

**Paper No. 24/2008  
For Discussion  
on 19 November 2008**

**Harbour-front Enhancement Committee  
Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review**

**Proposal to Allow Commercial Helicopter Operators  
to Use the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad**

**Purpose**

— This paper briefs Members on a proposal to allow commercial helicopter operators to use the temporary helipad at the former Wan Chai Public Cargo Working Area (“Wan Chai Temporary Helipad”) (location as indicated at *Annex*).

**Background**

2. Since the closure of the Central Helipad at Lung Wui Road in January 2004 to make way for the implementation of the Central Reclamation Phase III works, the Government Flying Service (“GFS”) has relocated its operation to the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad, pending the reprovisioning of a permanent helipad at the north-eastern corner of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (“HKCEC”)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> On 9 August 2005, the Government and the Regional Heliport Working Group (“RHWG”) presented their respective proposals on the development of the permanent helipad to the Sub-committee on Wan Chai Development Phase II Review of the HEC. In March 2008, the Government circulated a copy of its paper for the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on the results of the technical feasibility study on the development of the permanent helipad to the HEC. The Government has undertaken to brief the HEC when the detailed design of the permanent helipad is available.

3. The Government has also decided that the permanent government helipad will be made available for the provision of commercial helicopter services at a charge to be determined by the Government, on condition that the GFS's emergency and other essential flying services must have absolute priority at all times in using the helipad.

### **Proposal**

4. We have recently received a proposal from the Regional Heliport Working Group ("RHWG") that the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad should be made available for use by commercial helicopter operators. We have considered the proposal and taken the view that the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad is suitable for the provision of commercial helicopter services on a temporary basis provided that the GFS's emergency and other essential flying services are not affected. The RHWG's proposal will be conducive to the development of the industry.

5. According to a helicopter noise level assessment conducted by the then Territory Development Department<sup>2</sup> in 2002, the highest noise level generated by helicopters at the time of taking off and landing at the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad was recorded to be around 84.9dB(A)<sup>3</sup> at a place 260 metres from the helipad. The noise generated by the operations of AS-332 L2 (Super Puma) and EC 155B helicopters of the GFS at the helipad was used in the assessment. In general, the helicopter models currently used to provide commercial helicopter services are quieter than those used by the GFS.

### **Way Forward**

6. Our plan is to allow commercial helicopter operators to use the Wan Chai Temporary Helipad by licence agreements in early 2009 until the permanent helipad is commissioned near the HKCEC.

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<sup>2</sup> Subsequently merged with the Civil Engineering Department to become the Civil Engineering and Development Department

<sup>3</sup> The noise criterion specified in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines issued by the Planning Department is 85dB(A) for premises requiring window circulation such as residential flats, schools and hospitals..

## **Advice Sought**

7. Members are invited to give their views on the proposal.

**Transport and Housing Bureau  
November 2008**

