

# **Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island**

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For discussion  
on 19 May 2014

TFHK/04/2014

## **Proposed New Piazza Fronting City Gallery and City Hall**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper seeks Members' comments on the proposed project to develop a new piazza fronting City Gallery and City Hall ("the Piazza").

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Planning Department commenced the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront ("UDS") in 2007 to refine the existing urban design framework, and prepare planning and design briefs to guide the future development of the new Central harbourfront with a view to creating a world-class waterfront in Central for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

3. The final report of UDS was released in March 2011. Among other proposals, the UDS recommended that the Queen's Pier ("QP"), which was closed and dismantled for the Central Reclamation works, be reassembled by the Harbour between Central Piers 9 and 10 (i.e. Site 8 of new Central harbourfront) to revive its pier function for public use, and the original site of QP be designed to include memorial elements through paving and landscaping to commemorate the old QP.

4. This Piazza project aims to implement the UDS recommendations.

### **THE PIAZZA**

#### ***Location***

5. The Piazza will be approximately 6 850 m<sup>2</sup> in size, covering the original site of QP, part of the Edinburgh Place fronting City Gallery and City Hall, and the northern strip of land bound by Lung Wo Road.

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## ***Design***

6. The Piazza will preserve and revitalize Edinburgh Place, reinterpret the key elements that contribute to the history of QP, and provide quality open space and performance venue for public enjoyment. The key design features are highlighted below –

- (a) shallow water features to reflect the old coastline;
- (b) a new canopy at the original site of QP near the entrance to the Piazza and a feature wall mounted with etched-on photos and text to explain the history of the old QP;
- (c) paving pattern to emphasize the central ceremonial axis facing the existing flag poles and parade stage;
- (d) ample shaded seating near the northern boundary with good vantage points towards the Central Business District landmark buildings;
- (e) green lawns for resting, timber boardwalk along water features for leisure walking and a pavilion in the passive zone;
- (f) amphitheatre for outdoor performances and the central area for occasional events or performance in the active zone;
- (g) preservation of all existing trees at the site at their original positions and a new row of trees along the opposite side of the existing row to provide a strong axis for parades and ceremonies to the open space in the middle of Edinburgh Place; and
- (h) a new ramp to replace the existing steps from the car lay-by at Lung Wo Road to the Piazza to enable barrier-free access.

The location plan, site plan and photomontages are at **Annex**.

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## ***Harbour Planning Principles***

7. Harbour Planning Principles have been duly considered in the planning and design process of the project, and are highlighted below-

### **(a) Stakeholder Engagement**

The Planning Department conducted two stages of public engagement for the UDS from May to September 2007 and April to August 2008 through an open, transparent, and collaborative process to ensure that the urban design framework formulated meets public aspirations. The Piazza aims to implement the recommendation of UDS to refurbish Edinburgh Place and commemorate the history of QP at its original location by including memorial elements through paving and landscaping design.

Apart from HC, the Central and Western District Council and other relevant stakeholders (such as cultural sector) will be consulted on the proposal.

### **(b) Sustainable Development**

The Piazza embraces the principles of sustainable development in the planning and design process. It is designed to promote vibrancy by bringing in diversity of activities, improve accessibility with multiple access points and barrier-free access, and revitalize the underutilized public space with quality design and visual variety, hard and soft landscape features and sufficient shaded area and seating. All existing trees will also be preserved on the site at their original positions.

### **(c) Integrated Planning and Public Enjoyment**

Edinburgh Place and the original QP location are currently bare open area without leisure facilities. The Piazza aims to enhance the area by providing a quality open space for public enjoyment round-the-clock, with green lawn and sheltered seating in the passive zone and design features like amphitheatre and performance area for cultural and ceremonial events, performances and exhibitions in the active zone.

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Having regard to the site location and its historical background, the Piazza seeks to integrate cultural and leisure facilities and create synergy with the City Hall, and to include unique design features that are compatible with the history of the site to meet the social aspirations, such as the water features to reflect the old shoreline, the canopy and feature wall to commemorate the history of the old QP, and the emphasis of the central ceremonial axis in Edinburgh Place.

## **(d) Accessible Harbour**

The Piazza will become one of the key connection points between the Central hinterland and the harbourfront upon completion. To enhance connectivity, there will be multiple pedestrian accesses to the site (including barrier-free access) and at-grade connections to the adjacent sites and the harbourfront. Apart from the existing at-grade crossing at the corner of the site, the proposed design will also leave room for the construction of a future footbridge across Lung Wo Road that connects the Piazza to Site 4 of the new Central harbourfront.

