

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

For discussion
on 5 May 2015

TFHK/05/2015

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

This paper is to report the progress of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas from February to April 2015.

MEETING/ACTIVITY HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with Working Group on Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas (WGUDS) cum Focus Group Meeting (FGM) – 31 March 2015

2. The WGUDS meeting cum FGM discussed the following issues –

(a) Study Progress and Proposed Public Engagement Work Plan

- Members were updated of the work the study team has done since the commencement of the UDS in late January 2015. The Consultants prepared and presented a baseline constraint plan and a draft urban design framework plan to WGUDS Members.
- The study team briefly outlined the PE work plan, highlighting that Stage 1 PE would gather public views on the urban design concepts/framework, and interviews with major stakeholders, focus group meetings (FGMs), while Stage 2 PE would focus on consulting the public on detailed urban design proposals for individual key sites and seeking specific comments from professional groups on implementation issues.
- Members generally welcomed ideas on engaging the public through on-site public events, but opined that the proposed Stage 1 PE should be undertaken in such a way to facilitate cross-sector discussion and interflow of ideas and views. Members also advised that the social media platforms should be suitably employed in the PE process in order to maximize public participation.

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- The study team noted Members' comments, and agreed to take on board Members' comments in arranging the PE.

(b) Focus Group Meeting

- The FGM was facilitated by Kadoorie Institute of The University of Hong Kong, focusing on two different topics, i.e. "Connection to the Waterfront" and "Activating the Edge/Embracing with Water". Both sessions were started off by a presentation given by the study team, followed by the interactive focus discussion with and among Members.
- Members stressed the importance of improving the East-West connectivity along the waterfront and North-South accessibility between the hinterland and the waterfront, especially the connections to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, transport hubs and the old Wan Chai area.
- Members acknowledged the opportunity to revitalise near shore waters, especially the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter, and suggested innovative ideas and design measures (such as floating theatre) be formulated to bring people closer to the waterfront. Members noted, however, that some innovative urban design proposals might be subject to the requirements of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (PHO). Besides, conflicts among different users along the waterfront and within the waters should be avoided. Local history and culture should be respected and taken into consideration in planning and designing the Wan Chai North and North Point waterfront areas.
- The study team noted Members' comments, and would take on board Members' comments in the Study.

ADVICE SOUGHT

3. Members are invited to note the report.

**Planning Department
May 2015**