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

Harbourfront Commission's Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on HK Island

10 October 2017



1. Study Progress

- 2. Public Engagement Process
- 3. Study Team's Written Responses to HC Members' Comments

Study Progress

Phase 1 Inception Report Inception and Baseline Review Baseline Review Identification of Planning and Urban Design Context and Key Issues Review on Overseas Cases • Establish Urban Design Objective and formulate Preliminary Urban Design Stage 1 PE Framework (UDFP) Phase 2 Refinement of UDFP **Public Engagement** Formulation and Refinement of Urban • Formulation of Preliminary HEPs on Urban Design Design Framework Plan (UDFP) and Formulation of MLP, LMP, PNP and SEP Framework Formulation of Preliminary • Architectural feasibility of proposed structures within key sites Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals • Preliminary Assessments on: (HEPs) Visual and Landscape Impact • Air Ventilation (Expert Evaluation) • Traffic/Transport Sustainability Business Viability Phase 3 • Finalization of MLP, LMP, PNP, SEP and the recommended HEPs Finalization of Refined UDFP and • Preparation of Planning and Design Briefs • Conceptual Landscape Guidelines Recommended HEPs and Formulation Stage 2 PE of Planning and Design Briefs • Detailed Assessments on: **Public Engagement** Visual and Landscape Impact on Harbourfront • Air Ventilation (Expert Evaluation) WE Enhancement Traffic/Transport ARE **Proposals (HEPs)** Sustainability HERE Business Viability Phase 4 Final Report (FR) and Executive Summary (ES)

Key Tasks

Study Finalization

1. Study Progress

2. Public Engagement Process

Overview of Stage 1 Public Engagement (15 June to 15 August 2015)

• Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) aimed to gather public views on urban design framework

Major Comments received during Stage 1 PE

- 1. The public has been generally very supportive to the study's vision and objectives to enhance the harbourfront areas for public enjoyment
- 2. They basically agreed with the urban design framework and the design themes of individual character precincts
- 3. Public's concerned aspects included:
 - connectivity and accessibility
 - Hot weather more shading should be provided
 - More greenery and tree planting
 - Public aspirations related closely to the daily needs e.g. green space for exercise, jogging, etc.
- 4. Some diverging views included:
 - Pet facilities mostly supportive pet access to the waterfront, but expressed concerns due to environmental hygiene issues
 - Cycling mostly supportive to cycling along the harbourfront, while some concerned about the public safety

Overview of Stage 2 Public Engagement (11 June to 20 August 2016)

- Stage 2 Public Engagement (PE) aimed to seek public views on Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals (HEPs)
- Design Ideas Competition was held between **December 2015 to January 2016** with the Awards Prizing Ceremony held together with the launch of Stage 2 PE in June 2016
- 35 entry submissions with 109 participants were received
- A series of PE activities have taken place throughout Stage 1 PE programme between June to August 2016:



• A total of 55 written comments (17 organizations & 38 individuals) received

Major Comments received during Stage 2 PE

- 1. Pedestrian Connectivity and Accessibility
 - Most public members supported enhancing the N-S connectivity due to various physical barriers hindering public to get access to the waterfront
 - Proposed Boardwalk along CWBTS was supported despite PHO implications
- 2. Continuous Cycle Trail Most public members had reservation on requiring cyclists to dismount their bikes; while some public members raised concerns on pedestrian-cyclist interface and the associated public safety issues
- 3. More Greening, Tree Planting and Shading Facilities were supported
- 4. Most public members supported enhancing interaction with the water/harbour by the public. They supported the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct. Some members therefore raised the need for more marine supporting facilities including wave attenuation
- 5. Provision of **Pet Playground in Wan Chai District** Many public members especially the Wan Chai District Council and SPCA supported that a pet playground should be provided within WC District
- 6. **Overwhelming Design should be avoided** Concerns on large amount of public money needed, which would then delay the development programme
- 7. Most public members looked forward to early implementation of the harbourfront enhancement proposals

- 1. Study Progress
- 2. Stage 1 PE Meetings and Activities
- 3. Study Team's Written Responses to HC Members' Comments

- As agreed in the WGUDS Meeting on 12 September 2017, the Study Team is requested to prepare written responses to HC Members' previous comments on the harbourfront enhancement proposals.
- A comprehensive Responses-to-Comments table has been prepared based on Members' comments raised in the latest three TFHK and WGUDS Meetings:
 - ➢ 5th WGUDS Meeting on 22 March 2017
 - 27th TFHK Meeting on 29 May 2017
 - ➢ 6th WGUDS Meeting on 12 September 2017
- The Response-to-Comments table has been circulated to HC Members on 7 October 2017.

Subject	Study Team's Responses
Connectivity	 A continuous waterfront promenade (East-West) will be provided Comprehensive pedestrian network plan (North-South) has been prepared
Elevated Deck	 The spans of the elevated decks are designed with reference to the ones indicated in the RODP under WDII Review Study.
	 The elevated deck designs including the spans are indicative only, and are subject to detailed design at project implementation stage.
Cycle trail and Shared Use Concept	 Continuous and dedicated cycle trail provided, except in bottleneck areas where pedestrians and cyclists would need to share the waterfront space
Cantilevered Boardwalk	 Cantilevered boardwalk proposal is put on hold to avoid PHO implications, but is reserved as options for future consideration.

Subject	Study Team's Responses
Elimination of Metered Car Park along Hung Hing Road	 With general support from Members and public members, all metered parking spaces along Hung Hing Road near the RHKYC is proposed to be removed for streetscape enhancements.
Parking/ Traffic Arrangement	 General principle: public should be encouraged to get access to the waterfront by public transport Laybys and a limited amount of parking spaces are provided along the waterfront
Wave Attenuation	 Floating wavebrake is suggested and its feasibility has been demonstrated in WGUDS Meeting on 22 March 2017 Type of wave attenuation measure to be adopted would be subject to wave assessment to be undertaken by project proponent at the project implementation stage

Subject	Study Team's Responses
Supporting Infrastructure	 Basic infrastructures including electricity and water supply would be provided in each character precinct in support of various water features and hosting of various events For supporting facilities within CBWTS: Water Supply: there is an existing water supply station Fuel Supply: Current practice that the mariner users to source their own fuel supply should continue
Water Quality	 Regarding sewage impact and water quality, PlanD is closely liaising with EPD on improving the water quality by means of provision of dry weather flow interceptors along the Wan Chai to North Point harbourfront
Implementation	 Preliminary implementation programme and arrangements worked out and presented to WGUDS on 12 Sep 2017 Phasing of HEP implementation will hinge on ongoing major infrastructural works – most of the land areas will not be made available until 2021/2022 Three quick-win projects are identified for early implementation of a waterfront promenade from Central to area east of Wan Chai Ferry Pier for public enjoyment

Thank you!