

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

For discussion
on 22 September 2016

TFK/05/2016

Progress Update on the West Kowloon Cultural District

PURPOSE

This paper serves to update Members on the development progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District (“WKCD”) and the revised scheme for the Artist Square Bridge (“ASB”).

BACKGROUND

2. At the meeting of the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (the “Task Force”) on 13 May 2015, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (“WKCDA”) reported the draft WKCD (Public Open Spaces) Bylaw¹. A further briefing for the Task Force was held on 9 November 2015 on the progress of key developments within WKCD, including the Xiqu Centre, the Artist Square Development Area (“ASDA”), the ASB and the Park. Progress of key development initiatives in WKCD since our last report is highlighted in the following paragraphs.

PROGRESS OF KEY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN WKCD

Xiqu Centre

3. Xiqu Centre will be a world-class arts venue specifically built for xiqu (Chinese opera) performances, and it will also be a centre for the production, education and research of this unique art form. Construction works on Xiqu Centre have been moving ahead smoothly since the commencement of foundation and superstructure works in September 2013. The target completion date (i.e. issuance of Occupation Permit) is in 2017.

¹ The Public Open Spaces Bylaw was submitted to the Legislative Council for vetting and subsequently gazetted in June 2016.

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Artist Square Development Area (“ASDA”)

4. The ASDA, comprising M+, Lyric Theatre Complex, other arts and cultural facilities (“OACF”), retail/dining/entertainment (“RDE”) facilities as well as hotel/office/residential (“HOR”) developments, will form a “mini-WKCD” supported by a balanced mix of various land uses to facilitate “destination building” in the early phase of WKCD development.

5. Works on M+, a new museum for visual art in Hong Kong, are well underway. Foundation works were completed in the third quarter of 2015, followed by the commencement of superstructure works. The venue is targeted for completion in 2018 and opening in 2019. The Conservation and Storage Facilities of M+ and the OACF/RDE building located to the north of M+ building are also targeted for completion in 2018.

6. Foundation works for the Lyric Theatre Complex and associated basement commenced in January 2016. Detailed design of the LTC is expected to complete by end of 2016 and completion of the venue is estimated to be around 2020.

Artist Square Bridge (“ASB”)

7. The ASB will serve as a pedestrian link between the MTR Kowloon Station/Elements shopping mall and the Artist Square of ASDA in WKCD. In order to enhance pedestrian connectivity with WKCD developments and provide more space on the footpath at Austin Road West westbound for pedestrians, the originally proposed staircase and lift tower in the authorised scheme for the ASB will be moved from the said footpath to the HOR building at Parcel P34. The revised design of ASB is shown in **Annex A**. Pending the necessary statutory process and Legislative Council (“LegCo”)’s funding approval, the construction of ASB is targeted to commence in the second quarter of 2017.

The Park

8. Construction of the Park commenced in July 2016 with phased target completion from end 2017 to end 2018. The dedication ceremony of the M+ Pavilion, the first permanent venue in the WKCD for exhibition of arts events,

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was held in July 2016.

9. To facilitate the construction of the Park, majority of the existing waterfront promenade has been closed since mid-2016 to synchronise with the development programme. During this construction period, the Nursery Park and the adjoining northern portion of the waterfront promenade will remain open. A temporary extension of the existing pet zone is also open for public enjoyment.

Proposed Marine Access

10. In order to promote WKCD as a waterfront destination and improve accessibility to the district, the Pier Concept Design and Business Case Study (“the Study”) has been commissioned to examine the opportunities to allow marine access at various points along the waterfront. The Study explores the feasibility of general marine access provision in WKCD with due compliance of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap. 531), including temporary pontoons in the short term as well as the potential of developing a proper pier as a permanent marine access solution which is considered essential for the overall district image and development in the longer term. Initial study findings are expected in the fourth quarter of 2016 / first quarter of 2017 and a further briefing to the Task Force will be arranged in due course.

