

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

For discussion
on 7 June 2013

TFHK/07/2013

Signature Project Scheme in Central & Western District: Harbourfront Enhancement and Revitalisation ("HEAR") at the Western Wholesale Food Market

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the conceptual framework of Harbourfront Enhancement and Revitalisation ("HEAR") at the Western Wholesale Food Market ("WWFM") to be pursued by the Central & Western District Council ("C&WDC").

BACKGROUND

2. The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address the Signature Project Scheme ("SPS") to enhance district administration. Under the Scheme, a one-off allocation of \$100 million is earmarked for each District Council ("DC") to carry out one to two signature projects of a large scale that will bring a significant and lasting positive impact on the district, be able to address district needs or highlight the characteristics of the district. All SPS projects will be proposed, discussed and agreed by the DC before they are put to implementation.

DELIBERATION BY C&WDC

3. The C&WDC was briefed on the SPS framework on 24 January 2013 and discussed how to take it forward in detail at the meeting of the Working Group on Central & Western District Council Affairs ("the Working Group") under the C&WDC on 8 February 2013. After deliberation, the Working Group identified two potentially viable projects for SPS, namely –

- (a) Harbourfront enhancement and revitalisation at the WWFM; and
- (b) Conversion of vacant buildings into youth hostels to promote youth development and to alleviate the housing needs of the younger generation.

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

TFHK/07/2013

4. Given the scale and significance of the SPS, the Working Group decided to conduct a public consultation exercise for three weeks from 18 February 2013 to 11 March 2013 to solicit public views on the SPS proposals. Consultation documents were distributed to all C&WDC Members, co-opted Members, and 25 district-based organisations or committees. In addition to distributing the consultation letter to some 13 000 stakeholders, a number of C&WDC Members also arranged residents' forum and collected opinions through questionnaires and surveys. Notice of consultation was also posted on C&WDC website, notice boards, Community Halls and Public Enquiry Service Centre, alongside additional publicity through C&WDC Members' promotional materials. During the consultation period, 2 503 replies were received, of which a vast majority supported the HEAR project at WWFM. Based on the results of the public consultation, the Working Group made a recommendation to the full Council that the HEAR project should be pursued by C&WDC as the signature project for the district.

5. The C&WDC has all along been keen to see the early realization of a continuous and vibrant promenade connecting Admiralty and Kennedy Town. This vision also dovetails with the policy objective of creating "a harbour for the people, a harbour of vitality". Efforts were made by C&WDC to beautify various sections of the district promenade through district minor works and to enhance vitality of the harbour through community activities. The proposed harbourfront enhancement and revitalisation project at the WWFM represents a major step to realise the community aspirations for a vibrant waterfront promenade, benefiting not only the C&W district, but also the society at large. Having considered the aspirations of the community and other relevant factors, the C&WDC agreed, at its meeting on 21 March 2013, that the HEAR project be pursued under SPS.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

6. The subject site at WWFM occupies a dominant waterfront space and is in close proximity to the popular Sheung Wan promenade and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. The proposed site area is of approximately 5 580 sqm., including the strips of land of 3 220 sqm. fronting the northern part of WWFM and part of the exit area of the Western District Public Cargo Working Area ("PCWA") adjacent to WWFM, as well as the four idle piers at WWFM (Nos. 1-4) with a total area of 2 360 sqm. The layout plan is at **Annex**.

7. In order to assist the C&WDC in the planning, execution and operation of the SPS, the Steering Committee on Signature Project in Central & Western District ("the Steering Committee") had been set up under the

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

TFHK/07/2013

C&WDC. The project scope was endorsed at its first meeting on 10 May 2013 as follows–

(A) Works component

- (i) Improvement to existing paving and pier structures;
- (ii) Railings along the promenade;
- (iii) Leisure zones, including landscape/ bench seatings, Tai-chi court/ elderly fitness area, jogging trail, children's playground, open plaza, area for safe fishing;
- (iv) Landscape planters and soft landscaping such as small lawn areas;
- (v) Removable fences (or other solid partitions) to separate the promenade from the operation of the WWFM;
- (vi) Improvement to access points and nearby street car parking; and
- (vii) Ancillary facilities (e.g. water and electricity supply, lighting, kiosks, footpath improvement, directional signs and information boards, view compasses, storeroom, roll call point, toilet).

