

Details of Planned Public Engagement Programmes for the Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy

Partnering Organisation Programme

The Partnering Organisation Programme aims to broaden the reach of the URS Review and encourage more active participation by the community. We have commenced Phase 1 of the Programme (February to June 2009) under which nine organisations, including professional institutes, youth organisations, community groups and schools, have become Partnering Organisations of the URS Review. Each of these nine organisations will be provided with up to \$10,000 to help them implement their proposed projects to reach out to various sectors of the community. These organisations are selected by an assessment panel of the URS Steering Committee based on the objectives, creativity, feasibility, scale of outreaching, cost effectiveness of their proposals and their prior experience in organising similar events. We will invite applications for Phase 2 of the Programme (to be implemented from July to November 2009) nearer the time.

Idea Shop

2. The URS Review Idea Shop aims to provide a visible and useful venue for the organisation of community activities related to the URS Review. The shop premises at Tai Yuen Street, Wan Chai have been in operation since late February 2009. It serves as a community hub for the public to express and exchange views on key issues of the review. We will make available the Idea Shop to Partnering Organisations as well as other organisations free of charge for organisation of activities related to the URS Review. The Idea Shop is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday from 11:00am to 9:00pm throughout the Public Engagement Stage (February – December 2009).

Radio programmes

3. We have commissioned Commercial Radio 1 to produce radio programmes for broadcast from March to July 2009 to arouse public interest, provide basic information about urban regeneration in Hong Kong and encourage the public to take part in the discussions.

4. Starting from late March, a series of 90 seconds info-segments on various topics related to the URS will be broadcast frequently for four weeks, then a series of weekly half-hour sponsored radio programmes will be broadcast for five weeks. This

will be followed by another nine weeks of info-segments and weekly half-hour programmes in similar formats. The info-segments aim to provide basic information about the URS, while the half-hour radio programmes aim to cover selected urban regeneration issues in some depth and stimulate more active public discussions on the URS.

Road Shows, Public Forums and Topical Discussion Sessions

5. A series of eight road shows, five public forums and ten topical discussion sessions will be organised as the backbone programmes of the Public Engagement stage. As urban regeneration involves many relatively complex issues, we would like to facilitate more informed discussions by the general public. The public forums will tie in and dovetail with the road shows planned in four regions: Kowloon West, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon East and Tsuen Wan. In each region, we will feature two road shows before the public forum so that residents in the district may have access to the necessary background information before they go to the public forums.

6. The theme of the road show exhibition will be the key urban regeneration issues identified by the community at the Envisioning Stage; we will also refer to the relevant experience of the six Asian cities included in our policy study. A dedicated booklet will be produced and distributed to the public to provide the necessary background information and highlight the key issues for discussion. A coffee corner may be featured during the road shows in case some visitors wish to sit down and spend more time to chat. Structured interviews will also be conducted at the road shows to collect public views.

7. As regards the topical discussion sessions, each would focus on specific topics (e.g. rehabilitation vs. redevelopment, compensation and rehousing, owners' participation in redevelopment, public engagement) to facilitate more focused and in-depth discussions. The topical discussion sessions will be organised around the road shows and public forums in time schedule to ride on their publicity.

8. The series of road shows, public forums and topical discussion sessions are scheduled to start in early May 2009 and will last until December 2009. A typical road show will span five days in duration (tentatively from Thursday to Monday, with opening hours from 11:30a.m. to 8:30p.m.), while the public forums and topical discussion sessions will be held on Saturdays to encourage more active public participation.

**Development Bureau
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