

Monetary Statistics for July 2018

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

According to statistics published today (August 31) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, total deposits with authorised institutions edged down by 0.1 per cent in July 2018. Hong Kong-dollar deposits edged up by 0.2 per cent during the month, as the increase in time deposits exceeded the decline in demand and savings deposits. Overall foreign-currency deposits decreased by 0.4 per cent in July. Renminbi deposits in Hong Kong rose by 3.9 per cent to RMB607.6 billion at the end of July. The total remittance of renminbi for cross-border trade settlement amounted to RMB361.6 billion in July, compared with RMB345.7 billion in June.

Total loans and advances decreased by 0.3 per cent in July. Among the total, loans for use in Hong Kong (including trade finance) declined by 0.6 per cent from a month ago, while loans for use outside Hong Kong edged up by 0.2 per cent. The Hong Kong-dollar loan-to-deposit ratio decreased to 85.1 per cent at the end of July from 85.4 per cent at the end of June, as Hong Kong-dollar loans declined while Hong Kong-dollar deposits edged up.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, Hong Kong-dollar M1 declined by 1.2 per cent in July but increased by 5.7 per cent year-on-year. Seasonally unadjusted Hong Kong-dollar M3 edged up by 0.1 per cent during the month but grew by 4.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Thirteen immigration offenders arrested

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a territory-wide anti-illegal worker operation codenamed "Twilight" from August 29 to 30. A total of 10 illegal workers and three suspected employers were arrested.

During the operation, ImmD Task Force officers raided 61 target locations including bakery shops, a restaurant, a salon, village houses, street stalls and a temporary bamboo stage under construction. A total of 10 illegal workers and three employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised eight men and two women, aged 21 to 58. Among them, a man and a woman were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. Furthermore, a woman was suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity card. Meanwhile, three men, aged 54 to 72, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Draft Pok Fu Lam Outline Zoning Plan approved

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Pok Fu Lam Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide development and redevelopment in the Pok Fu Lam area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board (the Board) said today (August 31).

The planning scheme area, covering about 420 hectares, is bounded by Mount Davis Road to the north and Pok Fu Lam Country Park to the east. The area extends to the waterfront to its south and west.

Pok Fu Lam is predominantly a residential area with the provision of a number of government, institution or community facilities.

Three existing public housing developments, namely Wah Fu Estate, Wah Kwai Estate and Ka Lung Court, five new public housing sites near Wah Fu Estate and some existing private residential developments are zoned "Residential (Group A)" taking up about 32.27 hectares. Two major private residential developments are zoned "Residential (Group B)" covering about 12.40 hectares.

About 45.17 hectares of land zoned "Residential (Group C)" are concentrated in the central and northern portions of the area along Victoria Road, Sha Wan Drive, Sassoon Road and Pok Fu Lam Road.

Pok Fu Lam Village falls within an area zoned "Village Type Development". This zone covers about 2.62 hectares.

A site of about 0.24 hectare at the junction of Victoria Road and Sha Wan Drive is zoned "Commercial" for the development of a low-rise local shopping centre.

A number of sites are zoned "Government, Institution or Community" and "Open Space" to serve the local and district needs. These two zones cover about 60.07 hectares and 18.82 hectares respectively.

Sites allocated for various specific uses are zoned "Other Specified Uses" ("OU") taking up about 35.61 hectares. The "OU" zone covers the Cyberport development, the Chinese Christian Cemetery and two existing petrol filling stations.

About 123.93 hectares of land are zoned "Green Belt". The zoning is intended to conserve the natural environment and safeguard it from encroachment by urban-type developments.

Parts of Pok Fu Lam Country Park and Lung Fu Shan Country Park falling within the area are zoned "Country Park". The zone takes up about 52.48 hectares.

â€‹

The approved Pok Fu Lam OZP No. S/H10/17 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board, the Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin, the Hong Kong District Planning Office and the Southern District Office.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Draft Aberdeen & Ap Lei Chau Outline Zoning Plan approved

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Aberdeen & Ap Lei Chau Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide development and redevelopment in the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board (the Board) said today (August 31).

The planning scheme area, covering an area of about 783 hectares, includes Tin Wan in the west and part of Aberdeen Country Park in the north. To the east, it is bounded by the approach road to Aberdeen Tunnel, Wong Chuk Hang Road and Island Road. To the southwest, the area covers the islands of Ap Lei Chau and Ap Lei Pai.

About 1.49 hectares of land covering two shopping centres as part of South Horizons on Ap Lei Chau are zoned "Commercial". This zone is intended primarily for commercial developments, which may include supermarkets, shops and services, and eating places, functioning mainly as local or district shopping centres serving the immediate neighbourhood of South Horizons and the Southern District.

About 7.17 hectares of land bounded by Heung Yip Road, Police School Road and Nam Long Shan Road are zoned "Comprehensive Development Area". This zone is intended for comprehensive development/redevelopment of the site for residential and commercial uses together with a rail depot and station with the provision of public transport and other supporting facilities.

