Urban Renewal Strategy (URS) Review Consensus Building Stage Summary of Discussion on Radio Talk Show

Date: 27th March, 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Programme: Commercial Radio 1's

'Saturday Talk Show on Politics and Economy' (政經星期六)

Host: Mr. Choi Man Kin (蔡文堅) and Ms Chan Shu Mei (陳淑薇)

Guests: Mrs. Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development and Mr. Barry Cheung,

Chairman of the Urban Renewal Authority

- At start of the programme, the main focus of the discussion was on two current prominent URA projects, namely the latest conservation proposal for all buildings in Wing Lee Street in the H19 Staunton Street/Wing Lee Street URA project in Sheung Wan and the latest proposals for the site of the collapsed buildings in Ma Tau Wai Road in To Kwa Wan.
- 2. Other topical urban renewal issues were then explored including how to enhance the awareness of owners on the need to undertake building rehabilitation works, and the recent reduction of the application threshold from 90% to 80% under the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance.
- 3. Towards the end of the broadcast, the Secretary for Development said that she saw the consensus of the URS review included that future urban renewal approach should be 'bottom up' and 'district based'. This approach refers to the incubation of projects in local districts and decisions on which areas should be preserved, rehabilitated, or redeveloped and they should be decided at the local district level. The intention of this approach is to reduce any argument at its source rather than after the project begins.

May 2010