For discussion on 24 October 2013 TFHK/10/2013

Progress Update on the Hong Kong Island Section of the Shatin to Central Link

PURPOSE

This paper updates members on the progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) works on Hong Kong Island.

BACKGROUND

2. The SCL comprises two railway lines: the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section connects the Ma On Shan Line and the West Rail Line to form an east-west strategic railway corridor; the Hung Hom to Admiralty Section extends the East Rail Line across the harbour to form a north-south strategic railway corridor. The main construction works of the SCL commenced in July 2012. Works for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section are progressing on all fronts for completion in 2018. Preparation works of the Hung Hom to Admiralty section on Hong Kong Island commenced progressively from June 2013 onwards to prepare for the main construction to be commenced in 2014. The construction works of this section is expected to be completed in 2020.

3. We updated the Commission on the works progress of the SCL on 2 May 2013. Since then the design of the facilities on Hong Kong Island has been refined taking into account members' comments.

SCL HONG KONG ISLAND SECTION

4. The SCL reaches Hong Kong Island at Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and passes under Wan Chai North to arrive at the Exhibition Station under the existing Wan Chai Ferry Pier Public Transport Interchange. It then routes between Phases I and II of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and heads towards Admiralty. In addition to the construction of railway facilities like station entrances, the facilities affected by the construction, including the Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool, as well as the Police Officers' Club, would be reprovisioned.

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5. The Police Officers' Club will be demolished in 2015 to allow the launching of the tunnel boring machine for the construction of the railway tunnel and the associated facilities, including the ventilation facilities for the new rail harbour crossing. After completion of the SCL works, a replacement is required to be reprovisioned at the existing location on a like-for-like principle. In designing the reprovisioned facilities and the newly built railway facilities, the MTR Corporation has not only considered their operational requirements but taken the opportunity to enhance the connectivity and aesthetics of the waterfront areas with the following arrangements:

- (a) To provide a roomy walkway with a uniform width adjoining the Hong Kong Royal Yacht Club and the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter by setting back the boundary fence of the reprovisioned Police Officers' Club. This will eliminate the existing bottleneck at the landing steps of the pier. It is proposed that seating benches may be provided for the enjoyment of the public;
- (b) To enhance the overall walking environment of the promenade by providing additional planters and vertical greening as far as practical alongside the boundary fence of the reprovisioned Police Officers' Club; and
- (c) To create an integrated and coherent appearance for the re-provisioned Police Officers' Club and the newly built ventilation facilities of the SCL by adopting a common theme of colours and architectural features. Green roofs will be provided at the facilities.

6. The location plan of the site after completion of works is attached at **Annex 1**. The detailed layout will be worked out after further consultation with the Hong Kong Police. The reprovisioning works are targeted to be completed by 2020.

7. Piling works for the reprovisioning of the Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool commenced in June 2013. Construction works related to Exhibition Station would start progressively from 2014 onwards. The pedestrian connection between the Harbour Centre, Great Eagle Centre and the harbourfront will be maintained at all times during and after the SCL construction. Green

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roofs and green walls will be incorporated into the landscape design of the station facilities and the reprovisioned sports facilities.

8. An emergency exit with a single storey above ground shelter and a staircase leading to the underground SCL tunnels will be built near Fenwick Pier Street at about midway between Exhibition Station and Admiralty Station for evacuation from the tunnels and firemen's access during incidents. Minimum land intake would be required.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Highways Department MTR Corporation Limited October 2013

<u>Attachments</u> Annex 1 – Location Plan of the Police Officers' Club

Annex 1 Location Plan of the Police Officers' Club