## ***Historical Impact Assessment***

8. As the site area is located within the 50m periphery of the City Hall (Grade 1 historical building), Architectural Services Department has appointed a heritage consultant to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment and submitted a report to Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”). AMO has advised that the report has addressed its concerns over heritage preservation and the proposed design of the Piazza would be compatible with the Grade 1 City Hall building with no adverse impact on it.

## ***Management***

9. The Leisure & Cultural Services Department will take over the Piazza for management after completion. It is expected to be opened to the public round the clock.

## **REASSEMBLY OF QUEEN’S PIER**

10. UDS proposed that the old QP be reassembled by the Harbour between Central Piers 9 and 10 to revive its pier function for public use.

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Following the completion of UDS in 2011, the Government has been gradually taking forward the recommendations. In the past two years, preparatory work has been done to study the technical feasibility of reassembling QP, including the design and carrying capacity of the existing sea wall, and the reinforcement works required of the sea wall for the reassembled QP to meet the operational requirement. The Civil Engineering and Development Department is now in the process of engaging consultants for the design and supervision of the reassembly works, and will consult the Harbourfront Commission and the Central and Western District Council when the detailed design is available. The consultancy is expected to start in mid-2014. Construction works are currently scheduled for commencement in 2016 for completion in 2018.

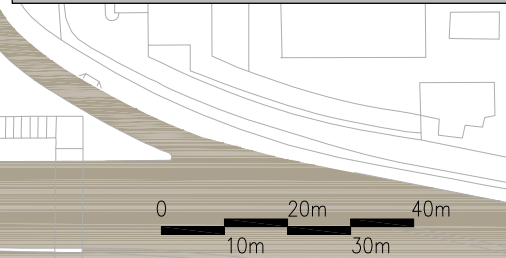
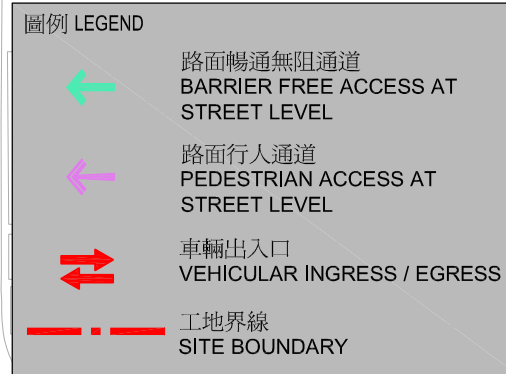
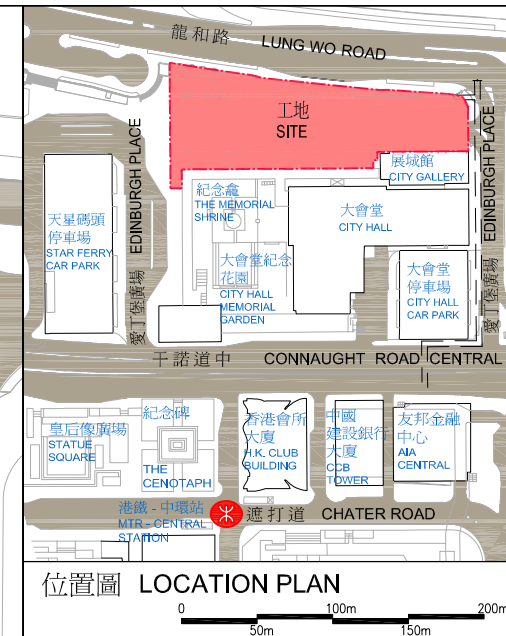
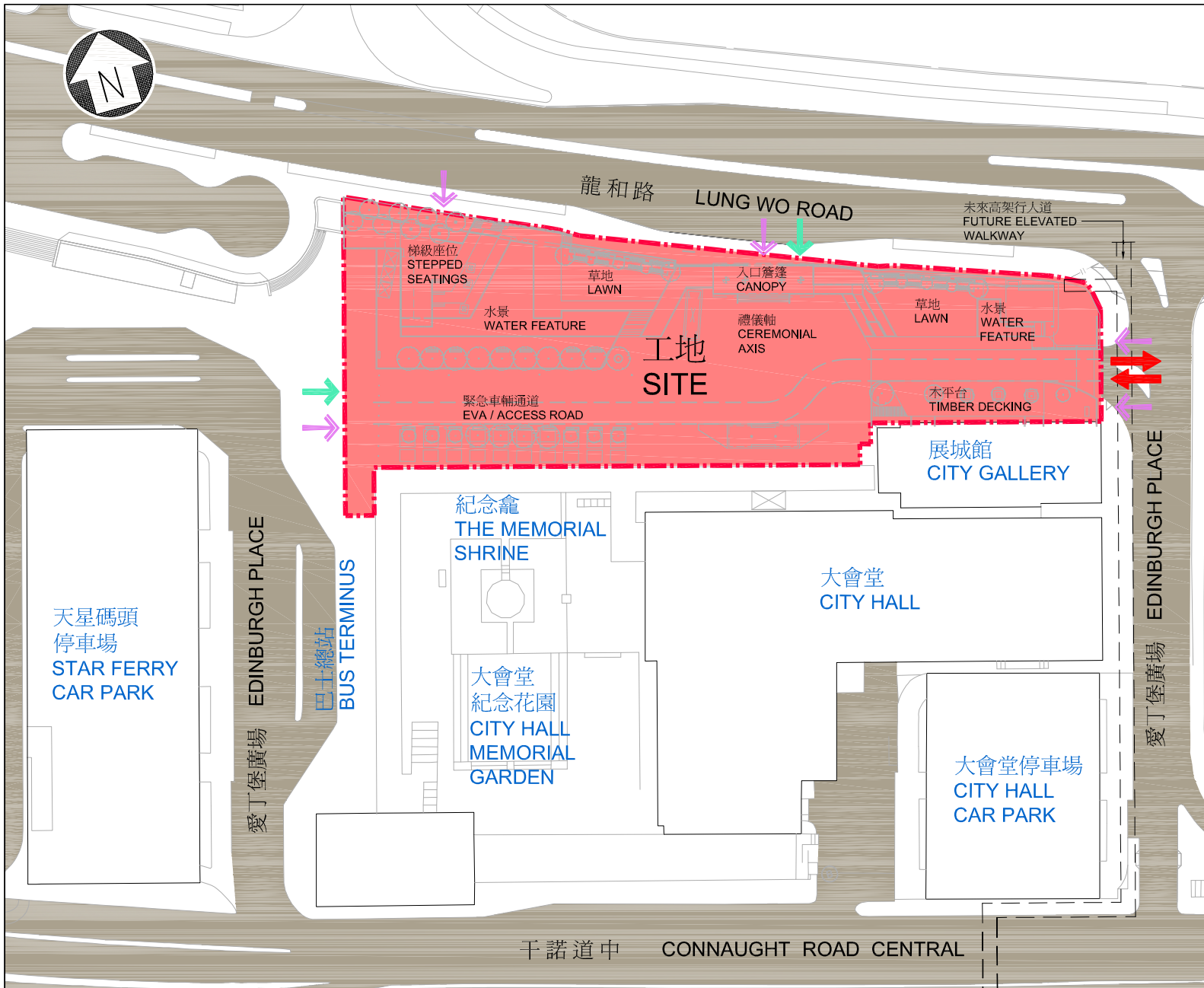
## **IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE**

11. Subject to public support for the project and funding approval by the Legislative Council, construction works for the Piazza are currently scheduled for commencement in late 2015 for completion in early 2018.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

12. Members are invited to note the background of the proposed project and offer comments.

**Development Bureau  
Architectural Services Department  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
May 2014**



工地平面圖  
SITE PLAN

RO447  
前臨大會堂 / 展城館及愛丁堡廣場美化工程  
Beautification works in front of City Hall/ City Gallery and Edinburgh Place



從西北面望向美化工程  
 PERSPECTIVE VIEW NORTH WEST DIRECTION  
 (ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)

RO447  
 前臨大會堂 / 展城館及愛丁堡廣場美化工程  
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 (ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)

RO447  
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入口處構思透視圖  
PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF ENTRANCE  
(ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)

RO447  
前臨大會堂 / 展城館及愛丁堡廣場美化工程  
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發展藍圖  
LAYOUT PLAN

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前臨大會堂 / 展城館及愛丁堡廣場美化工程  
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