

The Impact of Urban Planning on the Quality of Community Life in Hong Kong
城市規劃對社區生活質素的影響

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Abstract

The quality of community life relies quite significantly on the quality of the “total environment” which that community enjoys. The total environment includes conditions in the physical environment (living and working conditions in the urban and rural areas, like adequacy of provided facilities and air quality), natural and ecological environment (such as water quality, variety of fauna and flora, and general conditions in the countryside), visual environment, social environment, economic environment (for example, availability of employment opportunities) and political environment. Urban planning is a key to achieve a high-quality total environment. It participates actively and, often, leads in such exercises as nature conservation; preservation of historical, geological and architectural features; environmental protection; provision of facilities required for good living and working conditions; proposing urban design ideas to produce attractive landscape and townscape; preparation of statutory town plans; planning and development of high-quality new urban areas (including compiling interesting layout plans); improvement in the rural areas; and urban renewal to upgrade otherwise deteriorating physical conditions. It sets up planning standards and guidelines for the provision of facilities; formulates long-term development strategy to channel main development forces; and assists in developing methods to attain sustainable development.