

**Section 16 Application for Partial Conversion of an  
Existing Commercial Building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use  
at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon**

**Planning Statement**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*(In case of discrepancy between English and Chinese versions, English shall prevail)*

This Application is submitted to the Town Planning Board ("**the Board**") under the Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance ("**the Ordinance**") for Partial Conversion of an Existing Commercial Building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use ("**the Proposed Development**") at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon ("**the Application Site**").

The Application Site falls within an area zoned as "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Business" ("**OU(B)**") on the Draft Kwun Tong (South) Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K14S/27 ("**the OZP**") and is currently occupied by an existing 10-storey commercial building known as Rich China Center ("**the Building**"). According to the Notes of the OZP Notes for Schedule I of the "OU(B)" zone, 'Hotel' is a Column 2 use which may be permitted upon application to the Board. Hence, the partial conversion of the Building into a 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' use requires planning permission from the Board. The Application Site is subject to a maximum plot ratio of 12 and a maximum building height of 100mPD as stipulated on the OZP.

The Proposed Development involves partial conversion of the existing building into a student hostel, hence, it will induce no change to the existing building bulk. Upon completion of the conversion, the total gross floor area will be about 3,848.8m<sup>2</sup> at a plot ratio of about 8.3. The maximum building height remains at about 41mPD at the main roof level (i.e. 10 storeys). The Proposed Development will offer 117 rooms, equipped with single or twin beds. The room sizes will range from a minimum of 5.1m<sup>2</sup> to a maximum of 27.6m<sup>2</sup>, providing a total of 225 bed spaces to the local and non-local students. A range of recreational and supporting facilities will also be provided across different floors, including study rooms, conference rooms, computer rooms, gym rooms and laundry rooms, etc. These amenities aim to enhance the living quality and experience of the student occupants.

The Application Site is situated at the southeastern part of the Kwun Tong Business Area ("**KTBA**"), which is one of the four business/development areas undergoing transformation into the new "Central Business District 2" as part of the Government's overarching Energising Kowloon East Initiative, first promulgated in the 2011-12 Policy Address. In addition, the Proposed Development is a timely response to the Government's policy initiatives of promoting the "Study in Hong Kong" brand on a global scale, as outlined in the 2024 Policy Address. To support this vision, the Government launched the "Hostels in the City Scheme" in July 2025 to facilitate the market in converting existing commercial buildings into student hostels. In alignment with these policy initiatives, the Applicant intends to be a pioneer by submitting this application to convert the current commercial building into a student hostel development, thereby addressing the pressing demand for student accommodation in Hong Kong.

In addition to aligning with the aforementioned Government policy initiatives, the Proposed Development conforms to the prevailing planning intentions for the "OU(B)" zone under the OZP. On the district level, the Proposed Development will contribute to the transformation of KTBA from traditional industrial uses to modern business developments, enhancing synergy with surrounding commercial uses and fostering a vibrant community for both local and international students.

From technical perspectives, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would not induce adverse visual impact or environmental impacts. It is also expected that future student occupants will primarily rely on public transport facilities for commuting, and therefore the Proposed Development would not generate additional traffic impact on the existing road network.

As such, the Proposed Development is fully justified as it demonstrates compliance with relevant Government policy initiatives, district transformation directions, the statutory plan requirements, as well as the technical feasibility. On the basis of the above, we sincerely wish that the Board would give favourable consideration to this Application.

## 內容摘要

(如內文與其英文版本有差異，則以英文版本為準)

本規劃申請根據《城市規劃條例》第 16 條，就九龍觀塘鴻圖道 86 號(下稱「**申請地點**」)的用地，向城市規劃委員會(下稱「**城規會**」)申請改裝部分現有商業大廈以作擬議「酒店(學生宿舍)」用途(下稱「**擬議發展**」)。

申請地點現為一幢 10 層高的商業大廈，名為中富中心(下稱「**該大廈**」)。申請地點現時於《觀塘(南部)分區計劃大綱草圖編號 S/K14S/27》(下稱「**大綱圖**」)劃作「其他指定用途」註明「商貿」地帶。根據大綱圖的《註釋》，有關「其他指定用途(商貿)」地帶內附表 I：適用於露天發展或工業樓宇或工業-辦公室樓宇以外的建築物，擬議「酒店」屬於第二欄用途，須先向城規會申請規劃許可。申請地點的最高地積比率限為 12 倍及最高建築物高度限為主水平基準上 100 米。

擬議發展為部分改裝現有的商業大廈，因此將不會改變現有建築物的外型體積。改裝完成後的總樓面面積大約 3,848.8 平方米，地積比率約 8.3。而建築物高度將維持為現時的高度，即約主水平基準上 41 米(10 層)。擬議發展將提供 117 間學生宿舍房間，房間均為單人床或雙人床。房間面積從最小的 5.1 平方米到最大的 27.6 平方米不等，共提供 225 個床位，供本地及外地學生租用。此外，各樓層也將提供一系列娛樂及配套設施，包括自習室、會議室、電腦室、健身房及洗衣房等，旨在提升學生住戶的生活質素和體驗。

申請地點位於九龍東觀塘商貿區的東南部分。於 2011-12 年的施政報告中，行政長官宣布把九龍東轉型為一個核心商業區，並推出「起動九龍東」政策，而觀塘商貿區是 4 個九龍東商貿/發展區之一。此外，擬議發展為及時回應政府在 2024 年《施政報告》中提出打造「留學香港」品牌的政策措施。政府隨後於 2025 年 7 月推出「城中學舍計劃」，以鼓勵市場將現有商廈改建為學生宿舍。為配合這些政策願景，申請人率先提交此申請，將現有商業大廈改裝為學生宿舍，從而滿足香港對學生住宿的迫切需求。

除了與上述政府政策措施相符外，擬議發展亦符合大綱圖內「其他指定用途(商貿)」地帶的規劃意向。在區域層面，擬議發展有助觀塘商貿區由傳統工業繼續轉型為商業發展區，從而增強與週邊商業用途的協同效應，並為本地和海外學生營造一個充滿活力的社區。

於技術層面上，預計擬議發展不會對景觀和環境造成負面影響。同時，未來的學生住戶將主要依賴公共交通設施通勤，因此亦不會對現時交通網絡製造額外的交通流量。

綜上所述，擬建發展完全合理，因為它符合相關的政府政策措施、區域轉型方向以，法定規劃要求以及技術可行性。基於上述規劃考量因素，申請人懇請城規會委員給予考慮並批准是次規劃申請。

