

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

For discussion
on 29 February 2016

TFHK/02/2016

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

Study Progress and Proposed Stage 2 Public Engagement Work Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to brief Members on the latest progress of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas (the Study) including the proposed Stage 2 Public Engagement (PE) work plan.

STUDY PROGRESS

2. The Task Force was updated in the last meeting held in November 2015 that the Study has proceeded to the stage of formulation of the Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals (HEPs) and the Study Team had presented the preliminary ideas of the HEPs to Members in the third Working Group on the Study (WGUDS) Meeting. The Study Team is now refining the HEPs taking into account Members' comments, and liaising with relevant Government departments on details for the HEPs particularly with regards to the implementation arrangements. Further interviews with several key stakeholders along the waterfront including the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC), Hong Kong Electric, etc. are being arranged to solicit their views on the future waterfront design. In parallel, technical assessments including traffic and transport review, visual and landscape impact assessment, sustainability assessment, air ventilation assessment and business viability study are being conducted to ascertain the feasibility of the HEPs. The Study Team will present the refined HEPs to the WGUDS in due course..

3. In the last Task Force meeting, Members suggested to consult relevant water sports and recreation organizations. Subsequently on 9 December 2015,

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the Study Team met with the Hong Kong Water Sports Council (HKWSC)¹ with the presence of representatives from the RHKYC, Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association, Hong Kong Canoe Union, Hong Kong China Rowing Association and Hong Kong Sailing Federation. In the meeting, the representatives shared their concerns and difficulties in organizing sports events, which included insufficient land area for public gathering/viewing, lack of landing steps, pontoons, changing facilities, etc. They emphasized the crucial need of having landing steps and pontoons in order to allow safe access between land and water. They also offered suggestions including the building of a permanent water sports centre along the waterfront to support mega or international water events. HKWSC's comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration in refining the HEPs. Recognizing that water sports and recreation organizations are key stakeholders in the planning of the waterfront, we shall include a focus group meeting (FGM) specifically for water sports and recreation-related groups during Stage 2 PE to allow a more interactive dialogue with the water sports users. The list of the water sports and recreation-related organizations to be invited to the FGM will be circulated to Members later.

4. We have reported to Members in the last progress report on the launch of Design Ideas Competition. Submissions for the Competition were invited on 29 October 2015 from young professionals to contribute innovative design ideas to the HEPs. Not only can this stimulate new ideas, but can engender wider participation of the community in the Study, especially those of the younger generation. Upon the deadline for submissions on 11 January 2016, a total of 35 entries were received. The adjudication of the entries² was conducted on 19 February 2016. Some creative and innovative suggestions were observed and there are some common popular elements including urban beach, art corridor, observation deck, use of the bauhinia pattern to design the Golden Bauhinia Square, etc. The good ideas put forward under these entries will be taken into account in refining the HEPs.

¹ *The HKWSC informed that HKWSC was an umbrella organization whose members were presenting different associations covering dragon boat, sailing, rowing, canoeing, triathlon, life saving, water skiing and wake boarding.*

² *The panel judges include the Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission and representatives of the key professional institutes.*

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STAGE TWO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORK PLAN – ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

5. In addition, the Study Team is preparing for Stage 2 PE which aims to engage the public in building consensus on the HEPs. Stage 2 PE is scheduled to commence in Q2 2016, while some pre-PE activities would also be arranged. The ideas on activities and events for Stage 2 PE and work programme are outlined below:

Stage 2 Public Engagement		
Events/ Activities	Details	Target Launch Date
Stakeholder Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder interviews are being arranged to solicit initial ideas/thoughts of the waterfront stakeholders on the HEPs. - Targeted stakeholders include HKCEC, RHKYC, Hong Kong Electric, Trade Development Council, MTR Corporation, etc. 	February to April 2016
Design Ideas Competition (Prize-giving Ceremony and Exhibition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As mentioned in Paragraph 4 above, the adjudication of the entries was conducted on 19 February 2016. - Follow-up activities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a prize-giving ceremony which will be organized as one of the Stage 2 PE events, e.g. in the FGM for professional institutes; and (b) an exhibition of the 35 entries will be organized within the period of Stage 2 PE. 	May 2016
Focus Group Meetings (FGMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three FGMs will be organized for the following target groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional institutes; 	May/June 2016

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Stage 2 Public Engagement		
Events/ Activities	Details	Target Launch Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Arts, culture, and heritage-related groups; and 3. Water sports and recreation-related groups. 	
Resident Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In light of the positive responses received from the public on the resident workshops in Stage 1 PE, two resident workshops will be organized during Stage 2 PE. - The resident workshops will be open for participation by the general public. 	June/July 2016
Roving Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A roving exhibition in public venues will be organized to enhance public awareness of Stage 2 PE and invite public views and comments. - Locations of the public venues for the exhibition are currently being identified, and will be announced once it is confirmed. 	June/July 2016
Consultation with Boards and Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal consultations with the Wan Chai and Eastern District Councils would be arranged. 	June/July 2016

6. A bilingual consultation digest, together with a view collection form, is being prepared. Photomontage drawings will be included in the digest to facilitate public's understanding of the HEPs. Members' views on the digest would be sought separately. The Study website will be updated, which will continue to serve as an interactive platform for disseminating information, facilitating members of the public to review study materials, promoting PE events, and receiving community feedbacks during Stage 2 PE. Other

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consultation and publicity materials and tools such as animation and posters will be prepared.

7. Upon completion of Stage 2 PE, a public engagement report (PER2) will be produced to summarize all information and comments received during the Stage 2 PE process and indicate how the public views/proposals are to be addressed or whether they are adopted in the HEPs. The PER2 will be uploaded onto the Study website for public information.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the progress of the Study and offer comments and suggestions on the Stage 2 PE work plan.

Planning Department
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