

# \$16m survey to pinpoint residential areas

By Fiona Holland

DILAPIDATED urban areas targeted for redevelopment are to be surveyed with the aim of building flats, the Planning Department says.

The \$16 million survey, the first of its kind in the world, was sparked by last year's housing shortage and the dwindling number of sites available for redevelopment.

Speaking at the end-of-year

review yesterday, Director of Planning Dr Peter Pun said urban areas such as Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Wan Chai and To Kwa Wan would be assessed first.

The two-part study, due for completion in mid-1996, will for the first time document every building in the territory, focusing on redevelopment potential.

Principal Government Town Planner/Territorial Ted Pryor

said urban areas were not being used to their full potential.

"The sort of sites we are looking for will be the under-utilised sites, five and six-storey tenements tucked away all over the place," he said.

The survey will first deal with the metro area where areas ripe for redevelopment have already been identified.

"The big problem with re-

vamp schemes is they are not financially viable," he said.

Amalgamating sites and linking financially non-viable and cost effective projects together was one avenue being explored.

"The problem has been in the past we have had to make certain assumptions about the amount of residential accommodation we think we can get out of redevelopment" Mr Pryor said.

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