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Application

- 1.1.1 We are commissioned by the Applicant to prepare and submit on its behalf this planning application for the partial conversion of the existing commercial building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use (hereinafter referred to as the "**Proposed Development**") at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon (hereinafter referred to as the "**Application Site**") to the Town Planning Board ("**the Board**") under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance ("**the Ordinance**").
- 1.1.2 To take forward the initiatives announced in the 2024 Policy Address to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international hub for post-secondary education, the Development Bureau ("**DEVB**") and the Education Bureau ("**EDB**") jointly launched the 'Hostels in the City Scheme' ("**the Scheme**") in July 2025. Under the Scheme, the Government has streamlined development control procedures, so as to encourage and facilitate the market to convert commercial buildings into student hostels on a self-financing and privately-funded basis to increase the supply of hostel places. In this context, the Board has expanded the Definition of Terms ("**DoT**") to include 'student hostels supported by Government's policy' under the broader term of 'Hotel' use<sup>1</sup>, considering that the operations of hotel and student hostel are very similar in nature.
- 1.1.3 In response to the Government's initiatives to increase the number of student hostels under the Scheme, the Applicant submitted an application to the EDB in August 2025 with respect to the Application Site. On 9.9.2025, the EDB considered the application eligible for the facilitation measures under the Scheme. Hence, the current Application is submitted for the proposed student hostel development, which is considered as 'Hotel' use under the Scheme, for the consideration of the Board.
- 1.1.4 The Application Site covers an area of about 464.5m<sup>2</sup> and falls within an area zoned as "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Business" ("**OU(B)**") on the Draft Kwun Tong (South) Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K14S/27 ("**the OZP**"). The Proposed Development involves the partial conversion of an existing commercial building into a student hostel development. The Proposed Development constitutes only an internal change of use and involves internal alteration and addition works ("**A&A works**"), and there is no change to the existing building footprint and dimension, hence there is no increase in building bulk or building height.

## 1.2 Structure of the Planning Statement

- 1.2.1 In support of this planning application, this Planning Statement is divided into six chapters for the consideration of the Board.
- 1.2.2 **Chapter 1** is the introduction above outlining the purpose of the current application and providing brief background information. **Chapter 2** gives background details of the Application Site in terms of its current land-use and the characteristics of the surrounding developments. **Chapter 3** discusses the planning context of the Application Site and its surrounding areas. **Chapter 4** presents the development proposal and the proposed operation details. Justifications for approval of the current application are provided in **Chapter 5** and a conclusion of this submission is in **Chapter 6**.

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<sup>1</sup> Hostels in the City Scheme Application Guidelines – Facilitation Measures.  
<https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/studenthostel/AG.pdf>

## 2 THE APPLICATION SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

### 2.1 Current Conditions of the Application Site

- 2.1.1 The Application Site abuts Hung To Road to the northeast and covers an area of about 464.5m<sup>2</sup> (about 5,000ft<sup>2</sup> under the lease). It is currently occupied by an existing 10-storey commercial building, namely Rich China Center ("**the Building**"), as illustrated in **Figure 1**.
- 2.1.2 The Building has two existing exits. One leading to Hung To Road is for pedestrian access into the Building, whereas the vehicles utilise the ingress/egress located at the back alley of the Building, which leads towards King Yip Street, for loading and unloading activities. Site photos of the Application Site are in **Annex 1**.
- 2.1.3 As provided by the Applicant, the general building plans ("**GBP**") for the existing commercial building were approved by the Building Authority ("**BA**") on 26.2.2019. Its Occupation Permit dated 3.6.2020 for the converted commercial building at the Application Site was issued by the BA [Permit No. KN 17/2020(OP)]. The floor uses of the Building as per the latest approved GBP are shown in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1 Accommodation Schedule of the Existing Building**

Floors	Existing Uses
3/F – 9/F	Shop
2/F	Shop, F.S. Pump Room, TBE Room
1/F	Shop, Refuse Storage Chamber
G/F	Shop, Entrance Hall, Car Park (with loading/unloading bay), Transformer Room, Switch Room

### 2.2 Land Administrative Aspect

- 2.2.1 The Application Site falls entirely within the boundary of Kwun Tong Inland Lot No. 618 ("**the Lot**") and the development restrictions are stipulated under the Conditions of Sale No. 9224 document ("**the Lease**"). Under the Lease, the use is restricted to industrial and/ or godown purposes excluding any offensive trades (Special Condition ["**SC**"] No. 2[a]); no building shall be erected except a factory and/or a warehouse ancillary offices and such quarters for watchmen or caretakers for persons essential to the safety and security of the building (SC No. 2[b]); and the building height is restricted to 170 feet (equivalent to about 51.82m) above the Colony principal datum (SC No. 9). The Lease also stipulates no building shall be erected at or within 15 feet above ground level on or over the area situated at the back alley (SC No. 8[a]); however structures at 1/F and above may be erected over the area provided there is a clear space extending upwards from G/F to a height of 15 feet (SC No. 8[b]). As provided by the Applicant, the Certificate of Compliance was first issued by the Director of Lands on 10 Sept 1971.
- 2.2.2 In 2018, the Applicant had applied and had been granted by the Lands Department ("**LandsD**") a Special Waiver for Conversion of Entire Industrial Building. Upon obtaining the basic terms of the Special Waiver from LandsD in September 2018, it was subsequently executed and registered in the Lands Registry under Memorial No. 18101200770056. A list of purposes/uses under the Special Waiver, include Commercial Bathhouse/Massage Establishment; Eating Place; Exhibition or Convention Hall; Information Technology and Telecommunications Industries; Off-course Betting Centre; Office; Place of Entertainment; Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture; Private Club; Radar, Telecommunications, Electronic Microwave Repeater; Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation; Religious Institution; Research, Design and Development Centre; School (excluding free-standing purpose-design building and kindergarten); Shop and Services; and Training Centre, are permitted until the demolition of the existing building, or on 30.6.2047, or the early termination of the Conditions, whichever shall be the earlier.

## 2.3 Background of the Application Site in Relation to Transitional Housing Development

- 2.3.1 The Application Site, the previous industrial building known as Dah Way Industrial Building, has a history of government support prior to its conversion into a commercial building. In 2020, the Application Site received endorsement and funding for a wholesale conversion into transitional housing under the 'Funding Scheme to Support Transitional Housing Projects by Non-government Organisations' (**Annex 2** refers).
- 2.3.2 This previous endorsement not only underscores the suitability of the site for residential use but also aligns with critical criteria pertaining to safety, accessibility, and compatibility with land use regulations. By leveraging this previous endorsement for similar residential purposes, the Application Site is well-positioned for conversion into a student hostel.

