

Request for Deferment
Applications for Permission under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance

1. Background

- 1.1 A total of 18 applications, amongst others, seeking planning permission under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance) are scheduled for consideration by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee (the Committee) at this meeting. A list of the concerned applications is at **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 In view of the situation of COVID-19 and the latest special work arrangement for government departments announced by the Government, the Planning Department (PlanD) and many government departments have only provided essential and limited public services and the District Planning Offices of PlanD have suspended all fieldwork, including visits to application sites for gathering background information, until further notice.

2. Planning Department's Views

- 2.1 According to the Town Planning Guidelines on Deferment of Decision on Representations, Comments, Further Representations, and Applications made under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No. 33A), a decision on a s.16 application should be deferred if information which is essential for the consideration of the submissions by the Town Planning Board is not available but is required to be provided by the relevant parties or government departments. Since all fieldwork has been suspended during the special work arrangement, some relevant background information of the application sites as well as comments from some relevant departments, which are essential for the consideration of the applications (as listed in **Annex 1**) by the Committee, are not yet available, it is recommended to defer making a decision on the applications until such information becomes available.
- 2.2 Should the Committee agree to defer making a decision on the applications as listed in **Annex 1**, the applications will be submitted to the Committee for consideration as soon as practicable after the fieldwork is resumed and the required background information of the application sites and comments from relevant departments can be made available.

3. Decision Sought

The Committee is invited to consider whether or not to defer making a decision on the applications as recommended by PlanD (as listed in **Annex 1**). Should the Committee decide not to defer making a decision on the applications, the applications will be submitted to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

4. **Attachments**

Annex 1

List of Applications for Deferment

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MARCH 2022**