

**For discussion  
on 23 October 2017**

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address  
Policy Initiatives of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office  
in relation to the Judiciary**

**INTRODUCTION**

This paper briefs Members on the policy initiatives of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office in relation to the Judiciary in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

**OUR VISION**

2. An independent and efficient Judiciary is cardinal to Hong Kong's governance, which is founded on the rule of law. Judicial independence is a key element in the success of Hong Kong. We strive to render all the necessary support to the Judiciary in promoting the effective, efficient and fair administration of justice in Hong Kong.

**NEW INITIATIVE**

***Long-term accommodation needs of courts***

3. Both the High Court Building (HCB) at Queensway and the District Court (DC) housed in the Wanchai Tower have been in use for three decades and have already reached their capacities. The Court of Appeal and the Court of First Instance (CFI) of the High Court (HC) have been housed at the HCB since 1984. The construction of additional courtrooms and chambers and other associated facilities has been constrained by the total floor area of the HCB. The existing facilities are increasingly inadequate for meeting the operational needs of the HC.

This is not conducive to the effective delivery of court services to the community and administration of justice in the long run.

4. The situation is similar for the DC (including the Family Court (FC) and the Lands Tribunal (LT)). At present, the DC (including the FC) is housed in the Wanchai Tower, a joint-user general office government building which was commissioned in 1987 and accommodates users of several Government departments apart from the courts. Owing to limited space in the Wanchai Tower, the LT is currently accommodated in a historic building at 38 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon. In the recent review on civil jurisdictional limits of the DC and Small Claims Tribunal and another ongoing review to streamline existing family court procedures, the Judiciary envisages a need to provide additional courtrooms, chambers and supporting facilities for the DC and the FC to support its future expansion. As a result, there would not be adequate space in the Wanchai Tower to co-locate the DC, the FC and the LT<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, given the Government's plan to relocate departments accommodated in the three government towers (i.e. the Immigration Tower, the Revenue Tower and the Wanchai Tower) in the Wan Chai Government Offices Compound, the DC and the FC need to be reprovisioned. In addition, the Judiciary is of the view that as a matter of principle, it is not desirable for courts to be housed in joint-user general office government buildings, as this is not conducive to projecting an independent image of the Judiciary.

5. In response to the Judiciary's request for support in addressing its long-term accommodation needs, the Government has been working with the Judiciary to work out accommodation plans for reprovisioning the HCB and for reprovisioning and co-locating the DC, the FC and the LT. After an extensive site search having regard to the requirements of the Judiciary, the Government identified two suitable sites for the development of a Judicial Complex for the High Court (JHC) and a District Court Complex (DCC) for co-locating the DC, the FC and the LT. The Judiciary has recently accepted in principle for using Site 5 and the site south of Site 5 at the new Central Harbourfront<sup>2</sup> (site plan at

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<sup>1</sup> Co-location of all courts at the DC level would enable better deployment of resources as well as achieve economies of scale.

<sup>2</sup> Site 5 and the site south of Site 5 at the new Central Harbourfront have a total area of 1.58 hectares and are zoned "Government, Institution or Community(2)" ("G/IC(2)"), "G/IC(3)" and area shown as "Road" on the Draft Central District (Extension) Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H24/8. Court facilities are a permissible use on the two sites.

**Annex A**) for the development of the JCHC; and a portion of the Caroline Hill Road (CHR) site<sup>3</sup> (site plan at **Annex B**) for the development of the DCC. Costing over \$20 billion, these projects will fully address the long-term accommodation needs of courts.

### *The Judicial Complex for the High Court*

6. The proposed JCHC will house the Court of Appeal, the CFI, the Competition Tribunal and the Judicial Institute. The net operating floor area of the proposed JCHC shall reach around 56 000 square metres, which is about 50% more than the current HCB and is expected to be able to cater for the growth in demand in the coming five decades. Different sizes of criminal, civil and master courtrooms would be provided to cater for different court cases. In addition to the provision of facilities like witness waiting rooms, consultation rooms, etc., other court related facilities would also be enhanced or expanded to improve the user friendliness and effectiveness of operation. Furthermore, the new JCHC will be supported by enhanced application of information technology. The Judiciary is conducting detailed planning and will work with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), the works agent, to take the project forward.