## 2.4 Surrounding Land-use Characteristics

- 2.4.1 Previously dominated by manufacturing industries, the surrounding area is now experiencing revitalisation of the industrial buildings ("IBs") within the "OU(B)" zone and a shift towards more office/commercial uses in response to the evolving district economy. Currently, the Application Site is situated within a predominantly industrial and commercial area, which indicates a mixed-use environment where both industrial and business activities coexist. In a wider context, the Kwun Tong Business Area is also transforming into a hotel and residential cluster in the vicinity of the Application Site. **Figure 2** illustrates the surrounding context of the Application Site.

### Kwun Tong Business Area ("KTBA")

- 2.4.2 The Application Site abuts Hung To Road to the northeast and is situated near the southeastern part of the KTBA in Kowloon East. Along with the other business/ development areas within Kowloon East, it has been gradually transforming from the traditional industrial developments to newer commercial/ office developments in recent years.
- 2.4.3 At present, the KTBA is characterised by an intermix of traditional industrial-office ("I-O") buildings and newer commercial/other specified uses (business) ("OU(B)") buildings, housing a combination of information technology and telecommunications industries, non-polluting industrial operations, offices, hotels and other commercial/ ancillary uses. In the spatial context, Dorsett Kwun Tong and 90 Hung To Road, located adjacent to the Application Site, have been converted into hotel developments.

### Kwun Tong Action Area ("KTAA")

- 2.4.4 To the further southwest of the Application Site locate Kwun Tong Ferry Pier, Public Transport Interchange and Cooked Food Market. The area is designated as KTAA under the Kai Tak Fantasy that is planned for a mixed-use development comprising commercial (i.e. office, retail and food and beverages), government/institution or community, open space, and public transport facilities, etc<sup>2</sup>.

### Surroundings of the Application Site

- 2.4.5 The existing developments within the vicinity of the Application Site are mainly industrial or commercial/I-O developments, including *Ray Centre*, *Yue Xiu Industrial Building*, *New Media Tower*, *Contempo Place* and *EGL Tower* along Hung To Road; *Kin Sang Commercial Centre* and *King Palace Plaza* along King Yip Street; and *Manulife Financial Centre*.

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<sup>2</sup> Kwun Tong Action Area, Energizing Kowloon East Office.  
<https://www.ekeo.gov.hk/en/sustainable-growth/unleash-development-potential/kwun-tong-action-area/index.html>



- 2.4.6 To the immediate southwest and west of the Application Site are a new office development at 41 King Yip Street and the Manulife Financial Centre development, respectively. Adjacent to the Application Site is a hotel development *Dorsett Kwun Tong* and the revitalised industrial building called *Ray Centre* to its immediate northwest and southeast respectively.
- 2.4.7 There is a pedestrian footpath abutting the Application Site and passes along Hung To Road. A back alley is located between Dorsett Kwun Tong and the Application Site and extends between 41 King Yip Street towards Hung To Road (i.e. behind the Application Site, Ray Centre and 90 Hung to Road) (**Annex 1** Site Photo refers).
- 2.4.8 To the west and southeast of the Application Site are open spaces where the Kwun Tong Promenade and Tsui Ping River are located, respectively.

## **2.5 Accessibility of the Application Site**

- 2.5.1 The Application Site is highly accessible via Hung To Road, King Yip Street, Wai Yip Street and Hoi Yuen Road, connecting to Kwun Tong Bypass and other districts in Hong Kong Island. It is also well served by an extensive public transport network (**Figure 3** refers).
- 2.5.2 Specifically, there are more than 10 franchised bus routes operating along Hoi Yuen Road and King Yip Street, with the Kwun Tong Ferry Bus Terminus located about 150m away, effectively serving the surrounding area. The Application Site is also situated about 500m away from Kwun Tong MTR Station, which offers efficient rail transport for student tenants and commuters. Additionally, there are bus stops located along King Yip Street to the southeast and along Hoi Yuen Road further northwest. Overall, the combination of well-developed road networks and public transport services significantly enhances the connectivity of the Application Site, making it a prime location for student hostel development.

### 3 PLANNING CONTEXT

#### 3.1 Streamlined Development Control Procedures

- 3.1.1 Taking forward the initiatives announced in the 2024 Policy Address to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international hub for post-secondary education, the DEVB and the EDB jointly launched the 'Hostels in the City Scheme' ("**the Scheme**") in July 2025. Under the Scheme, the Government has streamlined the processing of applications in relation to planning, lands and building plans, so as to encourage and facilitate the market to convert commercial buildings into student hostels on a self-financing and privately-funded basis to increase the supply of hostel places.
- 3.1.2 According to the streamlined procedures for the planning regime, the Board has expanded the Definition of Terms ("**DoT**") to include 'student hostels supported by Government's policy' under the broader term of 'Hotel' use, considering that the operations of hotels and student hostels are very similar in nature.

#### 3.2 Statutory Planning Context

- 3.2.1 The Application Site falls within an area zoned as "OU(B)" zone on the Draft Kwun Tong (South) OZP No. S/K14S/27 (**Figure 4** refers). According to the Notes of the OZP, the planning intention of the "OU(B)" zone is "...*primarily for general business uses. A mix of information technology and telecommunication industries, non-polluting industrial, office and other commercial uses are always permitted in new "business" buildings. Less fire hazard-prone office use that would not involve direct provision of customer services or goods to the general public is always permitted in existing industrial and I-O buildings*".
- 3.2.2 According to the Notes of the OZP Notes for Schedule I of the "OU(B)" zone, 'Hotel' is a Column 2 use which may be permitted upon application to the Board. Hence, the partial conversion of the Building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use requires planning permission from the Board under Section 16 of the Ordinance. The Application Site is also subject to a maximum plot ratio of 12 and a maximum building height of 100mPD as stipulated on the OZP.

#### 3.3 Setback Requirements under Outline Development Plan

- 3.3.1 The Application Site falls within the Kowloon Planning Area No. 14 (Part) Kwun Tong (Western Part) Outline Development Plan ("**ODP**") No. D/K14A/2, building setbacks are designated in the KTBA for amenity and streetscape improvement as well as to facilitate the future widening of vehicular roads and sidewalks. According to the ODP, there are no setbacks designated for the Application Site abutting Hung To Road. In order to enhance the back-alley environment, a full-height building setback of 1.5m together with a non-building area ("**NBA**") of 1.5m from ground level with clear headroom of 5.1m is required for the Application Site. The NBA is mainly provided to enable vehicle parking or loading/unloading activities when necessary. It is also intended to preserve back alley characteristics and minimise the constraints on the development potential of neighbouring land. **Figure 5** shows the relevant setback and NBA requirements as required on the ODP for the Application Site.

