

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

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For discussion  
on 24 November 2015

TFHK/15/2015

## **The Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas**

### **Study Progress – Preliminary Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the latest progress of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas (the Study).

#### **STUDY PROGRESS**

##### Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals

2. Taking into account the public views/comments collected from the Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) and Members' views and suggestions received from the previous briefings, the Study Team has formulated preliminary HEPs mainly covering the waterfront activities/ facilities/ attractions; pedestrian connectivity / circulation; landscape and streetscape enhancement proposals in the five character precincts.

3. The preliminary HEPs have been presented and discussed in the third Working Group on the Study (WGUDS) Meeting held on 2 November 2015. Members' general comments are briefly summarized below:

- (a) The HEPs and the design should allow highest degree of flexibility on the use of the waterfront for various activities;
- (b) The waterfront should be "shared" by different users including pedestrians, children, elderly, pets and cyclists without physical boundaries or separations;
- (c) Provision of cycle track/facilities was generally supported. Some Members requested a continuous cycle track throughout the whole stretch of the waterfront while some Members noted there were site

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constraints in some points hindering a continuous cycle track along the waterfront. The Study Team was advised to clarify the design standards being adopted for the cycle track and the reasons why cycle track could not be provided throughout the whole stretch of the waterfront;

- (d) Pedestrian connectivity at all levels (i.e. at grade, under-ground and above-ground levels) was primarily important;
- (e) Distinct characters should be strengthened at the Revitalized Typhoon Shelter Precinct and the East Coast Park Precinct;
- (f) Food and beverage facilities should be provided in the waterfront areas; and
- (g) Timeline for implementation of the HEPs, both in short and long terms, should be worked out.

### Design Ideas Competition

4. The Design Ideas Competition was launched on 29 October 2015. The objective of the Competition is to engage tertiary education students and young professionals in planning, urban design, architecture and landscape design fields in the study process and invite them to express their aspirations and innovative ideas about the harbourfront. The panel of judges<sup>1</sup> has been formed. Details of the competition including the competition objectives and requirements, entry eligibility, competition schedule, prize, etc. are set out in the Competition Brief which is finalized with panel judges' comments incorporated. A briefing session has been held on 6 November 2015 with attendance of about 23 potential participants. The deadline for submissions is set on 11 January 2016. The winning entries will be displayed for public's reference during the Stage 2 PE. More details about the Competition are available on the Competition webpage (<http://www.wcnpuds.hk/web/DesignComp>).

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<sup>1</sup> The panel judges include Mr. Nicholas BROOKE (Chairman of Harbourfront Commission); Mr. Kim On CHAN (Council Member of Hong Kong Institute of Planners); Mr. Vincent NG (President of Hong Kong Institute of Architects); Dr. Peter Cookson SMITH (President of Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design); and Mr. Tak WONG (President of Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects).

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## **WAY FORWARD**

5. The Study Team is refining the HEPs taking into account both comments from Members as well as the government departments. The refined HEPs will be presented to Members in the next WGUDS Meeting. The Study Team will also prepare for the Stage 2 PE, which is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2016.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

6. Members are invited to note the study progress and offer further comments on the Study.

**Planning Department  
November 2015**