

(Translation)

## **Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum**

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For discussion on:  
25 March 2013

Paper No.: DURF KC/01/2013

### **Draft Stage 1 Social Impact Assessment Report for Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City**

#### **Purpose**

This paper aims at reporting to Members on the work progress of Social Impact Assessment (“SIA”), and invites Members to accept the Stage 1 SIA Report.

#### **Work Progress**

2. The draft Stage 1 SIA Report prepared by the SIA Consultant was circulated to Members of the Study Working Group (“WG”) in February. Some WG members opined that the Consultants should understand the existing assistance provided to the residents affected by redevelopment thoroughly, including the current policies of the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) on acquisition, compensation and rehousing, so as to propose the appropriate mitigation measures.

3. The Consultants revised the working paper in accordance with the comments from the WG, and the report was discussed at the Study Steering Group Meeting (“SG”) on 5 March. The SG generally agreed with the proposed mitigation measures and the three broad approaches, including a one-stop support and information services center as a basis, promoting the existing policies and developing the existing supporting schemes, as well as establishing liaison with the local organisations and institutions. Moreover, it is considered that the Consultants can propose to relevant institutions for strengthening the outreach services in order to provide assistance to groups affected by urban renewal, especially support for the ethnic minorities. In addition, the SG recommended that the Consultants should further investigate the social impacts of urban renewal on private elderly homes and other target services groups in the community. After discussion, the SG in principle endorsed the content of the working paper, and agreed to recommend the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum to adopt it upon incorporation of the comments of the SG.

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### Stage 1 SIA

4. The Stage 1 SIA comprised two parts, namely community profile and questionnaire survey. The compilation of the community profile aimed at analysing the livelihood of those living in areas affected by the Preliminary Urban Renewal Proposals (PURPs) and soliciting views of stakeholders in the community on the PURPs, and the questionnaire survey can assess the social impacts of the PURPs on the affected areas.

5. For compilation of the community profile, the Consultants not only analysed the data of 2011 Population Census, but also conducted 22 face-to-face interviews/consultations with stakeholders in the community, 5 focus groups and 8 site visits. The interviewees included District Council members, social workers, chamber of commerce's leaders, local concern groups, religious leaders, residents (including those who live in rooftop squatters and ethnic minorities households), and shop operators of vehicle repair, funeral, jewellery and catering industries in the area etc. Regarding the work on collecting questionnaires for the SIA, it was generally satisfactory with a total of 1,138 questionnaires received from residents and shop operators.

6. Having compiled the community profile and completed questionnaire survey, the Consultants preliminarily suggested some mitigation measures for the proposals of the Urban Renewal Plan. The measures were considered mainly based on the following three approaches:

- a) **A one-stop support and information services center as a basis** – in view of the complexity and the professional nature of the matters relating to urban renewal, it is proposed that the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) will set up a one-stop support and information services center in Kowloon City to provide public education and consultation services. This center can also serve as a communication platform and offer emotional support for the local residents. In addition, translation services can be provided at the center for ethnic minorities;

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- b) **Promoting the existing policies and developing the existing supporting schemes** – in view of the lack of understanding of urban renewal or the misinterpretation of the existing policies, the Consultants proposed to promote and explain the existing policies to the affected parties in Kowloon City District so as to allow the residents to have updated information on urban renewal. Besides, some effective schemes have been carried out to mitigate the impacts of redevelopment on the residents, such as the “Social Service Teams” funded by the Urban Renewal Trust Fund, the “Pilot Mediation Scheme” and the “Pilot Scheme on Outreach Support Service for Elderly Owners” launched by the Development Bureau for those who are involved in compulsory sale. It is recommended that the schemes could continue to be developed and promoted based on the existing foundation. The relevant parties should take the initiative to expand the services in the community; and
- c) **Liase with the local organisations and institutions** – the various local organisations and institutions have their own specialty and service networks. If the URA can link them up, it will help local organisations and institutions in the district give a full play of their specialty and complement with each other, thereby providing more systematic services to the locals. The Consultants suggested that local organisations and institutions might rearrange the relevant services, minimise the overlapping services and optimising the existing resources. The cross-organisational cooperation approach can be adopted so as to provide support services to the affected stakeholders systematically under different stages of the urban renewal process.

7. From the analysis of the affected residents, the Consultants have identified several groups, including owners, tenants, elders, new arrivals, ethnic minorities and rooftop occupants, and propose corresponding mitigation measures according to the above-mentioned approaches, and their needs with regard to redevelopment or revitalisation. Please refer to **Annex I** for the summary of proposed mitigation measures and **Annex II** for details of the Stage 1 SIA report.

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## **Follow-up Work**

8. The Consultants are about to commence the Stage 2 SIA, which will further examine the impacts of the Draft Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City on the vulnerable groups, such as rooftop occupants, ethnic minorities and elders who live in elderly homes. In addition, the Consultants will analyse the information on social impacts collected from the Stage 2 public engagement activities in order to update the Stage 1 Assessment.

## **Advice Sought**

9. Members are invited to note the work progress of the SIA, provide comments on the Stage 1 SIA report submitted by the Consultants, and consider if the report can be accepted.

**Public Engagement and Social Impact Assessment Steering Group**  
**Urban Renewal Plan for Kowloon City**  
**March 2013**