#### 3.4 Similar Applications for Hotel Developments in the Vicinity of the Application Site

- 3.4.1 As mentioned in Section 2.3, new development, revitalisation, and wholesale conversion projects have been gradually emerging in the KTBA in recent years. Considering the nature of the student hostel is similar to hotel uses, as defined under the Scheme, similar approved applications for 'Hotel' developments in the vicinity are summarised in **Table 2** below. Over the past decade, there has been an increasing number of hotel/hotel nature developments, which have been approved by the Board within the KTBA area after the area was rezoned to "OU(B)" zone in the early 2000s. Among these, a hotel development (i.e. Dorsett Kwun Tong) located just adjacent to

the Application Site was approved back in 2007 (Application No. A/K14/532) (**Annex 1** Site Photo refers).

- 3.4.2 It can be demonstrated that there is a long-established history of hotel developments approved by the Board in the KTBA. Furthermore, with the 6 approved similar applications within close proximity of the Application Site, it can be observed that this area of KTBA may well be suited for hotel nature developments, and that a cluster effect could bring further revitalisation to KTBA.

**Table 2 Similar Approved Applications for Hotel Development in the Vicinity of the Application Site in the Recent Decade**

No.	Application No.	Location	Applied Use	Approval Date
1.	A/K14/700	28A Hung To Road, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel	13/06/2014
2.	A/K14/713	101 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel	16/01/2015
3.	A/K14/723	11 Tai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel	11/12/2015
4.	A/K14/730	69-71, King Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Wholesale Conversion of An Existing Industrial-Office Building for Hotel Development	08/01/2016
5.	A/K14/762	2/F to 5/F, 90 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel (Guesthouse) (Partial conversion of existing commercial building)	16/11/2018
6.	A/K14/783	1 Tai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Minor Relaxation of PR and BH Restrictions for Proposed Hotel Use	20/11/2020
7.	A/K14/796	28A Hung To Road, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel with Other Uses (Wholesale Conversion of an Existing Industrial Building)	22/01/2021
8.	A/K14/832	201 and 203 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Minor Relaxation of Plot Ratio and Building Height Restrictions for Hotel Use	23/05/2025
9.	A/K14/835	107-109 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong	Proposed Hotel with Minor Relaxation of Plot Ratio and Building Height Restrictions	21/11/2025

## 4 THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

### 4.1 Development Scheme

- 4.1.1 The Application Site covers an area of about 464.5m<sup>2</sup> and is currently occupied by the existing 10-storey commercial building known as Rich China Center. The current proposal involves a partial conversion of the existing building to facilitate the development of a student hostel, while the existing commercial portion on the G/F, comprising a shop and an eating place, will be retained.
- 4.1.2 The Proposed Development adopts a vertical floor-to-floor height of about 3.5m for the student hostel floors, and the maximum building height would remain at about 41mPD at the main roof level (i.e. 10 storeys). Hence, there will be no change to the existing building bulk and the building footprint. Upon completion of the conversion, the Proposed Development will have a total gross floor area ("GFA") of about 3,848.8m<sup>2</sup>, of which 3,651.3m<sup>2</sup> is the student hostel portion. The Proposed Development will offer 117 rooms, equipped with single or twin beds. The room sizes will range from a minimum of 5.1m<sup>2</sup> to a maximum of 27.6m<sup>2</sup>, providing a total of 225 bed spaces. This diversity in room types and sizes is designed to accommodate the varying needs of the student population.
- 4.1.3 In addition to the hostel rooms, the Proposed Development offers a diverse array of supporting and recreational facilities across different floors, including study rooms, conference rooms, computer rooms, gym room, laundry and linen store room, etc. These amenities aim to enhance the living quality and experience of the student occupants, supporting both their educational and social development.
- 4.1.4 The major development parameters of the Proposed Development and the accommodation schedule of uses by floors are provided in **Tables 3** and **4**, respectively. The indicative layout plans of the Proposed Development are shown in **Annex 3**.

**Table 3 Major Development Parameters**

Major Development Parameters	
<b>Site Area</b>	About 464.5m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total GFA of the Building</b>	About 3,848.8m <sup>2</sup>
- Student Hostel Portion^	- 3,651.3m <sup>2</sup>
- Commercial Portion on G/F*	- 197.5m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Plot Ratio</b>	About 8.3
<b>Building Height</b>	About 41.0mPD (36.7m)
<b>No. of Storeys</b>	10
<b>Site Coverage</b>	79.97%
<b>No. of Student Hostel Rooms</b>	Total 117
- Single Rooms	- 9
- Twin Rooms	- 108
<b>Room Size</b>	
- Minimum Size	- 5.1m <sup>2</sup>
- Maximum Size	- 27.6m <sup>2</sup>
<b>No. of Bed Spaces</b>	225
<b>No. of Parking Spaces for Private Cars</b>	1 (accessible parking)
<b>No. of Loading/Unloading Bay</b>	1 (for light goods vehicles)
<b>Anticipated Completion Year</b>	2026 Q4

#### Remarks

<sup>^</sup> Including GFA of 745m<sup>2</sup> for the supporting facilities of the student hostel.

\* The commercial portion on the G/F is always permitted under the subject "OU(B)" zone, which does not form part of the current application and is shown on the layout plan for information only.

**Table 4 Accommodation Schedule Upon Proposed Conversion**

Floors	Proposed Uses
R/F	Flat Roof and E&M facilities
7/F to 9/F	Student Hostel Rooms, Laundry Room, Back of House, E&M facilities and - 9/F: Linen Store Room - 8/F: Collaboration Room - 7/F: Study Room
4/F to 6/F	Student Hostel Rooms, Study Room, Computer Room, Multi-function Room, Laundry Room, Store Room, Back of House, E&M facilities
3/F	Student Hostel Rooms, Music Room, Staff Rest Room, Student Club, Computer Room, Study Room, Multi-function Room, Kitchen, Laundry Room, Flat Roof Garden, E&M facilities
2/F	Student Hostel Rooms, Conference Room, Consultancy Room, Study Room, Computer Room, Counselling Room, Multi-function Room, Kitchen, Laundry Room, E&M facilities
1/F	Student Hostel Rooms, Manager Room, Game Room, Gym Room, Study Room, Computer Room, Kitchen, Laundry Room, Flat Roof Garden, E&M facilities
G/F	Commercial Portion (Eating Place and Shop), Lobby of Student Hostel, Car park, Loading/Unloading facilities and E&M facilities

## 4.2 Operational Arrangements

4.2.1 Upon obtaining planning approval and the subsequent fulfilment of other relevant Government legislation/requirements, the Applicant intends to collaborate with post-secondary education institutions as set out in EDB's list of eligible education institutions.

4.2.2 The Applicant also proposes to implement comprehensive security measures to ensure the safety and quality of the living environment in the student hostel. These measures will include, but are not limited to, access control systems with key cards, and a 24-hour CCTV surveillance system will be set up in common areas.

