

Agreement No. CE 54/2014 (TP)

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

Feasibility Study

Meeting with Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

21 September 2015



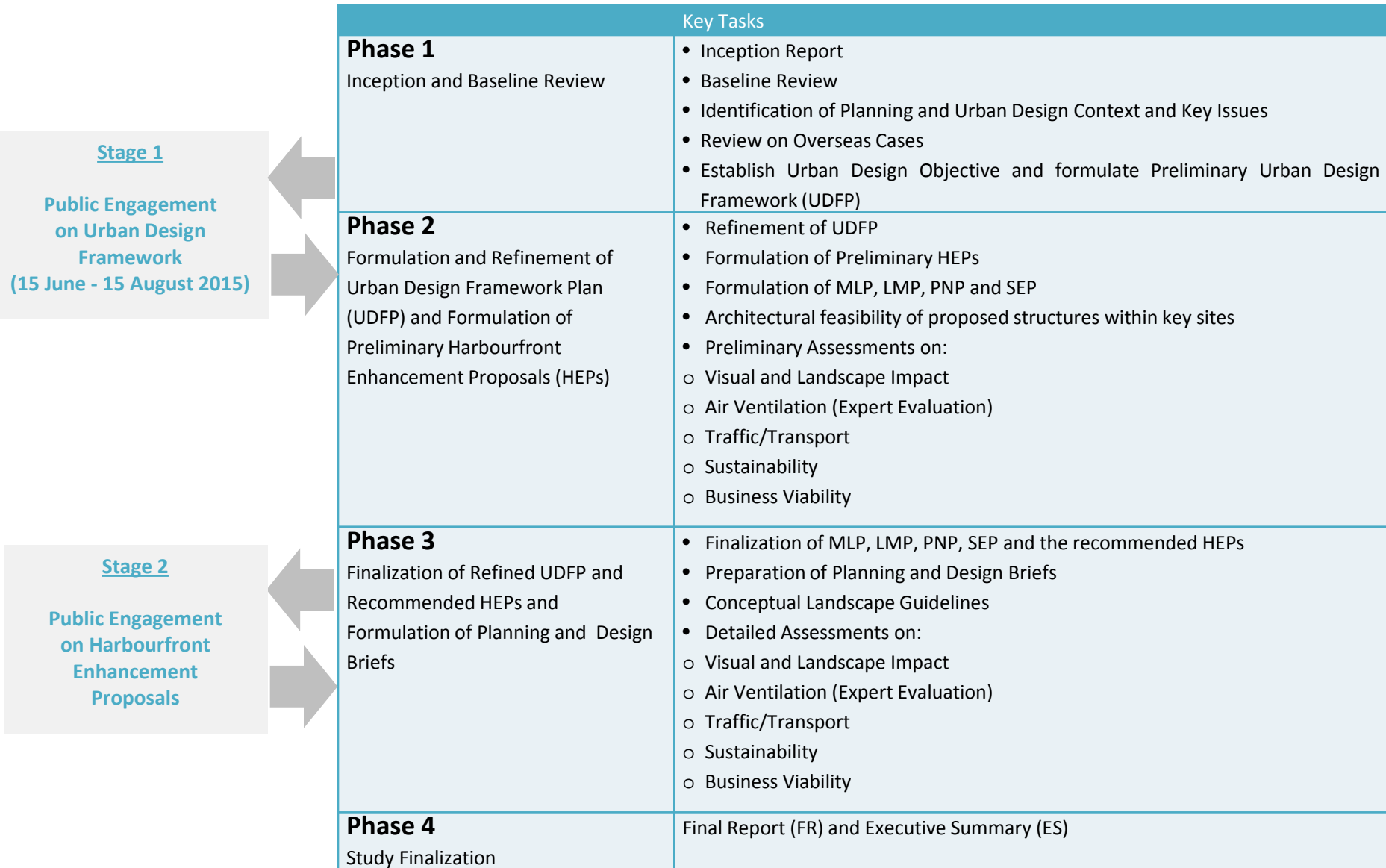
1. **Work Progress**

2. Report on Public Engagement Findings

3. Next Step

Study Objectives & Approach

Work Tasks



Work Progress

Date	Interviews/Meetings
mid-Jun 2015	Launch of Stage 1 Public Engagement
Jun – Aug 2015	Stage 1 Public Engagement Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-Site Public Events • Focus Group Meetings w/ Professional Institutes • Resident Workshops (Eastern + Wan Chai Districts)
15 Aug 2015	Closing of Stage 1 Public Engagement
Next Step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Public Engagement Report • Refinement of Urban Design Framework • Formulation of Preliminary Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals

1. Work Progress
- 2. Report on Public Engagement Findings**
3. Next Step

Report on Stage 1 Public Engagement Findings

- ❖ Overview of Stage 1 Public Engagement Meetings and Activities
- ❖ Public Engagement Meetings and Activities
- ❖ Summary of Comments from Stage 1 Public Engagement

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Overview of Public Engagement Stage 1 Meetings and Activities

- ❖ A series of Public Engagement (PE) activities have taken place before and throughout Stage 1 of the Study's PE programme between **March to August 2015 (official PE Stage 1: 15th June – 15th Aug 2015)**
- ❖ The total number of participants directly involved so far adds up to **988** persons* providing comments and views on the Study from individual's and organizational capacity



*Participant numbers in brackets for separate events

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Public Engagement Meetings and Activities

Date	Meetings/ PE Activities
Stakeholder Interviews and Meetings	
1 April 2015	Pre-engagement Meeting with Wan Chai District Councillors
13 April 2015	Pre-engagement Meeting with Eastern District Councillors
15 April 2015	Meeting with Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC)
16 April 2015	Meeting with Jardines Matheson Limited (for Jardines Noonday Gun)