About 60.84 hectares of land are zoned "Residential (Group A)" or its sub-areas for high-density residential developments while about 0.40 hectare of land is zoned "Residential (Group C)" for low-rise, low-density

residential developments. About 3.48 hectares of land are zoned "Residential (Group E)" or its sub-area for phasing out of the existing industrial uses in Tin Wan, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau areas through redevelopment or conversion for residential use.

To ensure an adequate supply of industrial floor space, about 5.91 hectares of land are zoned "Industrial" for general industrial uses.

About 15.51 hectares of land are zoned "Open Space" for the provision of outdoor open-air public space for active and/or passive recreational uses.

In addition, about 101.99 hectares of land are zoned "Government, Institution or Community" for the provision of a wide range of government, institution and community (GIC) facilities to serve the needs of local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. Existing major GIC developments include Grantham Hospital, Hong Kong Police College and Rehabilitation Centre for the Aged, Blind and Mentally Handicapped at Welfare Road. Major recreational facilities include the Aberdeen Sports Ground, Aberdeen Sports Centre, Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool, municipal services complexes at Aberdeen Main Road and Ap Lei Chau, and the market at Tin Wan.

About 106.19 hectares of land are zoned "Other Specified Uses" to provide/reserve sites for specified purposes and uses. For instance, the Wong Chuk Hang Business Area and Ap Lei Chau Business Area have been designated as a business zone.

About 213.09 hectares of land are zoned "Green Belt", which is intended primarily for defining the limits of urban and sub-urban development areas by natural features, to protect the natural landscape and environment, as well as to provide a countryside recreational outlet for the local population and visitors.

An area of about 28.35 hectares is zoned "Coastal Protection Area" to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment. Falling within this area are coastal areas mainly below 20-metre to 40-metre contours that cover many coastal features such as cliffs, rocks and some sandy/rocky beaches. These areas of high scenic quality should be protected from development.

About 1.98 hectares of land covering the western part of the Nam Fung Road Woodland are zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest" (SSSI). The Nam Fung Road Woodland SSSI is densely covered by native broad-leaved trees and rare flora and is considered as a piece of fung shui woodland in a natural environment.

About 101.73 hectares of land covering the southern part of Aberdeen Country Park are zoned "Country Park".

The approved Aberdeen & Ap Lei Chau OZP No. S/H15/33 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board, the Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin, the Hong Kong District Planning Office and the Southern District

Office.

Copies of the approved plan are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Draft Tai Po Outline Zoning Plan **approved**

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Tai Po Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide development and redevelopment within the Tai Po area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board (the Board) said today (August 31).

The planning scheme area, covering about 2 438 hectares of land, is encircled on three sides by the mountain ranges of Pat Sin Leng, Cloudy Hill, Tai Mo Shan and Grassy Hill. To the east, the coastline of Tolo Harbour forms its natural boundary. The Area can be broadly divided into three physical areas, namely Tai Po Hui and its adjacent reclamation; the valley floors and lower hillslopes to the north and south; and the steep upper hillslopes in the peripheral areas.

About 108.48 hectares, 35.52 hectares, 141.04 hectares and 0.73 hectare of land are zoned "Residential (Group A)", "Residential (Group B)", "Residential (Group C)" and "Residential (Group D)" respectively for private and public housing developments at various development densities.

A site of about 18.37 hectares at Fung Yuen is zoned "Comprehensive Development Area (1)" for comprehensive development/redevelopment for low-density residential and agricultural uses with the provision of open spaces and other supporting facilities.

To reflect existing recognised and other villages, and to provide land considered suitable for village expansion and reprovisioning of village houses affected by government projects, some 150.35 hectares of land are zoned "Village Type Development".

About 172.12 hectares of land are zoned "Government, Institution or Community" primarily for the provision of government, institution or community facilities serving the needs of the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. Some 65.77 hectares of land are zoned "Open Space" primarily for the provision of outdoor open-air public space for active and/or passive recreational uses serving the needs of local residents

as well as the general public, and some 3.75 hectares of land at Tai Po Kau are zoned "Recreation Priority Area" for eco-tourism related recreational developments for the use of general public.

About 188.74 hectares of land are zoned "Other Specified Uses" for specific uses which mainly include railway stations and railway track, business, golf course, industrial estate, and historical building and site, etc.

About 43.50 hectares of land covering Fung Yuen Valley and the Tai Po Egrettry are zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest" to conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest. Another 75.49 hectares of land including the Tolo Pond Mangrove, the Pai Mun Shan Area, the Tai Po Kau Headland and its adjacent inter tidal ponds are zoned "Conservation Area" to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographic features. About 5.73 hectares of land within Tai Mo Shan Country Park are zoned "Country Park" and development control is carried out under the Country Parks Ordinance.

About 1 262.54 hectares of land covering mainly steep hillsides in the peripheral areas are zoned "Green Belt" primarily for defining the limits of urban and sub-urban development areas by natural features and to contain urban sprawl as well as to provide passive recreational outlets.

The approved Tai Po OZP No. S/TP/28 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board; the Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin; the Sha Tin, Tai Po and North District Planning Office; the Tai Po District Office; and the Tai Po Rural Committee.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).