## 4.3 Open Space Provision and Landscape Treatments

4.3.1 Considering the site-specific constraints posed by the existing building at the Application Site, the Proposed Development strives to maximise landscape treatments and open space provisions to enhance the living environment for the future occupants. The existing flat roofs on the 1/F and 3/F will be transformed into outdoor common areas, offering residents valuable space for relaxation and social interaction.

4.3.2 Along with the proposed greenery treatment of shrubs and provision of benches, the design intent primarily aims to enhance the Proposed Development, creating a serene outdoor environment for the enjoyment of future occupants of the student hostel (**Annex 4** refers). The landscape treatment also seeks to establish a compatible and harmonious relationship with its surroundings to create a landscape space that is both aesthetically appealing and functionally practical.

#### **4.4 Traffic Arrangements**

- 4.4.1 A 6.4m wide vehicular access for the Proposed Development is proposed to be provided at the back alley exiting towards King Yip Street. To accommodate the operational needs of the Proposed Development, internal transport facilities will be provided on the ground floor, including one accessible parking space for private cars and a loading/unloading bay for light goods vehicles for shared use of the Proposed Development. **Annex 5** provides the swept path analysis, demonstrating that the existing site access is adequate for the manoeuvring of private cars and goods vehicles.
- 4.4.2 Given that the Proposed Development would serve the student population, both local and overseas students, it is expected that they will rely mainly on the existing public transport provisions in the vicinity of the Application Site for commuting and accessing the Application Site. As discussed in **Section 2.4** and shown in **Figure 3**, there is ample provision of existing public transport facilities (including MTR, bus and minibus options). Hence, it is considered that there is no additional provision of parking spaces for private cars required for the Proposed Development.
- 4.4.3 Considering the number of student hostel rooms and the scale of the proposed eating place, the Proposed Development would only generate minimal levels of loading/unloading traffic demand for the daily delivery of consumables and other goods with short loading times. It is expected that the future occupants and visitors would not attract a large number of coaches. As such, it is anticipated that only limited additional traffic would be generated, and it would not induce adverse traffic impact on the existing traffic network, and hence it is acceptable from a traffic point of view.

#### **4.5 Sewerage Considerations**

- 4.5.1 A Sewerage Impact Assessment ("SIA") has been conducted to evaluate the possible impacts on the public sewerage network due to the operation of the Proposed Development (**Annex 6** refers). The assessment findings demonstrated that upgrading works for sewer segments A2 to A3 are required for the Proposed Development (as shown in **Figure 4-1** of **Annex 6**).
- 4.5.2 Upon completion of the upgrading of sewer works, the flow capacity will be capable to cater the cumulative peak flow from the Proposed Development and upstream & downstream developments. As such, no adverse sewerage impact arising from the Proposed Development is anticipated.

## **5 PLANNING JUSTIFICATIONS**

### **5.1 In Line with the Initiatives Set Out in the Policy Addresses**

- 5.1.1 As set out in the 2024 Policy Address, the Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into an international hub for post-secondary education and establishing the "Study in Hong Kong" brand to attract more non-local students to further their education in Hong Kong. In this context, the provision of student accommodations, as a crucial necessity for the non-local students, has become an important aspect of helping the development of the "Study in Hong Kong" brand.
- 5.1.2 The Proposed Development aligns with the latest government policy initiatives aimed at enhancing hostel facilities, as outlined in the 2024 and 2025 Policy Addresses, which encourage owners to convert commercial buildings into new student hostels on a self-financing and privately-funded basis, thereby increasing the supply of student accommodations to meet growing demand.
- 5.1.3 The Proposed Development involves the partial conversion of an existing commercial building, effectively utilising valuable land resources in the urban area to enhance the provision of student hostels. This approach not only maximises the use of existing infrastructure but also contributes to the overall goal of increasing accommodations for students. Thus, this application serves as a timely and proactive response to the aforementioned policy direction, demonstrating a commitment to addressing the pressing needs of the student population. This initiative not only promotes a vibrant educational environment but also contributes to the overall development of Hong Kong as an international education hub.

### **5.2 Addressing the Acute Demand for Student Accommodations for Both Local and Non-local Students**

- 5.2.1 The provision of student accommodation has consistently fallen short of demand. According to the statistics provided by the University Grants Committee-funded universities, the success rate of local students and non-local students in hostel applications in the academic year of 2023/2024 was about 65% for local students and 80% for non-local students<sup>3</sup>.
- 5.2.2 As announced in the Policy Address 2025, the number of non-funded places for non-local students to study in Hong Kong on a self-financing basis will be permitted to increase. This implies that the demand for hostel accommodation from post-secondary students is expected to increase substantially in the coming years. As the demand for higher education in Hong Kong continues to rise, accommodating the influx of non-local students becomes a pressing challenge. The Proposed Development directly addresses this need by providing high-quality, affordable housing tailored for students.
- 5.2.3 By providing 225 bed spaces under the Proposed Development, it is not only in adherence to the prevailing initiative but also as a proactive response to the increasing student population by offering a range of room options, ensuring that students can find suitable accommodation without facing prohibitive costs.

### **5.3 Eligibility of the Proposed Development under the Scheme**

- 5.3.1 Under the Scheme, the Government encourage the market to convert commercial buildings into student hostels on a self-financing and privately-funded basis to increase the supply of hostel places. As a timely response to the Government's initiatives, the Applicant has taken a leading role as a pioneer of this initiative and submitted an application to the EDB in August 2025 with

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<sup>3</sup> Legislative Council Question: Supply of hostel places of post-secondary institutions.  
[https://gia.info.gov.hk/general/202410/30/P2024103000293\\_475994\\_1\\_1730272519224.pdf](https://gia.info.gov.hk/general/202410/30/P2024103000293_475994_1_1730272519224.pdf)

respect to the Building.

- 5.3.2 On 9.9.2025, the EDB recognised the application as eligible under the Scheme, acknowledging both the overall viability of the project and its potential to meet the growing demand for student accommodation. Consequently, the current Application is submitted as 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' use, in accordance with the prevailing streamlined procedures established under the Scheme.

#### **5.4 Compatibility with the Surrounding Land Use Characteristics under the Transformation of KTBA**

- 5.4.1 Under the Government's Initiatives on the Energizing Kowloon East promulgated since the 2011-2012 Policy Address, the transformation of Kowloon East, particularly KTBA, has gradually taken place over the years. The Proposed Development continues to respect the planning directions of the Energizing Kowloon East where it will transform the area into new business uses. Since the introduction of the initiative by the Government, numerous IBs have been revitalised into new hotel and/or office developments in the KTBA through redevelopment and/or wholesale conversion into commercial uses over the years, in particular, hotel-related uses, as discussed in Section 2.3.