	Meeting with the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited (Star Ferry)
24 April 2015	Meeting with the Floating Tin Hau Temple
28 April 2015	Meeting with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
12 May 2015	Meeting with The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC)
21 May 2015	Meeting with Sun Hung Kai Properties (for World Trade Centre)
5 June 2015	Meeting with The Excelsior Hotel
19 June 2015	Eastern District Council Planning, Works and Housing Committee Meeting
7 July 2015	Wan Chai District Council Meeting
26 August 2015	Meeting with Police Officers' Club
Focus Group Meetings	
31 March 2015	Harbourfront Commission (HC) Working Group on Urban Design Study
23 April 2015	Green Groups and Concern Groups
13 July 2015	Professional Institutes

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Public Engagement Meetings and Activities (Continued)

Date	Meetings/ PE Activities
On-Site Public Events	
21 June 2015	Workshop on Shoreline Evolution (Puppet Show and Model-making Workshop)
27 June 2015	Weekend Project Exhibition (Idea Café)
19 & 26 July 2015	Cultural and Historical Tour of Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter (Noon Day Gun and Floating Tin Hau Temple)
Resident Workshops	
2 August 2015	Eastern District Resident Workshop
4 August 2015	Wan Chai District Resident Workshop



Stage 1 Public Engagement

Written Comments

- A PE Stage 1 Digest was published in-line with the official launch of PE Stage 1 (with Study website: <http://wcnnpuds.hk>)
- A total of **41** written comments (**organizations = 9 & individuals = 32**) received
- Of which, View Collection Forms (**26**), Email/ Post (**14**), and Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS) (**1**)
- Organizational submissions include:
 - Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ,
 - Wan Chai District Councillor
 - Hong Kong Professionals and Senior Executives Association
 - Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
 - Civic Party
 - Liberal Party
 - Designing Hong Kong
 - Hong Kong Sailing Federation
 - Hong Kong Water Sports Council



"New Wan Chai North Point Harbourfront : an urban harbourfront that re-connects people to the water..."

