Progress of Public Engagement Programme and Social Impact Assessment for Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City

Purpose

This document serves to report to Members the work progress of the Stage 1 Public Engagement Programme (PEP) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA), and to request Members to accept the relevant documents.

Work Progress of Stage 1 PEP

2. In preparation of the Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) activities, the Consultant has prepared the Draft PE Strategy, PE Digest, Study Website Design Proposal, and Proposal for the Questionnaire Survey. These documents were discussed at the Study Working Group (WG) meeting held on 25 June. The WG agreed to recommend to the Study Steering Group (SG) the endorsement of the Draft PE Strategy, Study Website Design Proposal, and the Proposal for Questionnaire Survey subject to the incorporation of their comments. The WG also made comments on the PE Digest, and suggested that the PEP questionnaires should be further revised and refined. Based on the comments of the WG, the PE Consultant has revised the relevant documents, which were presented at the SG meeting held on 5 July. The SG raised concerns on whether the similar consultation conducted by the PE and SIA Consultants might cause confusion to the public, as well as the approach to handle divergent views of various stakeholders. The SG also suggested that the PE activities and

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

the Study Website should accommodate the needs of ethnic minorities, and overlapping of the content of the PEP and SIA questionnaires should be avoided and hence further amendments were required. The SG was generally satisfied with the website design and design layout of the PE Digest. After deliberation, the SG arrived at the following decisions on the documents submitted by the PE Consultant:

- a) endorsed the PE Strategy in-principle and agreed to recommend to the DURF the acceptance of the PE Strategy, subject to the incorporation of comments raised by the SG;
- b) endorsed the methodology of the Questionnaire Survey in-principle, but the Consultant should amend the content of the PEP questionnaires for DURF's discussion and acceptance;
- c) endorsed the design layout of the PE Digest in-principle, and the revised text and the cover design etc. should be circulated to DURF members. Having incorporated their comments, production of the Digest would commence; and
- d) endorsed the Study Website Design Proposal, and the Consultant could commence production after incorporating comments of SG members.

3. The PE Consultant has revised the documents in accordance with the comments of the SG, including exploring the possibility of uploading the Preliminary Urban Renewal Proposals (PURP) map in different languages onto the website, considering to conduct workshop(s) to converge or narrow down the divergent views of different stakeholders, and revising the content of the PEP questionnaires. The PE Consultant has also amended the text and design of the PE Digest, including the cover, and circulated the revised draft to solicit Members' views via email on 17 July. After consolidating comments from the Members, the Consultant will commence production of the Digest. Production

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

of the Website and preparation of PE activities are also underway.

Public Engagement Strategy

4. The Stage 1 PE Strategy (**Annex I**) seeks to implement the “People First, District-based, Public Participatory” approach to carry out urban renewal, and also upholds the four principles of public engagement: ‘Informed debate’, ‘Open and transparent process’, ‘Suitable and suitably-timed response’ and ‘Indication of way forward’. The PE Consultant will work closely with the Planning Consultant and the SIA Consultant on the issues to be discussed in the Stage 1 PE to ensure that views collected can facilitate subsequent work in the next stage.

5. The stakeholders of the engagement exercise can be broadly classified into three categories – the general public, Kowloon City District, and those affected by the PURP. To cater for their different needs, the Consultant has designed different means for their participation and expression of views, including Focus Groups, Briefing/Sharing sessions, Walking Tours cum Workshops, Public Forums, Mobile Exhibitions, and online platforms, e.g. the Study Website (Please refer to **Annex II** for details of the Study Website Design Proposal), Facebook page, and Public Affairs Forum of the Home Affairs Bureau. Besides, through the PE Digest, Website and Mobile Exhibitions, members of the public and stakeholders can obtain the latest information on the PURP and the PEP.

6. To facilitate an objective analysis and enhance understanding of public attitude towards and views on the PURP, the PE Consultant has commissioned

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

the Centre for Social Policy Studies, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, to conduct a questionnaire survey. Through setting up street stations in the District to conduct survey face-to-face, the research team will collect opinions of those who live in, work at or visit Kowloon City on the PURP. The target sample size is 1,000. Please refer to **Annex III** for the procedures, sampling methods, and questionnaire samples. The Consultant has conducted a pilot test for the survey, based on which the contents of the PE questionnaires will be fine-tuned.