ADVICE SOUGHT

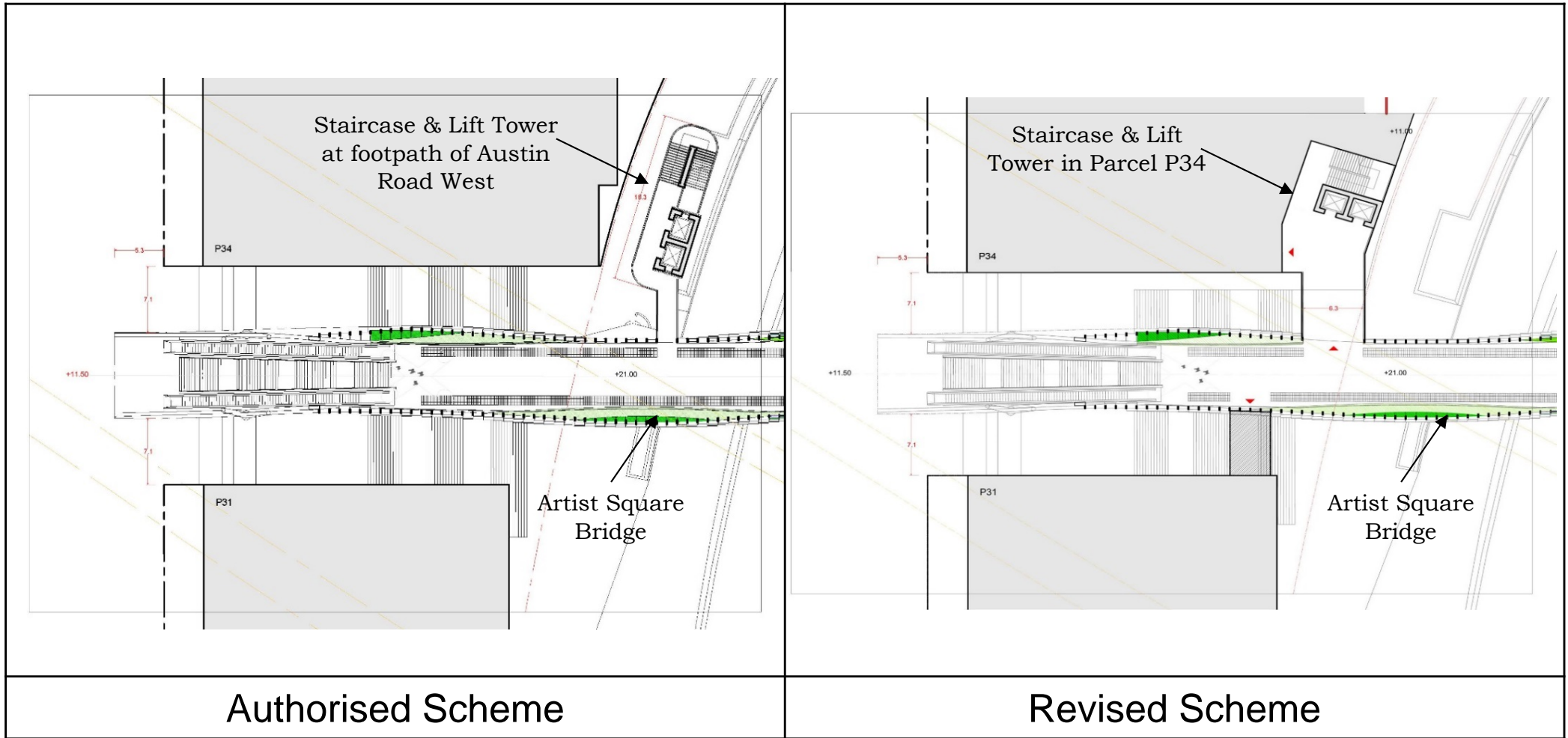
11. Members are invited to note the progress of the WKCD development and the revised scheme of ASB.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
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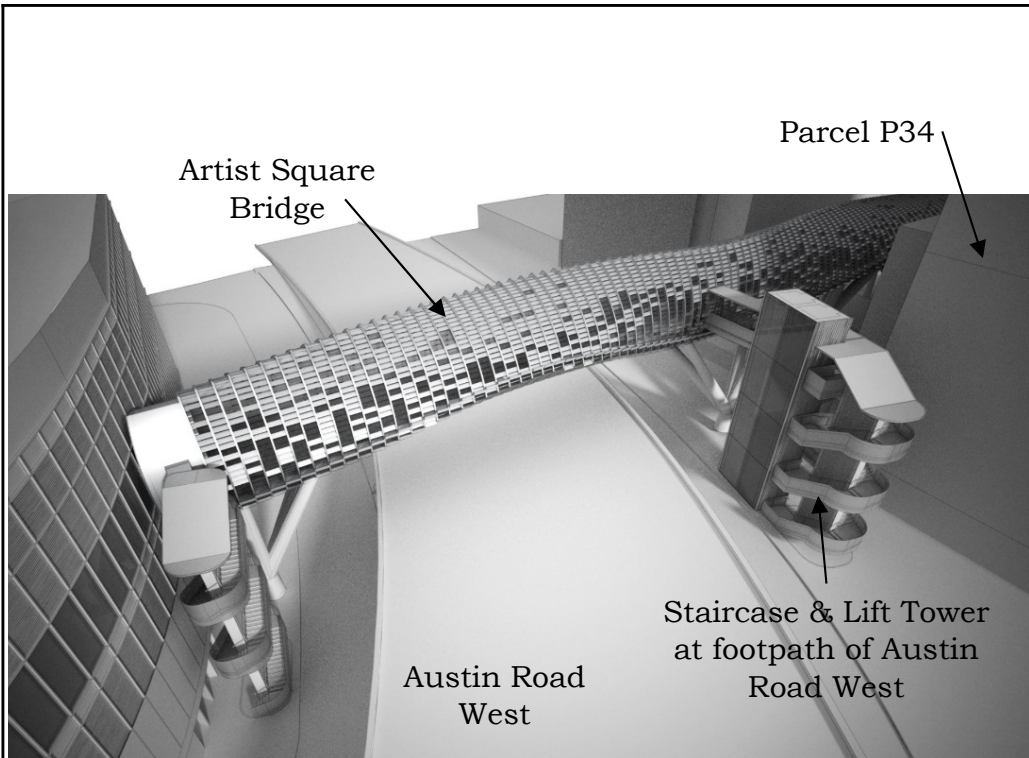
Elevation of Artist Square Bridge