Welcome

Welcome to the webpage of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Area.

The Wan Chai North and North Point harbourfront is a valuable stretch of reclaimed land centrally located in the Victoria Harbour, presenting a unique opportunity to "re-connect" people to the waterfront. The reclamation and construction works are set for gradual completion from 2017 onwards. To get prepared for realizing an attractive, connected, vibrant and sustainable new harbourfront for public enjoyment, the Planning Department commissioned the "Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas" (the Study) in January 2015, to guide the detailed planning and design for this area.

「灣仔北及北角海濱城市設計研究」- 第一階段公眾參與 意見收集表
 "Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas"
 Stage 1 Public Engagement View Collection Form

1. 請簡述：您對現有海濱的規劃設計有何意見？
 On Vision: What is your view on the overall design vision for the new harbourfront?
 海濱規劃應以人為本，提供一個舒適、安全、健康的活動空間，讓市民可以親近大自然，享受海濱的優美景色。

2. 五種特色主題：您對現有海濱的規劃設計的主題和特色有何意見？
 On the Five Character Products: What is your view on the overall planning and design themes and characters of the new harbourfront?
 海濱應具備親近自然、活力、健康、舒適、安全等五大特色。

3. 構思性與連接性：您對現有海濱的規劃設計有何意見？
 On Accessibility and Connectivity: How would you like to get to the new harbourfront? Any suggestions for improving the existing arrangements?
 應加強海濱與市區的連接，提供多種交通方式，如步行、單車、巴士等。

4. 設計元素：您對現有海濱的規劃設計有何意見？
 On Design Elements: What kind of design elements should be provided at the harbourfront?
 應提供多種設計元素，如步行徑、單車徑、綠化帶、休憩設施等。

5. 活動與活力：您希望在海濱開展哪些活動？您對活動的種類有何建議？
 On Attractions and Vibrancy: How would you like to use the new harbourfront? What sort of activities would you be interested in?
 希望在海濱開展多種活動，如散步、慢跑、騎單車、釣魚、划船等。

6. 其他意見
 Other Comments:

11 August 2015
 Planning Department
 Studies and Research Section,
 10/F, North Point Government Offices,
 333 Java Road, Hong Kong

公民黨
 《灣仔北及北角海濱
 構思的意見》

Dear Sir/Madam,
 I am writing in response to your invitation to participate in the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas.
 With 140 years history in Hong Kong, the Harbourfront has been a vital part of our identity and heritage. We are excited to see the Harbourfront being redeveloped and we have shared our views on the proposed plan with the Planning Department Review and Research Unit.
 We are pleased that the department has the detailed planning and design of the Harbourfront as one of its key priorities. We believe that the Harbourfront should be a vibrant and lively place, a place where people can enjoy the sea breeze and the view of the Victoria Harbour.
 We have provided our views on the proposed plan in the attached document. We hope that our views will be taken into account in the final plan.
 We are looking forward to participating in the ongoing discussions and we will be happy to provide further input if needed.
 Yours faithfully,
 Mark Whitfield
 Chairman
 Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

2015年8月15日
 請在 2015 年 8 月 15 日或之前交回此表格。
 Please send us your views on or before 15 August 2015.

填表日期
 Date: 2015年8月15日
 香港政府規劃部 10/F 北角政府辦事處 333 號渣甸街
 Planning Department
 Studies and Research Section, 10/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road,
 Hong Kong
 電話: Tel. 2642 8244 電郵: Email: info@wcnnpuds.hk

Hong Kong Sailing Federation
 香港帆船總會
 HONG KONG SAILING FEDERATION

14th August 2015

Planning Department
 Studies and Research Section,
 10/F North Point Government Offices,
 333 Java Road, North Point, Government Offices,
 Hong Kong.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation and in response to your invitation for us to submit the views of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation on the proposed plan for the Harbourfront. The Hong Kong Sailing Federation is committed to the development of sailing in Hong Kong and is pleased to support the development of the Harbourfront. We believe that the Harbourfront should be a vibrant and lively place, a place where people can enjoy the sea breeze and the view of the Victoria Harbour. We have provided our views on the proposed plan in the attached document. We hope that our views will be taken into account in the final plan. We are looking forward to participating in the ongoing discussions and we will be happy to provide further input if needed.

