

**Extract from the Policy Address Supplement
on major measures under Development Bureau**

Emergency Management

Scaling up capability in coping with extreme weather

- Explore application of machine learning technology and big data analysis for more accurate identification of causal factors of landslides so as to scale up capability in predicting landslide risks. (DEVB)
- Revise the annual output target of the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to devise landslide mitigation measures for more natural slopes. (DEVB)

Building an International Hub for Post-secondary Education

Establishing the “Study in Hong Kong” brand

- Launch a pilot programme in the first half of 2025 to streamline planning, lands and building plan approvals in order to encourage the market to increase the supply of student hostels by converting hotels and other commercial buildings on a self-financing and privately-funded basis. (EDB, DEVB)
- Provide one-stop advisory services for the conversion of hotels or commercial buildings for student hostel use and the construction of new student hostels through the Development Projects Facilitation Office of the Development Bureau. (EDB, DEVB)
- Allow flexibility when amending outline zoning plans to facilitate development of student hostels in appropriate areas. (EDB, DEVB)

Development of the Northern Metropolis University Town

- The Government has reserved at least 80 hectares of land in the Northern Metropolis for establishing the Northern Metropolis University Town, and will encourage local post-secondary institutions to introduce more branded programmes, research collaboration and exchange projects with renowned institutions from the Mainland and overseas in a flexible and innovative manner. The plan is to promulgate the Outline Development Conceptual Framework of the Northern Metropolis University Town in the first half of 2026. (EDB, DEVB)

Continuing to Promote Youth Development

Youth Hostel Scheme

- Earmark a site in Tung Chung under the Land Sale Programme whereby developers will be required to reserve a certain number of flats to support the YHS on a pilot basis. (HYAB, DEVB)

Creating Fresh Impetus for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry

Further developing signature tourism products

- Invite expressions of interest in the development of the South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor in the first quarter of 2025. (DEVB)
- Make recommendations on the direction of development, land use, and development model and parameters of the ex-Lamma Quarry site by end-2024, and invite expressions of interest in the first quarter of 2025. (DEVB)
- Invite expressions of interest in the proposed development of Tsim Bei Tsui and Pak Nai into eco-tourism nodes in the first quarter of 2025. (DEVB)
- Conduct detailed design for the expansion of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, including the integration of public landing facilities with the proposed breakwater at Tai Shue Wan to create synergies. (DEVB, CSTB)
- Explore the feasibility of the early provision of food and beverage facilities at the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market with a view to fostering diversification of the industries. (EEB, DEVB)

- Study the feasibility of providing a pier at Repulse Bay to help develop marine tourism linking up the attractions in the Southern District and the islands nearby. (DEVB)
- Promote yacht tourism by inviting the private sector to explore the construction and operation of marinas in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter expansion area, the Ex-Lamma Quarry area, and the development of the waterfront site in the vicinity of the Hung Hom Station. (DEVB, TLB, CSTB)

Developing a mega event tourism economy

- Require the operators of the Central Harbourfront Event Space and the other harbourfront event spaces to organise diverse and large-scale outdoor activities. (DEVB)
- Drive the development of the site above the Exhibition Centre Station in Wan Chai North as well as the waterfront and pier sites in the vicinity of the Hung Hom Station into new landmarks which will incorporate the provision of event spaces. (DEVB)

Fostering Economic Diversification

Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

- The Government has introduced The Construction Industry Security of Payment Bill to the Legislative Council for scrutiny. It prohibits the use of unfair payment terms, such as “conditional payment”, and introduces an adjudication mechanism to resolve payment disputes. Implementing these measures would alleviate the payment problems faced by the construction industry, thus enhancing efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the industry. (DEVB)

Take Forward the Development of Northern Metropolis

- Commence the site formation works of San Tin Technopole and the Second Phase of Yuen Long South New Development Area by end-2024 and mid-2025 respectively. (DEVB)
- Announce the preliminary development proposals of Ngau Tam Mei, New Territories North New Town and Ma Tso Lung by end-2024. (DEVB)

- Introduce the “large-scale land disposal” approach for the development of the Northern Metropolis; start to invite expressions of interest by end-2024 on three pilot sites identified, each of 10-20 hectares. (DEVB)
- Explore the approach of identifying pilot industry park in a New Development Area and granting land to a company established and led by the Government. The company will, in accordance with the Government’s industrial policies, be responsible for formulating the development and operation strategies and day-to-day management for the park, attracting businesses and investment, etc. Suggestions will be announced in the first quarter of 2025. (DEVB)
- Commence the rezoning procedures for Sandy Ridge in the North District within 2024, with the I&T site used for data centres and related purposes expanded to 10 hectares. (DEVB, ITIB)
- Commence in 2025 the construction works of a gallery to showcase major development projects. (DEVB)

Deepening Co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Talent flow and co-operation in the construction sector

