

Steering Committee on Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy

Role and Operation of the Steering Committee

PURPOSE

This paper outlines the role of the Steering Committee on Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy (“the Committee”) and some operational arrangements, and invites Members’ comments on them.

BACKGROUND

2. Urban regeneration is a complex development issue with important social, cultural and economic implications and involves many stakeholders. It aims at tackling the challenge of urban decay and improving the quality of life of people living in dilapidated buildings in older urban areas.

3. The current Urban Renewal Strategy (URS) was published in 2001 to provide a broad policy guidance to the work of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Over the years, there have been considerable changes in the values and aspirations of the public with regard to maintenance and restoration of older buildings, conservation of heritage and preservation of existing social network and local culture.

4. In response to these changes, the Government has already introduced some new policies and measures. These include a new heritage conservation policy announced by the Chief Executive in his 2007-08 Policy Address as well as various statutory and administrative measures to enhance building maintenance. We have also undertaken to conduct a comprehensive review of the URS to ensure that it will continue to reflect the values and priorities of the community. The Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy (the Review) was formally launched on 17 July 2008. The Review is expected to take about two

years to complete.

5. Noting the wide public interests on urban regeneration in Hong Kong, the Administration believes that successful engagement of the public in the review process is essential for developing a balanced view reflecting the various, and sometimes conflicting, interests of various sectors of the community. We have therefore planned a robust and extensive public engagement process to help develop consensus on the key issues to be identified as the Review progresses.

ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

6. As the policy bureau responsible for urban renewal, the Development Bureau will oversee the whole review process and provide steer to the direction of the Review. The Steering Committee on Review of the URS is set up to guide and monitor the whole review process, facilitate public participation and recommend to the Government how the URS should be revised.

7. The Secretary for Development will personally chair the Steering Committee. Ten un-official members have been drawn from the fields of architecture, arts and culture, community work, construction, engineering, environment, finance, heritage, etc. to help generate more creative ideas and foster more balanced discussions on urban renewal issues. Whilst Members are appointed for a two-year term starting from 17 July 2008, their tenure may have to be adjusted, if necessary, so that they can see through the Review. The Terms of Reference and Membership list of the Steering Committee are attached at **Annexes A and B**.

8. Senior representatives of the Development Bureau, Planning Department, Lands Department, Buildings Department and the Urban Renewal Authority will attend meetings of the Steering Committee to provide information and explain government policies and practices, so as to facilitate Members' discussions and deliberation. Depending on actual requirements, representatives from other government bureaux and departments may also be invited to attend meetings of the Steering Committee.

Sub-committees, exchanges and visits

9. The Committee may, from time to time, decide to set up sub-committees, where necessary, to carry out in-depth studies on specific issues identified by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will determine the terms of reference and composition of the sub-committees, including appointment of co-opted members.

10. Members are encouraged to take an active part in seminars, consultation sessions with stakeholders and overseas study visits to be arranged as part of the review process. Further details are in SC Paper 2/2008.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Declaration of Interest by Members

11. To maintain public confidence in the integrity of Members, as well as in the impartiality of their advice tendered to the Steering Committee, Members are reminded to declare their pecuniary interest when they perceive a potential conflict of interest in a matter placed before the Steering Committee.

12. In general, when a Member perceives there is a potential conflict of interest situation, he or she should make a full disclosure of his or her interest before the matter is discussed by the Steering Committee. It is the responsibility of Members to judge and decide if the situation warrants a declaration. In case of doubt, Members may seek a ruling from the Chairman. The declaration would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Guidelines on declaration of interests by Members are attached at **Annex C**.

Frequency of meetings

13. The Steering Committee will meet on a regular basis, about once every two to three months. Special meetings may be organised as and when necessary. It is expected that the Steering Committee may have to meet more frequently during the Envisioning Stage (the first stage) of the Review. A tentative meeting schedule up to mid-2009 is at **Annex D**.

Public Access to Information

14. A dedicated website for the URS review has been set up to facilitate public participation in the Review. The website provides a platform for dissemination of information about the Review and public engagement throughout the review process.

15. The proceedings of the Committee will be as open as possible. In general, except for documents containing market sensitive information, all papers and confirmed notes of meeting will be made available to the public through the dedicated website of the Review after conclusion of the meetings.

16. To encourage frank and candid exchange of views among Members and thorough deliberations at meetings, meetings of the Steering Committee will not be opened to the public. Also, views expressed at the meetings will not be attributed to individual members in minutes of meeting.

