

# Harbourfront Commission

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For discussion  
on 13 December 2016

HC/16/2016

## **Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island**

### **REPORTING PERIOD**

This progress report covers the period from July to November 2016.

### **MEETING(S) HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Twenty Fourth Meeting – 19 October 2016

2. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items –

**(a) Temporary on-street metered parking for coaches at Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong**

- Eastern District Office, Hong Kong Police Force and the Transport Department (TD) briefed Members on the findings of a review on the effectiveness of the temporary measure of using a vacant site at Hoi Yu Street in Quarry Bay as a laagering point for coaches.
- Some Members opined that improvement of traffic condition along Java Road was a result of the active enforcement conducted by the police. Some supported the measure as it helped alleviate illegal parking of coaches along Java Road. After discussion, the Task Force considered that temporary measure should no longer continue after the coach parking spaces in the private development at the ex-North Point Estate site were opened. TD was suggested to work with the developer of the private development to open coach parking places in phases to enable early release of the site at Hoi Yu Street.

**(b) Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas – Study Progress: Stage 2 Public Engagement**

- The Planning Department (PlanD) reported the latest progress of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas, including the activities of the Stage 2 Public Engagement (PE2) exercise, which was completed in August 2016. The study team also briefed Members on the key public comments received during PE2.
- Members offered further comments on proposed land and marine uses in the East Coast Park Precinct and the former Wan Chai Public Cargo Working Area basin; provision of alfresco dining facilities, cycle track, roadside public car parking facilities and water-land interface facilities; and pedestrian connections from the hinterland to the waterfront. PlanD was asked to take into account Members' comments when refining the harbourfront enhancement proposals.

**(c) Draft Planning Brief for the “Comprehensive Development Area” Zone at Site 3 of the New Central Harbourfront**

- The Development Bureau and PlanD briefed Members on the draft planning brief (PB) for the “Comprehensive Development Area” zone at Site 3 of the new Central harbourfront.
- From harbourfront planning perspective, Members opined that the moderate development intensity and restricted building height profile that was adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront (UDS) were welcomed. Some Members were encouraged by the use of underground space while some considered that underground space with a small floor area in each land parcel used for retail might not be desirable. The deep excavation works required for constructing underground structures could be costly and environmentally unfriendly.
- Some Members enquired the feasibility of retaining the existing General Post Office (GPO) building. Members noted and agreed that public views as expressed in the UDS process should be respected, though for some, the building

(or just its façade) could be an interesting architecture to be incorporated into the future development. The Government might wish to consider allowing the future proponent to decide whether to demolish the GPO building, retain part of it, or integrate it with the overall architectural scheme.

- Members also raised detailed comments and suggestions on the proposed provision of pedestrian connections, public open space, transport facilities and reconstruction of the Star Ferry Clock Tower. Some Members opined that a two-stage tender approach should be adopted and potential bidders should submit a conceptual architectural design as part of their tender submission. The tender assessment should include evaluation of design proposals in addition to premium offers. One member suggested that the opportunity should be afforded to the community to provide comments on the preferred design.
- Subsequent to the meeting, a design workshop was organised on 2 November 2016 for Members to contribute further on the draft planning brief. Attending Members agreed that some of the comments on detailed design of future development and disposal mechanism could be handled separately from the draft planning brief. Members expected the Government to further study the feasibility of the suggested two-stage tender approach.

**(d) Proposed Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor – Progress Update**

- The Civil Engineering and Development Department briefed Members on the major findings of the Stage 1 Community Engagement (CE) for the proposed boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) and seeks members' views on the recommended scheme for consulting the public during the Stage 2 CE.
- Members noted the public support expressed during Stage 1 CE for taking forward the construction of the proposed boardwalk. They suggested that the proposed design of the boardwalk should be simple with diversified facilities to suit the needs of different users such as joggers, cyclists and pet owners. CEDD was asked to further refine the design taking into account Members' comments.

**(e) Enhancement Works of Leisure Angling Ancillary Facilities in Central and Western District Promenade**

- The Leisure and Cultural Services Department briefed Members on the proposed enhancement works to install angling facilities along the Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section).
- Members in general supported the initiative. Some opined that ancillary facilities such as rod holders, lighting and water fountain could be provided in other parts of the promenade to enrich the public enjoyment experience. The locations selected to provide additional seating should be reviewed. LCSD was asked to take into account Members' comments when taking forward the initiative.

**Secretariat**

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