### *The District Court Complex*

7. The proposed DCC will house all courts and tribunals at the DC level under one roof including the DC, the FC and the LT. In order to address the long-term needs for court facilities at the DC level, the net operating floor area of the DCC would reach around 26 000 square metres, which is about 50% larger than the accommodation currently occupied by the three courts and tribunal. The new DCC should be able to cater for the growth in demand in the coming five decades. Similar to the JCHC, different sizes of criminal, civil, master and family courtrooms would be provided to cater for different court cases. Likewise, court related facilities would also be enhanced or expanded to improve the user friendliness and effectiveness of operation. ArchSD is the works agent of this

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<sup>3</sup> The site, covering an area of about 2.68 hectares, is currently zoned “Other Specified Use” annotated “Sports and Recreation Club” and “Government, Institution or Community” on the approved Wong Nai Chung Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H7/19.

project. The Judiciary is conducting detailed planning and will work with ArchSD to take the project forward.

8. While the Caroline Hill Road site was originally intended for commercial development, a portion of the site is now earmarked for the development of the DCC. Amendments to the relevant Outline Zoning Plan will be required<sup>4</sup>. The Development Bureau, Planning Department (PlanD) and ArchSD are working on the development plan. Upon completion of the necessary technical assessments, PlanD will consult the Wan Chai District Council on the rezoning proposal of the Caroline Hill Road site tentatively within the first quarter of 2018, before proceeding with the statutory planning procedure.

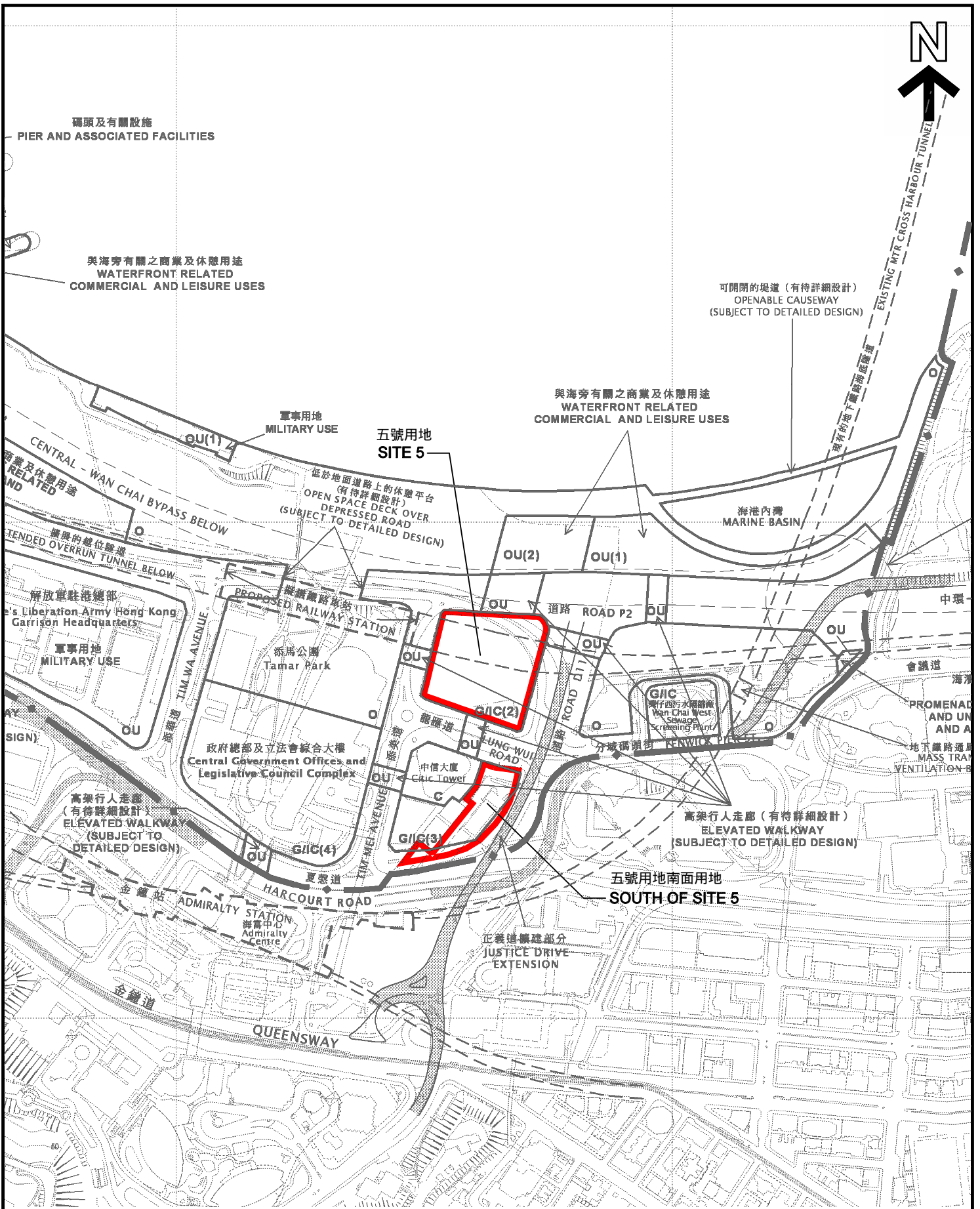
### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