As the National Authority for Sailing in Hong Kong, we have on many occasions been approached by international sailing federations, the members of the World Sailing Council, and the International Sailing Federation, to provide our views on the proposed plan for the Harbourfront. We believe that the Harbourfront should be a vibrant and lively place, a place where people can enjoy the sea breeze and the view of the Victoria Harbour. We have provided our views on the proposed plan in the attached document. We hope that our views will be taken into account in the final plan. We are looking forward to participating in the ongoing discussions and we will be happy to provide further input if needed.

The Hong Kong Sailing Federation is looking forward to participating in the ongoing discussions and we will be happy to provide further input if needed.

Yours faithfully,
 Inge Strømme-Asner
 Vice President

Wahkon / 電話: 2642 8244
 100 號渣甸街 10/F 北角政府辦事處 333 號渣甸街
 香港政府規劃部 10/F 北角政府辦事處 333 號渣甸街
 電話: 2642 8244 傳真: 2642 8244 電郵: info@wcnnpuds.hk

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments:

(1) Overall Vision for the Harbourfront Areas and Urban Design Framework

Vision and Positioning of the Harbourfront

- The vision for the Study “**New Wan Chai North Point Harbourfront: an urban harbourfront that re-connects people to the water**” was generally supported by the public
- Some advocated developing **an internationally-renowned harbourfront** with unique old Wan Chai character while many favoured maintaining and emphasizing the **district’s local unique character**
- A balance between the **needs of local communities and tourists** should be strike

Urban Design Framework

- The public in general supported the proposed five Character Precincts and agreed having **different design themes** along the long-stretching harbourfront areas

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments:

(2) Activities and Programming at Each Character Precinct

Celebration Precinct

- Currently catered mainly for tourists – a lack of focus and activities nearby the HKCEC
- Reflect **arts element** nearby the HKCEC (i.e., HKAPA, HKAC, etc.) and/or museum to commemorate 1997 handover
- Suggest to include more **multifunctional and/or special event space** (e.g. art markets, music performances/festivals), **jogging trails**, alfresco dining/ **refreshment kiosks**, etc.
- Supporting facilities: police post, public convenience, drinking fountains, etc.

Pierside Precinct

- More **open, non-fenced green open spaces** for public enjoyment; suggest to include: **community gardens, weekend markets, display of old Wan Chai photos, etc.** at the new reclaimed harbourfront area
- Possible **water taxi service** to alleviate road traffic congestions

New Water Recreation Precinct

- Support the design principle of **bringing people to the water**
- Support water-related recreational activities
- Should take into consideration of tidal safety, water safety, and water quality at the Ex-Public Cargo Works Area (Ex-PCWA)
- Ex-PCWA has a potential to be used as **an event venue facility for event-based activities**, such as international yachting races with public viewing areas
- More localized activities, such as a **“Community Boat Tour”** for both locals and tourists

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments:

(2) Activities and Programming at Each Character Precinct (continued)

Revitalized Typhoon Shelter Precinct

- Current users and the “boat community” have expressed that Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter (CWBTS) **should remain as an operational typhoon shelter** due to marine safety and demand reasons
- Other suggested activities include: **floating flea markets, space for hiring of boats and dragon boats** (with clear separation between dragon boats and fishing boats), **floating restaurants, floating viewing decks**, etc.
- Agree to better utilize the Breakwater: **jogging trails, fishing areas, viewing points, photography hotspots, sitting areas for scenic enjoyment**, etc.
- **Safety concern** was expressed on the use of the Breakwater
- Noon Day Gun and Floating Tin Hau Temple should be retained and better designed to enhance their heritage values

