

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

For discussion
on 22 February 2023

TFHK/01/2023

Public Open Space at Celebration Precinct

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the proposed schematic design for the development of the public open space at Celebration Precinct ("CP") in Wan Chai.

BACKGROUND

2. A number of major infrastructural works, including Wan Chai Development Phase II, Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Shatin to Central Link, have been implemented progressively in Wan Chai harbourfront in recent years. To explore the suitable uses of the reclaimed land to be released from these projects upon their completion, the Planning Department had commissioned the "Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas" ("Urban Design Study") for working out a sustainable urban design framework for the relative sites. The Urban Design Study was completed in October 2019 after two rounds of extensive public engagement exercises. Members were briefed of its findings at the 35th Meeting on 9 December 2019. Among others, the Urban Design Study has proposed to develop the CP, with which the Government has subsequently earmarked dedicated funding for its implementation. The site is zoned "Open Space" and "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Exhibition Centre" on the Wan Chai North Outline Zoning Plan.

3. The CP is one of the five Character Precincts raised in the Urban Design Study, covering the harbourfront area outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre ("HKCEC"). The design intention is to facelift the area to enhance its identity and

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public enjoyment, in order that the ceremonial significance of the Golden Bauhinia Square could be reinforced.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

4. The CP will have a total area of about 1.85 hectares and a promenade with a total length of about 490 metres. Please refer to the location plan at **Annex 1**. Given its prime location in the Victoria Harbour, the Harbour Office of the Development Bureau has been working with the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) in devising a suitable design for the site, namely the “Public Open Space at Celebration Precinct Project” (“the Project”).

5. The Project aims to preserve and highlight the solemn identity and character of this unique ceremonial place where major official ceremonies are held on particular days of the year. The Project also aims to revitalize the waterfront promenade and the adjoining open space, and turn the area into a dynamic and welcoming urban space that can be enjoyed by all members of the public.

6. Besides, the Project will provide a potentially continuous “Share-use zone” for both cyclists and pedestrians leading to the Pierside Precinct to the east; and the West Landscaped Deck via the Connector (formerly known as the Advance Promenade (from Central & Western District Promenade (Central Section) to the HKCEC)) to the west.

7. The Project comprises three parts, namely the Celebration Plaza, the City View Plaza and the Sunset Plaza. The Celebration Plaza is located on the East side of CP with a connection to the Pierside Precinct, whereas the Sunset Plaza on the West side connects to the Central Harbourfront. The City View Plaza sits

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between the two abovementioned Plazas. Detailed project highlights of these three Plazas are in the following paragraphs.

Celebration Plaza

8. The design of the Celebration Plaza aims to create a civic square with proper ceremonial setting. Green promenade would be introduced at both sides of the entrance gateway to emphasize a sense of arrival. At the centre of the plaza, the Forever Blooming Bauhinia Sculpture and flag poles would be raised on a new and elevated platform to highlight their importance. The whole plaza area would be expanded with greenery at the peripheral to embody the ceremonial space and to screen off undesirable building façade.

City View Plaza

9. The City View Plaza aims to provide the public with several open lawn, including the area around the Monument in Commemoration of Hong Kong's Return to China for better viewing and appreciation of the monument. The Plaza will also provide continuous broad walk under shade for multi-purpose activities. Viewing platforms and steps would be designed at different locations to connect the public to the waterfront. Step seating will also be provided along the promenade for the enjoyment of the harbour view.

Sunset Plaza

10. For the Sunset Plaza, the existing VIP drop-off for HKCEC thereat would remain unchanged. Pavement along the promenade would be widened to create a more proper area for the public to enjoy the sunset view.

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PROJECT SCOPES

11. ArchSD has completed the technical feasibility study for developing the site. The master planning design is at **Annex 2**, and the main facilities include –

- (a) three themed plazas, namely the Celebration Plaza, the City View Plaza and the Sunset Plaza;
- (b) a promenade with widened landscaped areas (e.g. Sunset Promenade) to enhance public enjoyment and convenience;
- (c) shading and rain shelters with seating benches, as well as light refreshment kiosks that can enhance visitors' experience without undermining the ceremonial status of the CP;
- (d) “Share-use zone” for both cyclists and pedestrians within the precinct;
- (e) viewing platforms and seating steps along the City View Plaza; and
- (f) ancillary facilities (including lighting facilities, face-lift the toilets to provide a holistic overall design, drinking fountains, baby care rooms, management facilities, etc.).

HARBOUR PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

12. Consideration has been given to the following Harbour Planning Principles in carrying out the design for the Project:-

(a) Preserving Victoria Harbour and Public Enjoyment

The Project is one of the five Character Precincts proposed under the Urban Design Study. Upon completion, it will provide a revitalised and dignified ceremonial venue for official

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functions and a beautified open space with better facilities for public enjoyment to capitalise on this prime, central harbourfront location that can take in the panoramic harbour view.

(b) Stakeholder Engagement

An open and collaborative approach was adopted in the two stages of public engagement held under the Urban Design Study. Public views collected have been suitably incorporated into the design of the Project. We target to consult the Wan Chai District Council on the proposed schematic design in March 2023.

(c) Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning

Sustainable design concept has been adopted in order to retain and, only when needed, uplift the existing facilities within the project area as far as practicable. In planning the implementation programme, an integrated approach has also been adopted such that the CP would be partially opened to the public during the construction period.

(d) Proactive Harbour Enhancement

The completed project will be capitalising on its unique ceremonial significance as a prime venue to hold major official ceremonies. At the same time, the area will become a welcoming open space for the public, offering a range of waterfront experiences, including spaces for social interaction, arts, appreciating the views of the city, the sunset, fireworks, etc. This area will allow a variety of settings for ceremonies, gathering, rest and public arts appreciation.