- 5.4.2 The Proposed Development is considered compatible with the surrounding land uses and could foster other new "business" developments for the KTBA. The Proposed Development is consistent with previous similar planning applications for 'Hotel' or 'Hotel/Office' developments, and it poses a desirable precedent in repurposing aged industrial buildings into land uses that can cater to the changing needs of KTBA. Considering the surroundings are shifting towards a commercial and non-polluting nature uses, there will be no interface face issue anticipated, and the Proposed Development, in a similar nature to the adjoining hotel development, is considered compatible with the surrounding land use profile.

#### **5.5 Conforms to Statutory and Non-Statutory Requirements Stipulated under OZP and ODP**

- 5.5.1 Under the statutory plans, the planning intention of the "OU(B)" zone is primarily for general business uses and a mix of information technology and telecommunications industries, non-polluting industrial, office and other commercial uses. Furthermore, in the Notes of the OZP, 'Hotel' use may be permitted on application to the Board under Section 16 of the Ordinance.
- 5.5.2 The partial conversion of the Proposed Development does not involve changes to the existing building bulk, which would continue to comply with the development restrictions under the OZP Notes. Furthermore, there is a long-established history of hotel developments within the KTBA area, especially in the southeastern part of the KTBA where the Application Site is situated. Given the low scale of the development, it would not induce additional impacts on its surroundings. This application is in line with precedent cases and would further contribute to the ongoing land use restructuring of existing conventional industrial buildings.
- 5.5.3 In accordance with the non-statutory requirements under the ODP, the Proposed Development continues to provide a full-height building setback of 1.5m together with an NBA of 1.5m from ground level in order to facilitate the loading/unloading activity as well as to preserve the special characteristics of the back-alley environment.

#### **5.6 Suitable Location for Student Hostel Development**

- 5.6.1 The Application Site is situated in an area undergoing transformation within KTBA, which is primarily characterised by a mix of commercial and non-polluting industrial buildings, shopping malls, and hotel developments. Kowloon East, including KTBA, is being developed as a hub for economic activity, commerce, tourism, and leisure.



- 5.6.2 Located in a convenient location with close proximity to the strategic areas of KTBA and KTAA, the surrounding area of the Application Site is a well-developed community. It is an ideal location for the development of a student hostel as it provides comprehensive access to daily necessities, community facilities, leisure activities and recreational destinations and even potential job opportunities, which enrich student life.
- 5.6.3 In terms of transportation, the Proposed Development at Hung To Road is highly accessible via various modes of public transport, facilitating easy commutes to nearby educational institutions. This proximity reduces travel time and enhances the overall living experience for students.
- 5.6.4 The Proposed Development aims to align with the strategic goals of the government while ensuring that future occupants have access to essential amenities and a supportive living environment. By providing modern and accessible student accommodation, it will not only enhance the overall living experience for students, promote community integration, but also contribute to the vibrancy of the local area.

#### **5.7 Viability Demonstrated from the Previous Support Granted for Transitional Housing Development**

- 5.7.1 As discussed in Section 2.3, the Application Site, prior to its conversion into a commercial building, received the Government's support for its conversion into transitional housing. This prior endorsement implies the suitability of the location for residential use, which meets essential criteria related to safety, accessibility, and land use compatibility. By leveraging the previous endorsement for similar residential purposes, the Application Site is deemed appropriate and suitable for student hostel development, providing a swift and efficient response to the urgent demand for living spaces in Hong Kong.

#### **5.8 No Adverse Visual Impact Induced by the Proposed Development**

- 5.8.1 As the Proposed Development involves partial conversion of the existing commercial building, the overall building bulk will remain unchanged. As the main roof level of the Proposed Development remains at about 41mPD, which is substantially lower than the building height restriction of 100mPD stipulated under OZP. As such, the Proposed Development will not alter the existing visual context and will not generate any adverse visual impact on the surrounding area.

#### **5.9 No Adverse Traffic Impact Induced by the Proposed Development**

- 5.9.1 It is expected that the future occupants of the Proposed Development will primarily rely on the existing public transport options available in the vicinity of the Application Site for commuting needs. By utilising public transportation for the future occupants and visitors, it is expected that no additional traffic flows will be generated from the Proposed Development, and no adverse impact on the surrounding road network is expected.
- 5.9.2 The internal transport facilities for the Proposed Development consist of one private car parking space designated for individuals with disabilities and a loading/unloading bay for light goods vehicles. These facilities are intended to support the operational needs of the student hostel and the eating place located on the ground floor. As demonstrated in **Annex 5**, during peak hours, the traffic generation is projected to include one vehicle in the morning and one vehicle in the evening, while the Proposed Development is expected to attract one vehicle in the morning and one vehicle in the evening. This level of traffic generation is considered negligible; hence, the Proposed Development will not have a significant impact on the area's traffic conditions.

## **5.10 No Adverse Sewerage Impact Induced by the Proposed Development**

- 5.10.1 As discussed in Section 4.5, the SIA concluded that the Proposed Development is technically acceptable after the proposed sewer upgrading works and will not generate adverse sewerage impacts to the surroundings.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