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

**Administration Wing  
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office  
October 2017**

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<sup>4</sup> From "Other Specified Use" annotated "Sports and Recreation Club" and "Government, Institution or Community" to "Commercial" and "Government, Institution or Community".

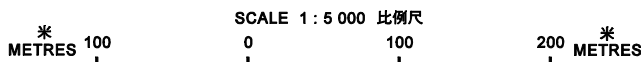


**位置圖 LOCATION PLAN**

**SITE 5 (1.16 ha) AND  
SITE SOUTH OF SITE 5 (0.42 ha)  
(TOTAL ABOUT 1.58 ha)**

本摘要圖於2014年3月5日擬備，  
所根據的資料為於2013年2月15日  
展示的分區計劃大綱圖編號S/H24/8

EXTRACT PLAN PREPARED ON 5.3.2014  
BASED ON OUTLINE ZONING PLAN No.  
S/H24/8 EXHIBITED ON 15.2.2013



**規劃署  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT**

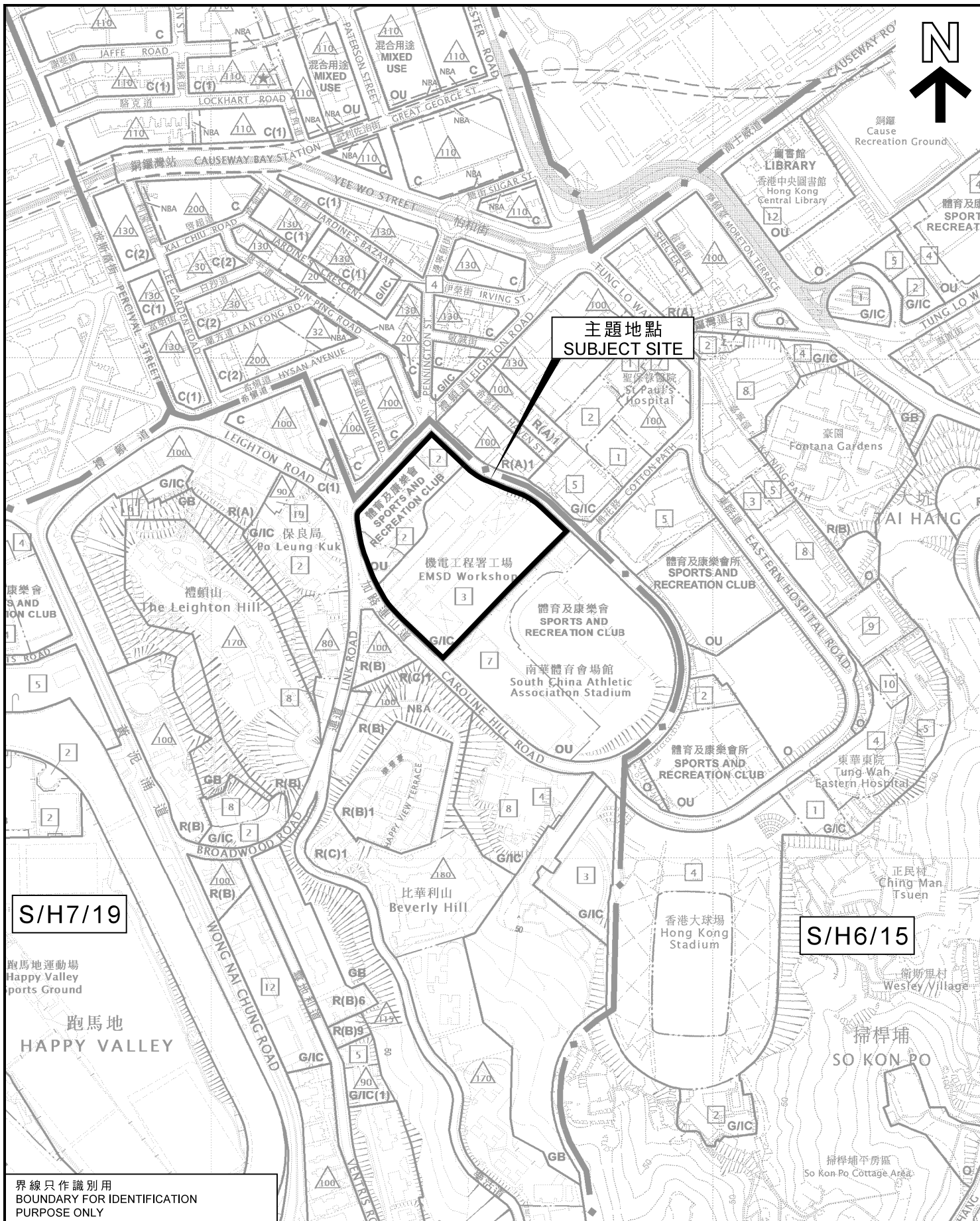