(B) Non-works component

The non-works component is complementary to the hardware development to promote active community engagement and to instill a sense of ownership. It consists of two parts –

- (i) **Community involvement programme:** vibrant community involvement programme to turn the WWFM promenade and the harbourfront in the vicinity into a popular open space. Programme may include organisation of recreational and leisure activities, bazaars, guided thematic tours, etc.. Apart from grants to C&WDC and its committees, we intend to fund non-profit making organisations (NGOs) and other community partners to organize or run a majority of the community activities.
- (ii) **Publicity:** to promote the beautiful harbour and the vitality of the district, publicity and theme-based promotion campaign would be arranged.

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

TFHK/07/2013

8. The project is proposed to be implemented and managed by government departments. C&WDC will spearhead the implementation of the SPS, in particular the subsequent non-works component, with the support of C&W District Office. Subject to ongoing engagement with C&WDC and detailed investigation and design by consultants, we aim to seek funding approval of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in Q2 2015 and commence construction work in 2015 for completion/ operation by 2017. The non-works component of the project would roll out in phases soon after funding approval by LegCo is secured.

WAY FORWARD

9. The C&W District Office is preparing the formal submission to the Headquarters of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) in consultation with the relevant departments. Meanwhile, in order to foster public participation and engagement, the Steering Committee and the C&W District Office will continue engagement with the community to invite more inputs for the detailed design and the project in general.