East Coast Park Precinct

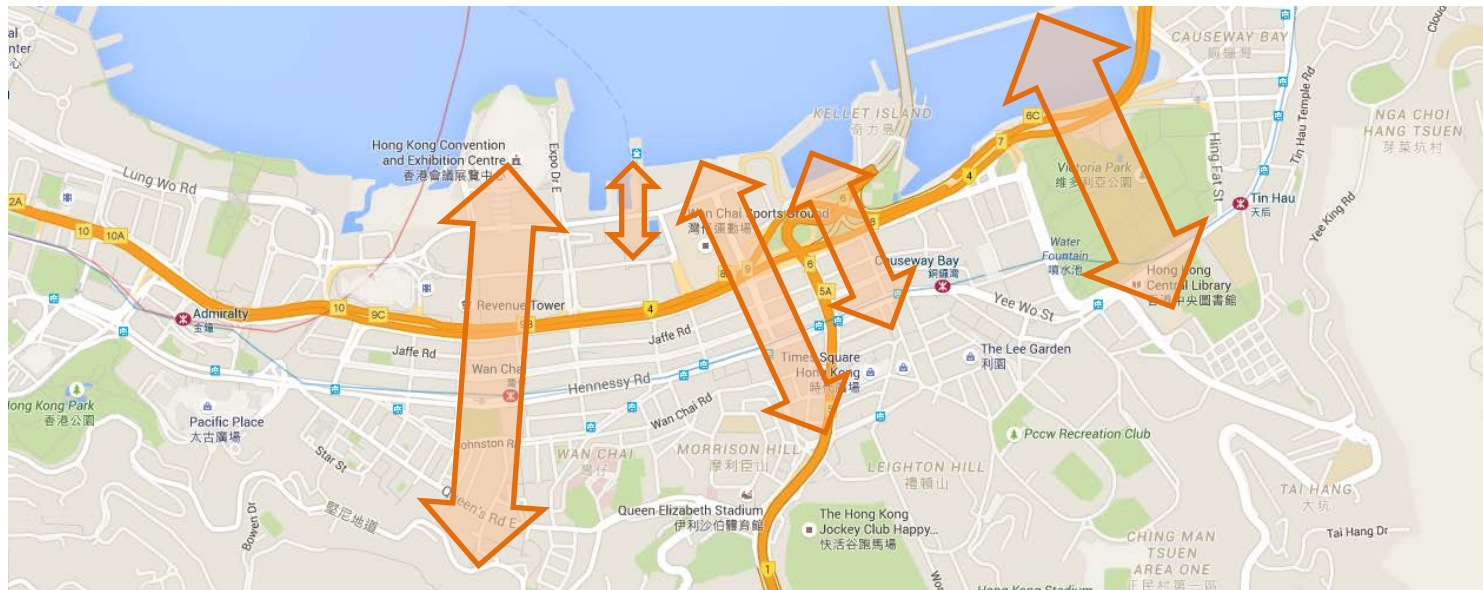
- Should **not** be “privatized” by adjacent residential towers
- Support more **family oriented facilities**, such as fountain parks, children’s playground, grassed area for both humans and pets, barbeque pits, fitness equipment for the elderly, Tai Chi area, jogging trails, community gardens, fishing area, floating sports facilities, etc.
- **Pet-access throughout harbourfront** (with pets on leash)/ **pet-designated areas** were both welcomed

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments: (3) Connectivity

North-South Connections

- **Support the planned landscape deck connection** between the inlands towards the HKCEC and Golden Bauhinia Square, as well as the planned MTR Exhibition Station
- For any type of connections, they should be **barrier-free** and for **all-seasonal designs**
- **Better above ground connections** at (from left to right):
 1. Old Wan Chai (south of Johnston Road)
 2. Between the New Wan Chai Pier to Great Eagle Centre
 3. Near Marsh Road and/or Flemming Road
 4. Near Elizabeth House/ Sino Plaza
 5. From Victoria Park to the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter
- **Underground connections** with the waterfront should be provided via existing/future MTR stations (Exhibition Station and Causeway Bay North Station)