17. To keep the public abreast of the work of the Steering Committee, the Chairman or Members designated by the Chairman, where appropriate, may speak to the media on behalf of the Steering Committee after meeting. Press releases may also be issued as and when appropriate.

ADVICE SOUGHT

18. Members are invited to:
- (a) comment on the role of the Steering Committee as described in paragraphs 6-10;
 - (b) note the requirements on declaration of interest at paragraphs 11 and 12; and
 - (c) comment on the proposed mode of operation of the Steering Committee at paragraphs 13-17.

**Secretariat, Steering Committee on Review of the URS
July 2008**

Steering Committee on Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy

Terms of Reference

- (a) To oversee and monitor the progress of the Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy (the Review);
- (b) To receive and offer views on study reports in connection with the Review;
- (c) To advise and provide guidance on any critical issues affecting the process of the Review; and
- (d) To recommend for consideration by the Government any areas of change to the current Urban Renewal Strategy.

職權範圍

- (a) 督導和監察《市區重建策略》檢討（檢討）的過程；
- (b) 閱覽與檢討有關的研究報告和文件，並給予意見；
- (c) 就影響檢討過程的重要事宜，給予意見和指導；及
- (d) 就現行《市區重建策略》應作出修訂的範圍，向政府作出建議。

Steering Committee on Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy

Membership List

Chairperson

Secretary for Development

Members

1. Mr CHAN Ping-chiu, Andrew
2. Professor CHEUNG Yan-leung, Stephen
3. Mr HO Hei-wah
4. Mr KWAN Chuk-fai
5. Mr LEE Tsung-hei, David Chris
6. Professor LUNG Ping-yee, David
7. Mr NG Wing-shun, Vincent
8. Professor TAM Fung-yee, Nora
9. Dr WONG King-keung, Peter
10. Ms WONG Ying-kay, Ada

Secretary

Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) 4

In attendance

Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) or his representative

Director of Planning or her representative

Director of Lands or her representative

Director of Buildings or his representative

Managing Director of Urban Renewal Authority

Executive Director of Urban Renewal Authority

成員名單

主席

發展局局長

委員

1. 陳炳釗先生
2. 張仁良教授
3. 何喜華先生
4. 關則輝先生
5. 李頌熹先生
6. 龍炳頤教授
7. 吳永順先生
8. 譚鳳儀教授
9. 黃景強博士
10. 黃英琦女士

秘書

發展局首席助理秘書長（規劃及地政）4

列席人士

發展局常任秘書長（規劃及地政）或其代表
規劃署署長或其代表
地政總署署長或其代表
屋宇署署長或其代表
市區重建局行政總監
市區重建局執行董事

Steering Committee on Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy

Guidelines on Declaration of Interests by Members

General Principles

To maintain public confidence in the integrity of members, as well as in the impartiality of their advice tendered to the Steering Committee on the Review of the Urban Renewal Strategy (Steering Committee), it is important that all members (including the chairperson) should report any conflict of interests at the earliest opportunity. By so doing, members can be protected from criticism or embarrassment arising from the existence of any undeclared general financial interest which may have potential conflict with the work of the Steering Committee.

Declaration of Interests in respect of Individual Matters

- (1) If any member of the Steering Committee has any direct or indirect personal or pecuniary interests in any matter under consideration by the Steering Committee, he or she must, as soon as practicable after he or she has become aware of it, disclose to the chairperson prior to the meeting if possible, or at the meeting prior to the discussion of the matter concerned.
- (2) The chairperson shall decide whether a member disclosing an interest may speak or vote on the matter, may remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting.
- (3) If the chairperson declares an interest in a matter under consideration by the Steering Committee, then as a matter of necessity, the chairperson may continue to assume the chairpersonship but a conscious effort should be made to contain her scope of involvement in an administrative role.
- (4) All cases of declaration of interests shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Steering Committee on Review of Urban Renewal Strategy

Meeting Schedule Until Mid-2009

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 822, 8/F, Central Government Offices (West Wing),
11 Ice House Street, Central.

Dates: 21 August 2008 (Thursday)

21 October 2008 (Tuesday)

20 January 2009 (Tuesday)

21 April 2009 (Tuesday)

21 July 2009 (Tuesday)

*Note: Special meetings may be arranged as necessary.