- Continue to foster mutual recognition of professional qualifications for construction professionals between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and actively provide access for the related professionals to the “Professional Title” assessment of the Mainland, with a view to assisting them to better enter the Mainland market and integrate into national development. (DEVB)
- Collaborate with the Guangdong Province and Macao SAR to formulate the GBA Standards concerning the level of skills of skilled workers and technicians in the construction sector, and take forward the “One Examination, Multiple Certification” arrangement so that those who pass the examinations adopting the GBA Standards can concurrently obtain vocational skill certificates issued by the three places. The objective is to increase the quality of training of the construction sector of the entire GBA and nurture talents. (DEVB)

Public Housing

Future supply

- Continue to publish regularly the supply forecast of public housing and land supply in the coming 10 years, so as to enhance transparency and facilitate monitoring of work. (HB, DEVB)

Private Housing

Future supply

- Make land available for the production of 80 000 housing units through land sale or railway property development in the next five years. Coupled with projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and private development projects, private housing land will be supplied in a sustained and orderly manner. (DEVB)

Improving Building Safety and Building Management

Enhancing property management and building design

- Put forward an array of elderly-friendly building design proposals and implement the design requirements through legislative amendments, guidelines and practice notes in phases from 2025 onwards after public consultation, as well as to formulate the Elderly-friendly Building Accreditation Scheme for encouraging proactive adoption of more elderly-friendly designs in private developments. (DFSO, DEVB)

Enhancing enforcement efficiency

- Propose amendments to the Buildings Ordinance by end-2024 and conduct public consultation to enhance the deterrent effect against non-compliance with notices/orders and unauthorised building works, increase the types of exempted and minor works under the Buildings Ordinance, and strengthen the registration and disciplinary systems of contractors. The target is to introduce an amendment bill into the LegCo in 2026. (DEVB)

Creating Developable Land

Enhancing the speed and efficiency of land production

- Continue to update annually the forecast of 10-year supply of developable land (i.e. spade-ready sites) so as to enhance transparency and facilitate monitoring of work progress. (DEVB)
- Implement the investigation and design of Underground Quarrying at Tsing Yi North and Sham Shui Kok, North Lantau to enhance long-term land supply more efficiently as well as to provide a local source of rock material supply. (DEVB)

Streamlining procedures

- Continue to take forward the streamlining of administrative procedures for vetting and approval, including regular monitoring of the progress of specific measures formulated by departments in adopting a “facilitator” mindset to handle the vetting and approval work, and maintain communication with the industry on the implementation of these measures. (DEVB)
- Outsource drone inspection of the external walls of buildings and unauthorised building works and related analyses to private companies, and to engage professionals to handle the vetting of small-scale or temporary structures through self-certification, so as to make good use of industry resources to enhance speed and efficiency. (DEVB)
- Complete the strategic study by end-2024 with a view to identifying the major reasons for high construction costs, and roll out a series of strategic measures targeting such aspects as project delivery, mode of procurement, utilisation of innovative technologies, streamlining approval processes, and review of standards to reduce construction costs. (DEVB)
- Expand the remit of the Development Projects Facilitation Office under the Development Bureau to co-ordinate departmental efforts to expedite the vetting and approval of the land use for development projects related to innovation and technology (I&T) and other industries in the Northern Metropolis, in addition to large-scale private residential and commercial projects. (DEVB)

- Introduce a bill to amend the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance by end-2024, with a view to facilitating harbour enhancement works to enhance public enjoyment and connectivity of the harbourfront and strengthen the harbour functions. (DEVB)

Promoting research, development and application of building technology

- Through the new Building Technology Research Institute (BTRi) established in 2024, enhance the construction standards of Hong Kong by making reference to standards in the Mainland and overseas to promote local application of high quality and cost-effective construction materials from the Mainland and overseas, and collaborate closely with relevant authorities in Guangdong Province to take forward the strategic study of formulating the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) building standards in early 2025, so as to devise a concrete work framework for the relevant building standards. (DEVB)
- The BTRi will also conduct applied research and development (R&D) in innovative materials, construction methods and technologies; and devise standards, conduct testing and provide accreditation to spearhead innovation in the construction industry and attract R&D talent to Hong Kong. (DEVB)
- Continue to enhance the role of the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders to bring together project management talents, including inviting major project leaders from the Mainland to participate in training and experience-sharing, with the aim of developing Hong Kong into an international expert knowledge hub on project delivery. (DEVB)
- Roll out progressively measures to strengthen the supply chain of the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) modules, covering issues such as the approval processes, manufacturing, taxation, transportation, storage and accreditation of modules, foster complementarities with the Mainland and drive the high-quality development of MiC so as to turn it into one of the industries in the GBA that enjoy clear advantages, and subsequently expand it to overseas markets. (DEVB)