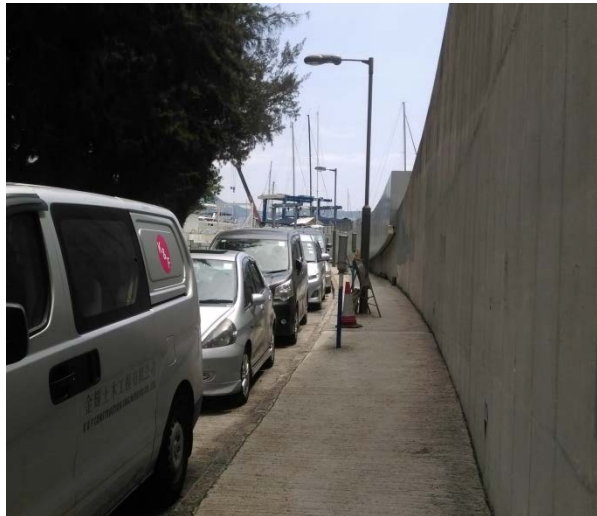


Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments: (3) Connectivity (continued)

East-West Connection

- Improvements to **pedestrian walkways/ linkages** needed:
 1. Between the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) and the Police Officers' Club (POC) near the Harbour Crossing Tunnel portal
 2. Between the POC and Gloucester Road
 3. Near the Ex-A King Shipyard
- **Alternative transport modes** across the harbourfront, such as golf-carts/ shuttle buses
- Some have expressed that connections could be made by **Water Taxis** (for both tourists and locals) with a few stops along the harbourfront



Between RHKYC and POC near the Harbour Crossing Tunnel portal



Between the POC and Gloucester Road



Near the Ex-A King Shipyard

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments: (3) Connectivity (continued)

Connection to the Breakwater

- **Support the better utilization of the Breakwater**, but there were concerns on **marine safety** regarding the connection to the Breakwater
- Connections could be made via **Water Taxis/ Sampans**, therefore, more properly designed public piers / landing steps, fresh water supply stations, and fueling stations for boats and vessels are recommended

Wayfinding

- **Better signage or wayfinding systems** are needed at:
 1. Pedestrian tunnel connecting World Trade Centre (WTC) and Noon Day Gun; for directional purposes, signage can be strengthened outside of the WTC
 2. Clearer signage pointing towards the New Wan Chai Pier

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments: (4) Design and Landscaping

Urban Design Elements

- Urban design element should reflect the **local culture** (e.g., old Wan Chai culture; reference can be made to the Aberdeen Promenade) to showcase Hong Kong's local culture and heritage and enhance the sense of ownership of the local community
- **Avoid obstructive boundary** between the existing and the new harbourfront areas

Landscape and Greening

- **Support for a greener and more open waterfront** with naturalistic landscape designs
- Greening should include more trees with a **bigger canopy** so as to provide natural shading; suggested plant species: White Orchid, Prynne, Osmanthus, Aglaia, bamboo, and/or other native species, etc.