7. The PE Consultant shall be in close collaboration with DURF members, District Councilors, community and neighbourhood leaders, social service organisations, etc. Through their networks, information on the PE activities will be disseminated to stakeholders in the district (especially the elderly, ethnic minorities and new arrivals). They could voice their opinions through the PE activities and the Website.

8. Apart from steering the preparatory work of the PEP, DURF has an important role in the work process. The Consultant will invite Members to attend the PE activities and arrange media interviews to raise the awareness and recognition of DURF. Members will also share views with local residents, business operators and the public at the PE activities. In addition, the Consultant will invite Members familiar with the District as guides of the Walking Tours cum Workshops to introduce the District and facilitate discussion in the workshop. Through participation in the PE activities, Members can listen to public views in person so that the future Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City will better reflect public aspirations.

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

Follow-up Work

9. The PE Consultant will organise various PE activities according to the PE Strategy to be accepted by DURF. It is expected that the Stage 1 PE activities will commence in mid-August.

Work Progress of Social Impact Assessment

10. The Draft Inception Report prepared by the SIA Consultant was discussed in the WG meeting held on 25 June 2012. The WG had no comments on the SIA and the survey methodology, but urged the SIA Consultant to refine the content of the questionnaires. With reference to the suggestions put forth by the WG, the questionnaires were revised and presented to the SG on 5 July 2012. The SG had no comments on the overall study approach and survey methodology, but was concerned that the overlapping timeframes of the SIA and PE activities (especially when both Consultants will conduct questionnaire surveys) might cause confusion to the public. The SG also advised that the questions in the SIA Survey should avoid overlapping with those in the PE Survey, hence revision was required. After discussion, the SG endorsed in-principle the Inception Report and the SIA Survey approach, but advised the SIA Consultant to continue improving the content of the questionnaires for DURF's discussion and acceptance.

11. The SIA Consultant has revised the questionnaire content in accordance with SG's comments. Meanwhile, the SIA Consultant also interviewed some of the community stakeholders such as Kowloon City District Councilors, and representatives of different industries and concerned groups with a view to understanding the social impacts of urban renewal on the

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

stakeholders.

Draft Inception Report

12. The Inception Report explains the study methodology, work flow, key deliverables and programme of SIA (**Annex IV**). There are two stages of SIA. In Stage One, the Consultant will explore the social impacts of the PURP through the Kowloon City Community Profile and Survey, hence preparing social impact analyses for the Planning Study and Stage Two PE. The Stage Two SIA is a continuation of the Stage One work. The Consultant will employ focus group interviews to gauge the views of impacted stakeholders and assess the social impacts of the urban renewal plan prepared by Planning Study Consultant. Mitigation measures will also be proposed.

Survey

13. The SIA Survey aims to facilitate the Consultant to understand the background of the impacted residents and business operators and their existing living environment, while assessing their reactions to and social impacts of the PURP. Suggestions of mitigation measures are also invited. Although both the SIA and PE Consultant will conduct questionnaire surveys, the emphases and targets of the two surveys are different. The division of labour is as follows:

	PE Survey	SIA Survey
Target	- Residents in Kowloon City - Visitors	- Residents and business operators affected by PURP
Objective	- Gauge respondents' views on PURP	- Assess the social impacts of the PURP
Means	- Street station	- Home visit

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

	PE Survey	SIA Survey
		- Collaboration with partnering organizations (such as owners' corporations, district councilors and non-profit making organizations)
Sample Size	- 1,000	- 1,000

The SIA Consultant has revised the content of the questionnaires in accordance with the comments of the SG and conducted pilot test. Further amendments to the questionnaire are subject to the results of the pilot test.

Follow-up Work

14. Based on information from the 2011 Census, individual interview and community walk, the Consultant will compile a community profile for Kowloon City and the areas affected by the PURP. The Consultant will continue to interview different local stakeholders in order to assess the social impacts of the PURP. The Consultant will also participate in Stage One PE activities and listen to public views on the PURP.

Advice Sought

15. Members are requested to note the work progress of the PEP and SIA, and give views on the following documents. If deemed appropriate, Members are requested to:

- a) accept the PE Strategy;
- b) accept the Proposal for PE Questionnaire Survey and the content

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

Paper No.: DURF KC/07/2012

- of the questionnaires; and
- c) accept the SIA Inception Report and content of the questionnaires.

**Urban Renewal Plan
PE and SIA Study Steering Group
July 2012**