- Continue to take forward the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative, with a view to building up a spatial data ecosystem, collaborating with stakeholders in the I&T field to expand the services of the Geospatial Lab, supporting smart city development, and promoting digital economy. (DEVB)
- Utilise the developed Integrated Capital Works Platform to consolidate the data of all public works projects to achieve further application of artificial intelligence (AI) technology for big data analysis for reviewing the performance of projects in terms of cost and progress. This could facilitate the timely implementation of corresponding measures to enhance management efficiency and project performance, and continue to lead and promote digitalisation of the construction industry. (DEVB)

Addressing the manpower demand of the construction industry

- Continue to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to enhance the training of local construction personnel, including the provision of no less than about 12 000 training places by the Construction Industry Council in each of the academic years from 2024/25 to 2027/28, and continue to promote “multi-skilled” development of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals. (DEVB)
- Continue to monitor and utilise the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector and talent admission schemes as supplementary measures to alleviate manpower shortage on the premise of safeguarding the employment priority for local workers. (DEVB)
- The STEAM education platform, which has been rolled out under the construction industry joint promotion campaign implemented by various departments in collaboration with organisations in the industry, will introduce more construction-related STEAM education content and activities in 2024-25 to promote the construction industry and attract new entrants to the industry. (DEVB)

- Utilise the \$2.2 billion funding from the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) to continuously drive wider adoption of innovative technologies by the industry and more small and medium enterprises to enhance productivity. The CITF has granted about \$1.35 billion for subsidising more than 1 200 enterprises to adopt various technologies in local construction projects to date. (DEVB)

Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands

- Commence progressively the detailed design related to the reclamation works of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands project from end-2024 onwards so as to take forward the project in a steady and prudent manner. (DEVB)

Expediting urban redevelopment

- Provide one-stop support services for minority owners affected by compulsory sale and step up public education through the Support Service Centre for Minority Owners under Compulsory Sale which started operation in the third quarter of 2024. (DEVB)
- The URA will submit to the Government the renewal master plans of the planning studies for Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po in the second half of 2025 after refining the proposals and completing the technical assessments. (DEVB)
- Formulate in the first half of 2025 policy proposals relating to the use of newly developed land to drive large-scale urban redevelopment projects by the public and private sectors, directions of which may include transfer of plot ratios across districts and construction of dedicated rehousing estates. (DEVB)
- Extend the various measures to revitalise industrial buildings (IBs) to end-2027, which include relaxing the permissible plot ratio by no more than 20% for IB redevelopment projects, exempting the waiver fees chargeable for wholesale conversion of IBs (with enhancements to the original requirement), and continue relaxing the waiver application policy to permit designated industry use. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- Complete the revitalisation of Tsui Ping River by end-2024 to provide the public with a riverine public space in the urban area created with waterscape, landscape and ecological features, which will not only enhance the connectivity of walkable Kowloon East, but also provide a new attraction for the community. (DEVB)
- Continue to transform Kowloon East into the second core business district through the implementation of development proposals such as the Kwun Tong Action Area and Kowloon Bay Action Area, as well as the revitalisation of old industrial areas. (DEVB)

Invigorating Island South

- Continue to carry out works for the Round-the-Island Trail (the Trail), with a view to connecting 90% of the Trail by end-2027 and substantially completing the remaining larger scale works by end-2031. (DEVB)
- Implement eight more measures to improve the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen Waterfront and Ap Lei Chau North by end-2025. (DEVB)
- Continue to progressively enhance the open spaces on both sides of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter by way of minor works. (DEVB)
- Commence works on the boardwalk along Staunton Creek Nullah and adjacent open spaces to enhance pedestrian connectivity and the local environment. (DEVB)
- Continue to study the feasibility of building a museum near Ocean Park to enrich cultural infrastructure and create synergies with the future development in the Southern District. (CSTB, DEVB)

Labour Support

Reforming the Employees Retraining Board Strengthening the training of local workers

- Offer two vacant school premises with no designated use for major trade unions with experience in vocational training to apply for establishing their training bases, and provide them with appropriate assistance in running courses of different trades and nurturing talents with novel skills, so as to further support vocational training for local employees. (LWB, DEVB)

Promoting occupational safety and health

- Explore the option of encouraging the industry to use more technological equipment for enhancing construction safety, such as requiring contractors to use AI and Internet of Things sensors for monitoring work in confined spaces. (LWB, DEVB)
- The Drainage Services Department will lay down the requirements on application of technology to enhance supervision of confined spaces work in new contracts. (DEVB, LWB)

Conservation of heritage buildings

- Continue to deepen collaboration and exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, in particular other cities within the GBA and Shanghai, on archaeology, conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings, as well as public education and talent training, including co-organising exhibitions and loaning exhibits, conducting joint studies, assigning staff for professional training and jointly organising forums. (DEVB)

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