Stage 1 Public Engagement

Major Comments: (5) Others

Other Issues

Environmental Concerns

- Traffic at Gloucester Road – **air quality, noise, emission; mitigation measures required**
- **Water quality:** odour, water discolourations, water safety; periodic assessments recommended

Traffic/ Parking

- Attention should be paid to **flow and parking for coach buses** throughout harbourfront (especially near HKCEC and SPCA)
- **PTIs, parking, or pick-up/drop-off points** needed for various future activities (e.g. East Coast Park and New Water Recreation Precinct)

Statutory Considerations

- Design and programming ideas should take into consideration of, but not limited by, the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap531; PHO) if the future uses would meet the over-riding public needs, such as possible floating pontoons, cantilever boardwalks, bridge connections, etc.
- Land use zoning along harbourfront should be generally zoned for **public uses**

Operation and Management

- **Management of the new harbourfront:** Government Departments, a local Non-Government Organization (NGO), private operator, and/or a new designated body?
- Noted that **different operation and management models may have cost implications** – in any case activities at the harbourfront should be affordable to the general public

Stage 1 Public Engagement

General Observations On Comments Between Individuals and Organizations

Individuals	Organizations
1. On Pet-Access	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated pet area• Supported to be implemented near East Coast Park Precinct, while no strong views to provide it near the Pierside Precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HC: The design should cater for shared use by all people and their pets• SPCA: a long, continuous (on leash) pet-access harbourfront throughout• WCDC: need for the reprovisioning of pet-access area near Wan Chai
2. On the Use of the Breakwater	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further investigation is needed on whether or not a pedestrian connection is feasible• Support the introduction of different activities at the Breakwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns on marine safety if bridge connections are implemented• CWBTS should be remained as a fully operational typhoon shelter

1. Work Progress
2. Report on Public Engagement Findings
- 3. Next Step**

Taking Forward the Public Views/ Comments

- ❖ Drawing from the views, comments and ideas collected during Stage 1 PE, the following are some of the key directions we will focus on in formulating the Initial Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals (HEPs) :
 - **Connectivity**
 - To ensure all seasonal, barrier-free connections with adequate shade and shelter;
 - To propose grade-separated connection(s) to enhance N-S connectivity (e.g. proposed feature bridge at Percival Street, planned landscape decks);
 - To explore streetscape enhancement opportunities of current road access through RHKYC/ POC for better connection towards typhoon shelter **OR** along the Kellett Island water edge;
 - To explore possibilities for better connection through the bottle neck at Noon Day Gun/ Private Pier in view of land status issues;
 - To explore options for better connection from Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter towards East Coast Park, taking into account the land status of the sub-station and fire station at Hing Fat Street, and extending towards Victoria Park;
 - To explore other alternatives for public access to breakwater other than swing-bridge, keeping in view typhoon shelter operation, design of breakwater and safety considerations.

Taking Forward the Public Views/ Comments

▪ Water Recreation Activities/ Use of Water Space

- To explore appropriate water recreation activities at ex-PCWA, emphasizing on a new themed attraction that would be open for public enjoyment;
- Exploring options for accommodating the Water Sports Centre and Harbour Education Centre;
- Floating elements to be further explored. (i.e. floating pool, floating restaurants/ market, etc.);

▪ Cycling Facilities

- In view of the bottlenecks and other physical constraints, to explore opportunities for providing cycling track along the waterfront, integrated with the Central Harbourfront on the west and the future IEC Boardwalk on the east;
- Road conditions and safety considerations;