VIEWS SOUGHT

10. Members’ views on the above project are sought.

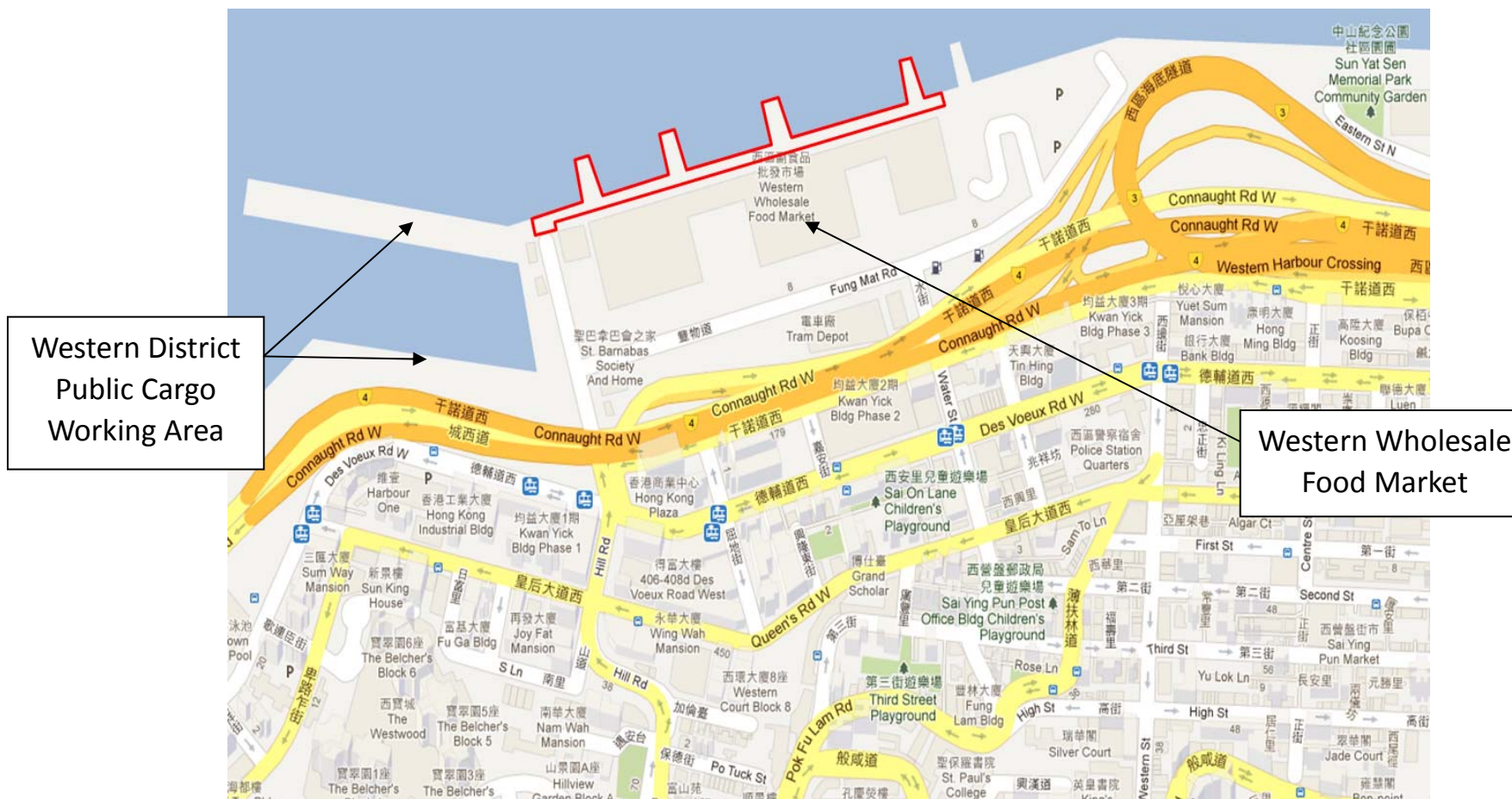
ATTACHMENT

Annex - Layout Plan of HEAR at WWFM

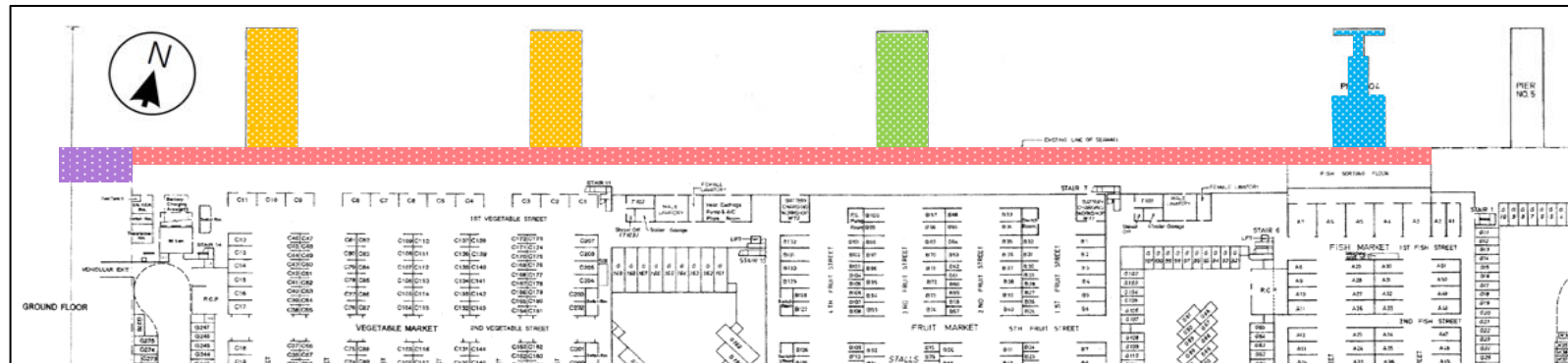
**Central and Western District Office
Home Affairs Department
May 2013**

**Signature Project Scheme (Central & Western District)
Harbourfront Enhancement and Revitalisation at Western Wholesale Food Market**

Layout Plan



Coloured areas showing the action site



Legend	Item	Estimated site area
	Piers 1 & 2	approx. 16m x 40m each, 1 280 sqm. in total
	Pier 3	approx. 15.5m x 40m = 620 sqm.
	Pier 4	approx. 460 sqm.
	Promenade	approx. 500m x 6m ¹ = 3 000 sqm.
	PCWA exit area	approx. 220 sqm.
	Total:	approx. 5 580 sqm.

¹ The 6 meter-width of the proposed promenade is subject to further discussion with market operators at the Western Wholesale Food Market.