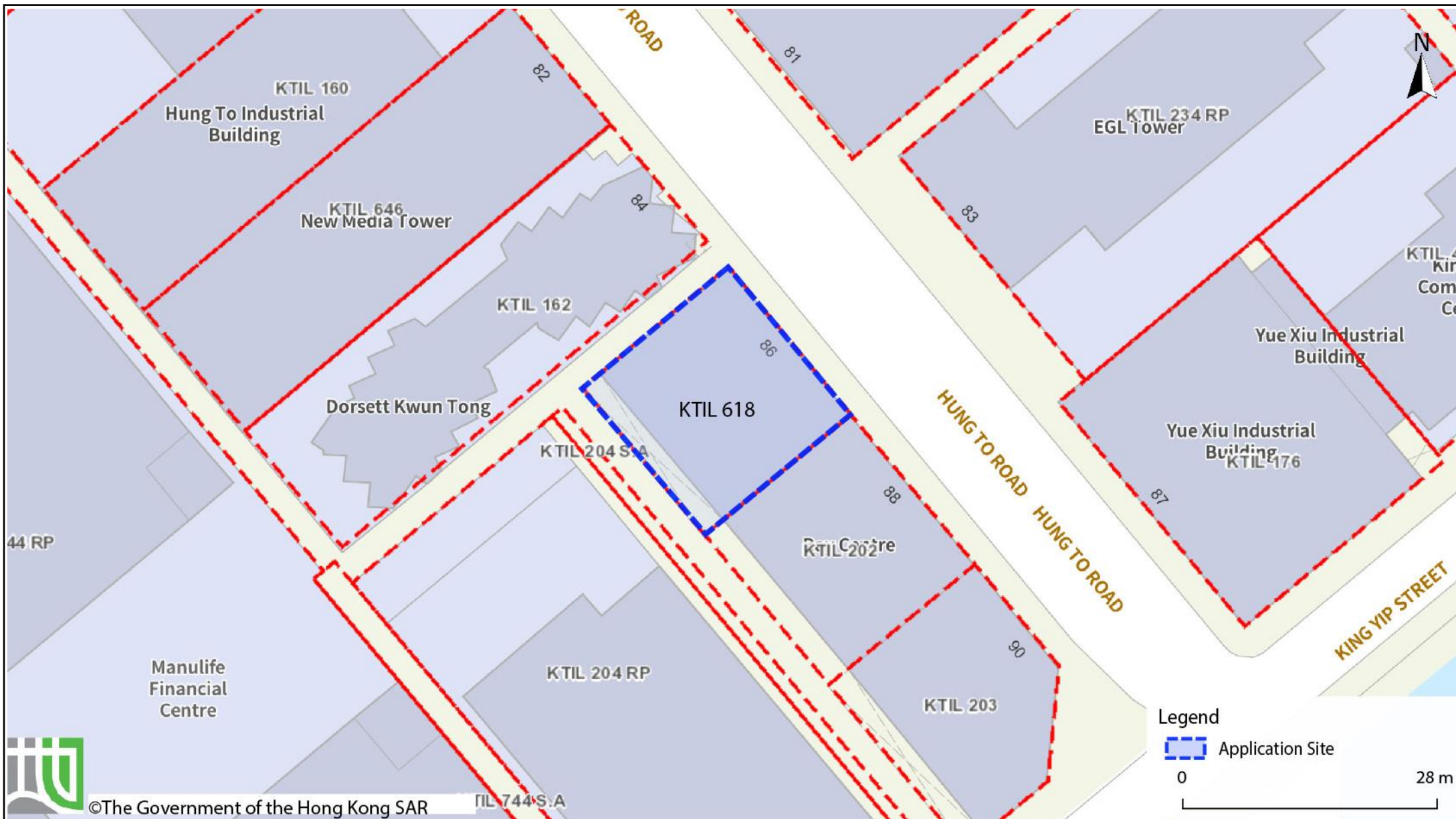
- 6.1.1 This Planning Statement is submitted to the Board in support of the partial conversion of an existing commercial building of Rich China Center for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.
- 6.1.2 The Applicant submitted an application to the EDB in August 2025 with respect to the Application Site. On 9.9.2025, the EDB considered the application eligible for the facilitation measures under the Scheme. Hence, the current Application is submitted for the proposed student hostel development, which is considered as 'Hotel' use under the Scheme, for the consideration of the Board.
- 6.1.3 The Application Site covers an area of about 464.5m<sup>2</sup> and falls within an area zoned as "OU(B)" on the OZP. The Proposed Development constitutes only an internal change of use and involves internal A&A works, and there is no change to the existing building footprint and dimension, hence there is no increase in building bulk or building height.
- 6.1.4 As outlined in this Planning Statement, the Proposed Development will contribute further to the ongoing transformation of KTBA and the wider Energizing Kowloon East initiative. In addition, the Proposed Development is a timely response to the Government's policy initiatives of promoting the "Study in Hong Kong" brand and the provision of student hostels through the "Hostels in the City Scheme".
- 6.1.5 From technical perspectives, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would not induce adverse visual impact or environmental impacts. It is also expected that future student occupants will primarily rely on public transport facilities for commuting, and therefore, the Proposed Development would not generate additional traffic impact on the existing road network.
- 6.1.6 As such, the Proposed Development is fully justified as it demonstrates compliance with relevant Government policy initiatives, district transformation directions, the statutory plan requirements, as well as the technical feasibility.
- 6.1.7 In view of the above, we respectfully request the Board members to give favourable consideration to this planning application.

**January 2026**  
**PlanPlus Consultancy Limited**

## Figures

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Figure 1	Location Plan
Figure 2	Surroundings of the Application Site
Figure 3	Public Transport Facilities in the Vicinity of the Application Site
Figure 4	Extract of Outline Zoning Plan
Figure 5	Extract of Outline Development Plan







**Figure Title:**

Surroundings of the Application Site  
 (indicative only) (Source: Statutory Planning  
 Portal 3)

**Project No.:**

PPC-PLG-10186

**Project:**

Section 16 Application for Partial Conversion of an Existing Commercial Building for  
 Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon

**Figure:**

2

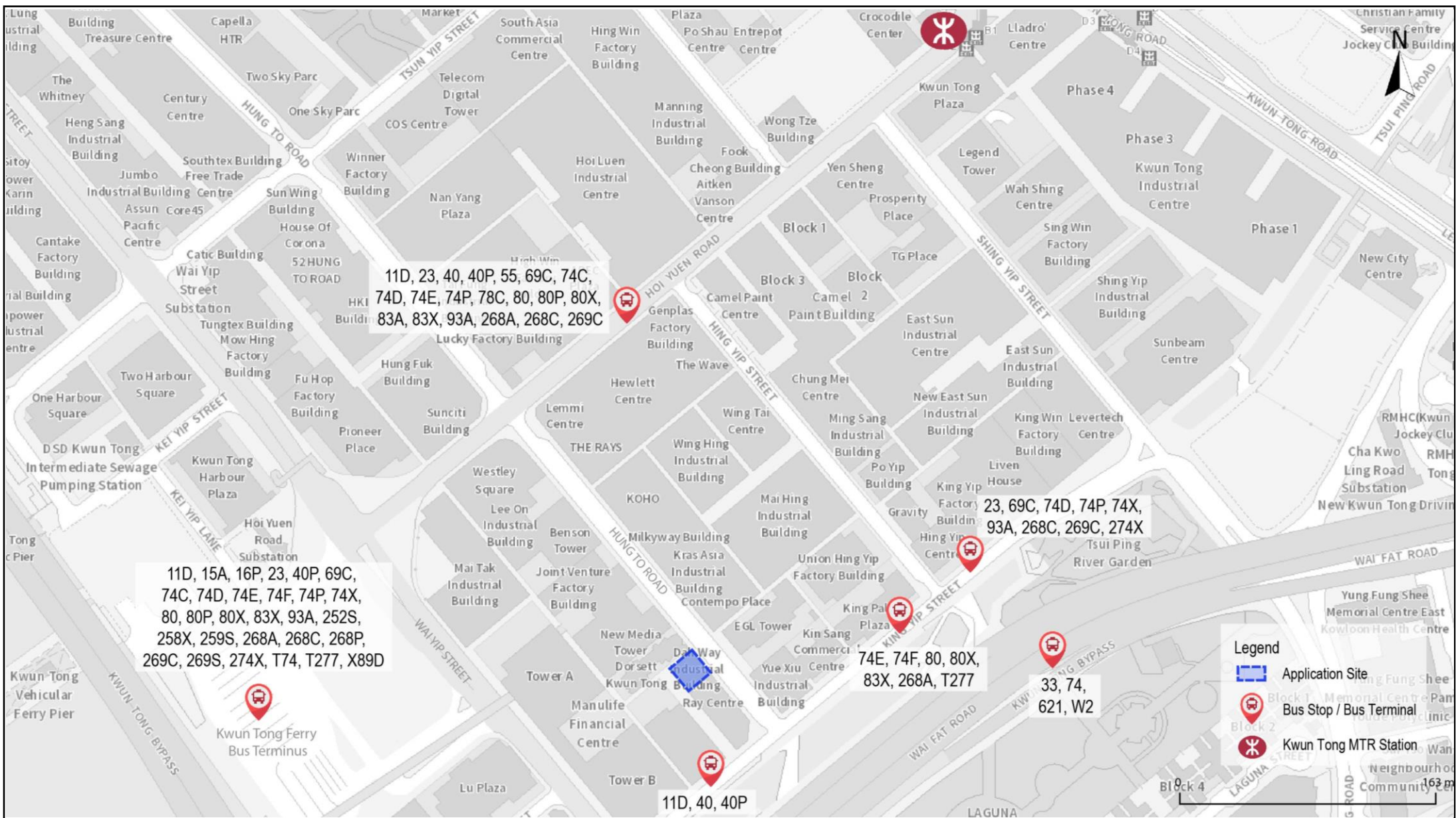
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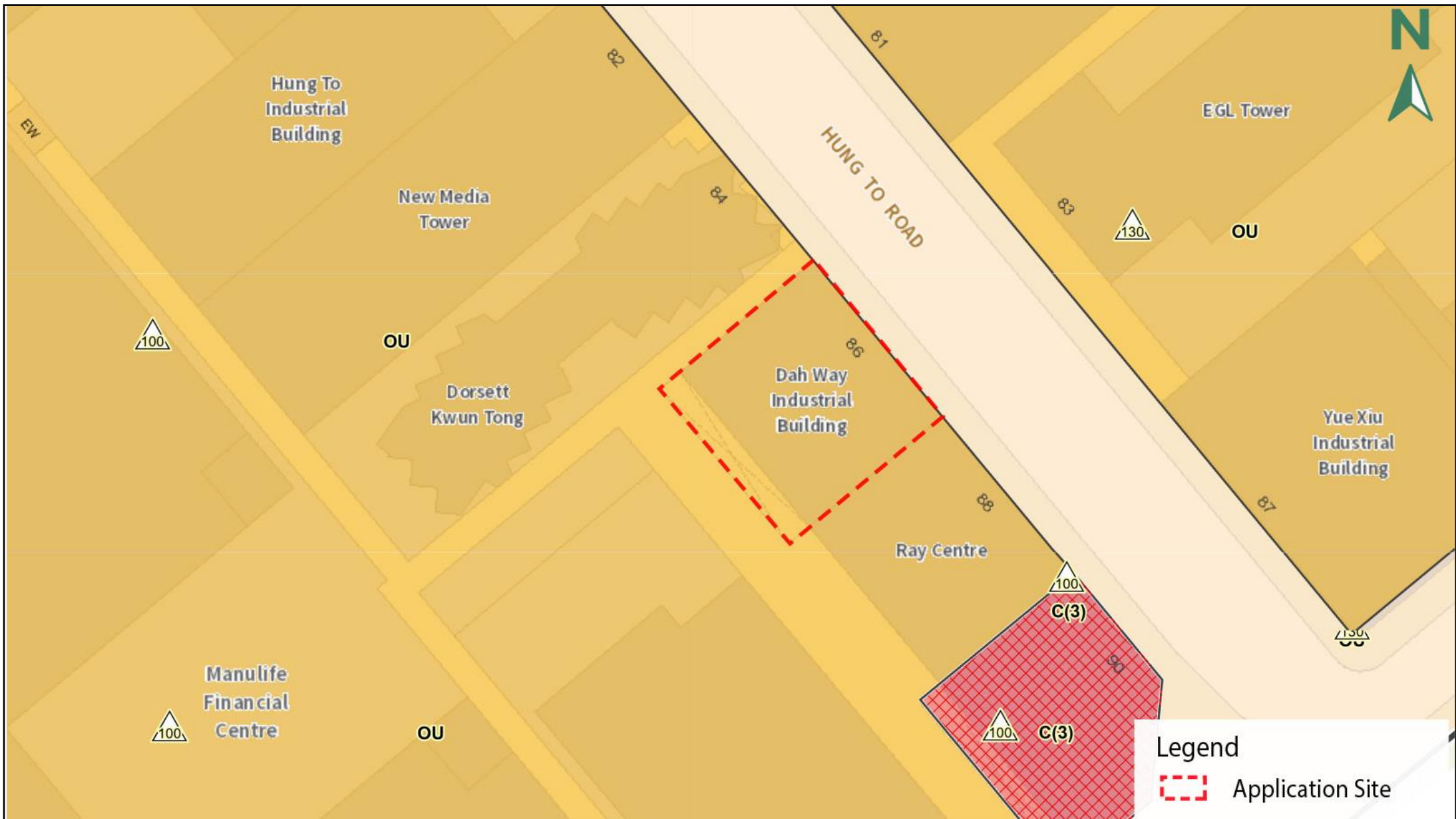
**Date:**


January 2026





	<p><b>Figure Title:</b> Public Transport Facilities in the Vicinity of the Application Site (indicative only) (Source: GeoInfo Map)</p> <p><b>Project No.:</b> PPC-PLG-10186</p>	<p><b>Project:</b> Section 16 Application for Partial Conversion of an Existing Commercial Building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon</p>		
		<p><b>Figure:</b> 3</p>	<p><b>Scale:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> January 2026</p>



	<p><b>Figure Title:</b> Extract of the OZP (Source: Statutory Planning Portal 3)</p> <p><b>Project No.:</b> PPC-PLG-10186</p>			<p><b>Project:</b> Section 16 Application for Partial Conversion of an Existing Commercial Building for Proposed 'Hotel (Student Hostel)' Use at 86 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon</p>		
		<p><b>Figure:</b> 4</p>	<p><b>Scale:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> January 2026</p>		