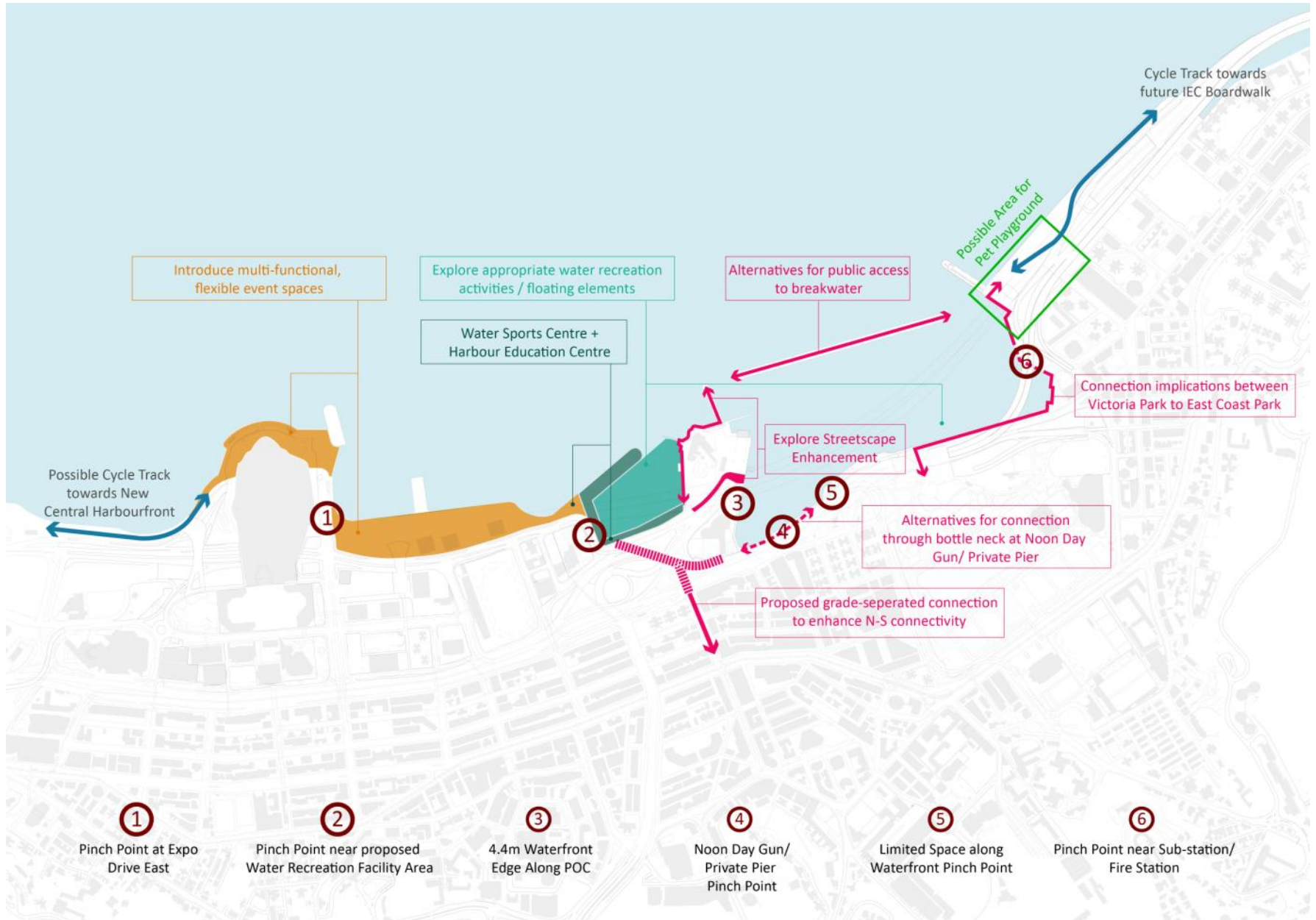
▪ Open Space / Pet Facilities

- To introduce more multi-functional, flexible event spaces that could cater to local or international events and activities;
- To identify opportunity space for pet facilities and pet access zones, balancing the different views from the public;

▪ Local History and Character

- Reflecting local history and character in the planning and design of the waterfront by integrating historic elements into the streetscape palette;

Taking Forward the Public Views/ Comments



Next Step

- Wrap-up the Initial Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals;
- Detailed Discussion with *Harbourfront Commission Working Group on Urban Design Study* (under separate arrangement);
- Formulate Master Layout Plan, Landscape Master Plan, Pedestrian Network Plan and Streetscape Enhancement Plans;
- Carry Out Preliminary Technical Assessments (incl. Visual and Landscape Impact, Air Ventilation (Expert Evaluation), Traffic & Transport, Sustainability, Business Viability etc.);
- Preparation for Stage 2 Public Engagement

Thank You