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(e) Vibrant Harbour

Shared use design has been adopted for allowing more types of activities and maximising harbourfront vibrancy. The waterfront promenade and open space will be shared among different users of different ages and interests, including pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, pets and their owners, the physically challenged, etc. Suitable signage, road markings, distinct surface materials and design features will be provided. Also, the existing landing steps within the project area and the adjoining cruise pier allow marine activities and connect people to the water.

(f) Accessible Harbour

The design of the Project has taken into account of the connection interface with the adjacent Pierside Precinct and the West Landscaped Deck via the Advance Promenade from Central & Western District Promenade (Central Section) to the HKCEC. The whole precinct will be open to the public 24 hours-a-day. Thus, the use of perimeter fencing at the site boundary is avoided in order to provide round-the-clock accessibility.

WAY FORWARD

13. We will make reference to the views of Members in carrying out the detailed design work. Meanwhile, we will also continue to liaise with various stakeholders and gauge their views so as to provide more responsive facilities for users.

14. Subject to the progress of funding approval of the Legislative Council, the works are expected to commence in 2024. The whole project is expected to be completed in 2027. The

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works will be completed in phases so as to enable early opening of completed facilities for public enjoyment.

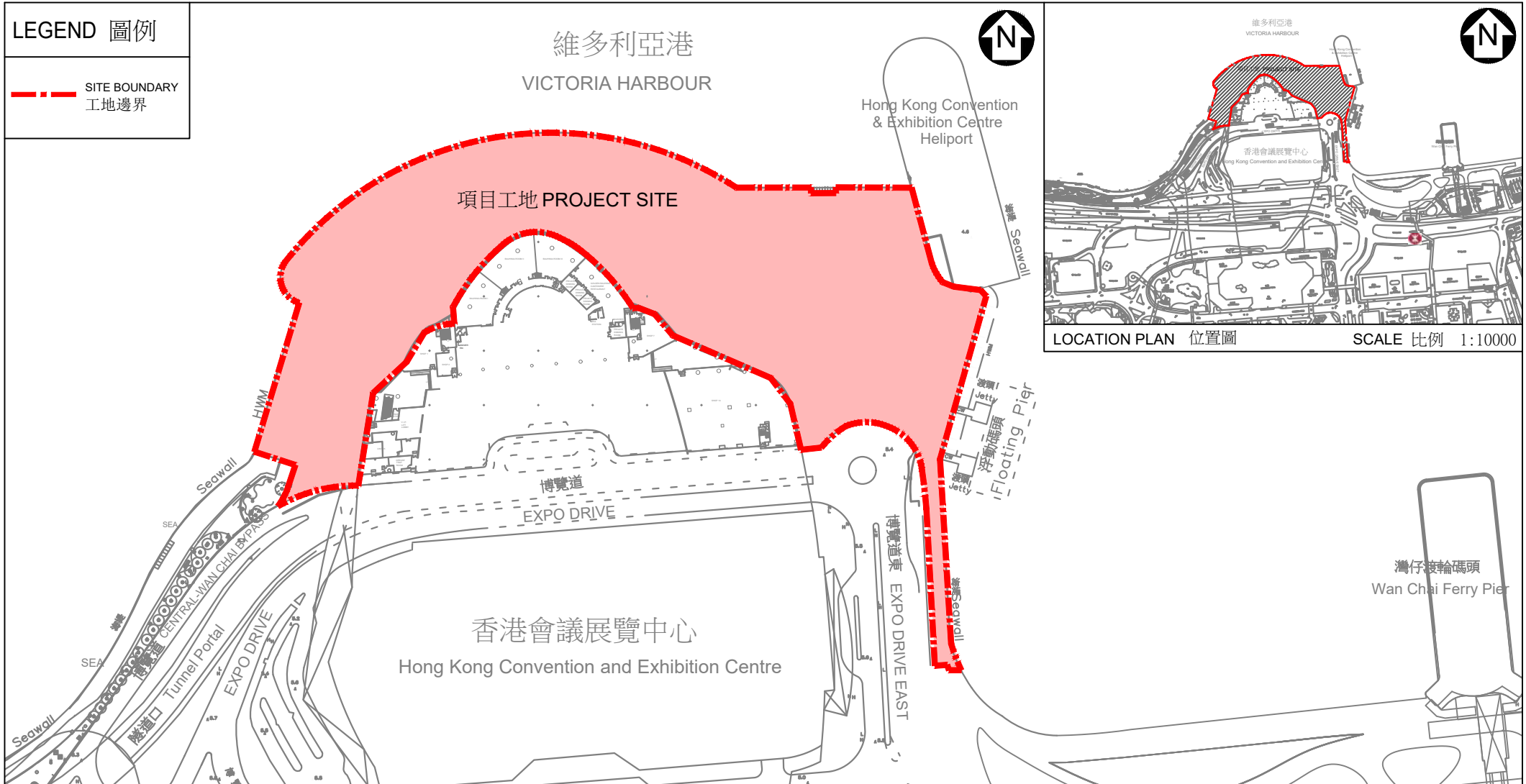
ADVICE SOUGHT

15. Members are invited to note the schematic design of the Project and provide comments on the above proposals.

ATTACHMENTS

- Annex 1** Location plan
- Annex 2** Master Layout Plan

**Harbour Office
Development Bureau
February 2023**



<p>drawing title</p> <p>LOCATION PLAN</p> <p>位置圖</p>	<p>479 RO</p> <p>PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT CELEBRATION PRECINCT WAN CHAI</p> <p>灣仔慶典主題區公眾休憩用地</p>
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建議整體規劃平面圖 Proposed Master Layout Plan