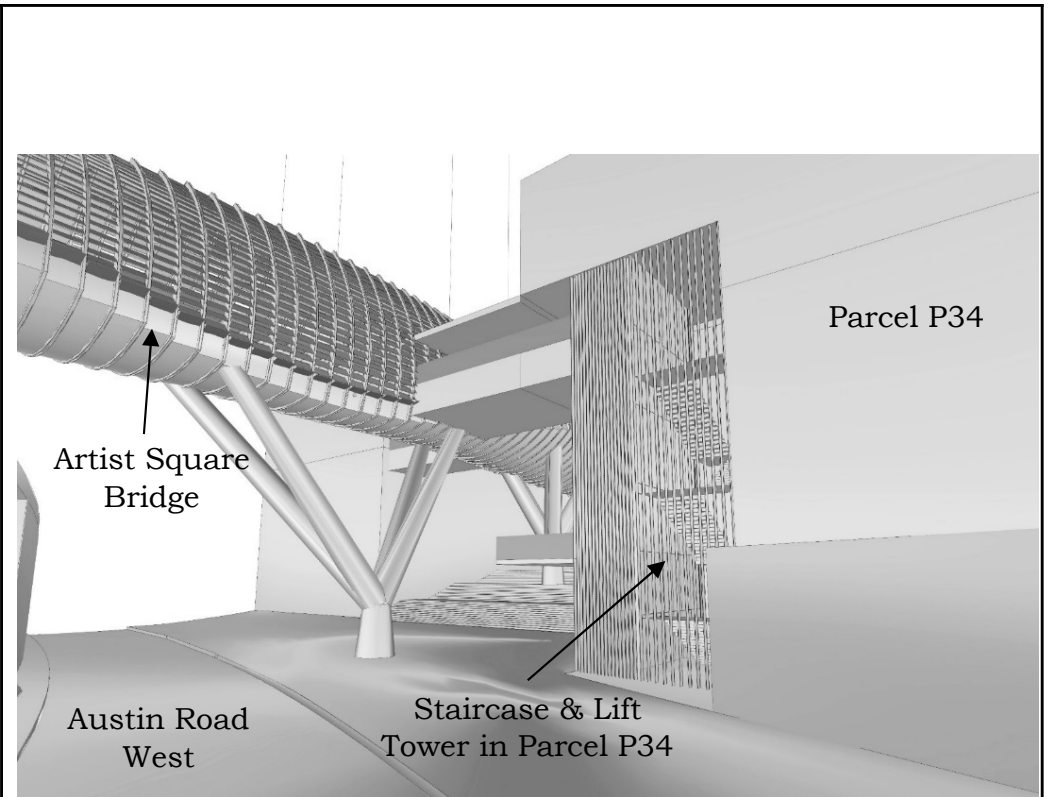
Layout of Artist Square Bridge (Comparison between Authorised Scheme and Revised Scheme)



Photomontage of Artist Square Bridge (Comparison between Authorised Scheme and Revised Scheme)



Authorised Scheme



Revised Scheme