參考編號  
REFERENCE No.

**M/HK/14/6B**

**圖 PLAN**

**1**



S/H7/19

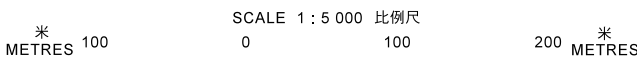
S/H6/15

界線只作識別用  
BOUNDARY FOR IDENTIFICATION  
PURPOSE ONLY

本摘要圖於2017年10月3日擬備，所根據的資料為於2016年8月16日核准的分區計劃大綱圖編號S/H7/19和2010年9月17日展示的分區計劃大綱圖編號S/H6/15及被城市規劃委員會於2011年6月24日根據城市規劃條例第6F(8)及6G條確認的修訂圖編號R/S/H6/15-A2  
EXTRACT PLAN PREPARED ON 3.10.2017  
BASED ON OUTLINE ZONING PLAN No. S/H7/19  
APPROVED ON 16.8.2016, S/H6/15 EXHIBITED ON 17.9.2010 AND AMENDMENT PLAN No. R/S/H6/15-A2  
CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD UNDER SECTION 6F(8) AND 6G ON 24.6.2011

位置圖 LOCATION PLAN

CAROLINE HILL ROAD SITE



規劃署  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT



參考編號  
REFERENCE No.  
M/HK/17/8

圖 PLAN  
1