

Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

For discussion
on 30 August 2022

TFKT/004/2022

Kwun Tong Action Area Public Open Space (Waterfront Promenade) – Quick-win Portion

PURPOSE

This paper is to seek Members' views on the further details regarding the proposed works for the quick-win portion of the proposed public open space (waterfront promenade) in Kwun Tong Action Area (KTAA).

BACKGROUND

2. With a view to better utilizing the waterfront site at Kwun Tong, the Planning and Engineering Study on the Kwun Tong Action Area – Feasibility Study (the Study) was undertaken. The Study proposes a commercial development at KTAA together with an improved waterfront promenade fronting the development, which was presented to Members on 15 May 2019 and 29 August 2021. Leveraging on the soon-to-be completed pedestrian/cyclist bridge across Tsui Ping River (currently targeted for completion in Q1 2023) and the government land released by a previous short term tenancy, the Study identified an opportunity for early implementation of part of the improvement works on the waterfront promenade to provide a direct connection to the Cha Kwo Ling waterfront. It will also enhance the environment near the Ferry Pier by providing an iconic waterfront gateway to the Kwun Tong Business Area. On 28 September 2021, Members were informed about the project and considered that further details of the proposed works should be submitted for consideration.

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THE SITE

3. The project site has been slightly enlarged from the previous submission to not only including a piece of vacant government land (currently fenced off) and the footpath at the waterfront near the Ferry Pier, but also the adjacent planter areas and raised pavement for further improvement of pedestrian circulation. The revised site is shown in **Annex A**. The fenced-off area currently blocks pedestrian movement between the Kwun Tong Promenade and the Cha Kwo Ling waterfront. Moreover, the existing raised paving beneath the staircase of the footbridge connecting to Manulife Financial Centre and adjacent planters are also unfavourable for pedestrian movement towards the inland areas.

DESIGN OF THE QUICK-WIN PORTION

4. Integrating the concepts of “low-carbon and healthy living” and “old Kwun Tung”, three design themes have been proposed, which will be interwoven throughout the entire quick-win portion, as shown in **Annex B** and described below.

Vibrant and Playful

5. Fitness equipment and floor pattern are integrated to promote healthy lifestyle and encourage low-carbon living. The agility ladder and long jump test patterns could create a playful yet vibrant environment to the local community, while the fitness enthusiasts could also get their hearts racing by doing various agility drills.

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Creation of Cardinal Point

6. A “Cardinal Point” is created at the quick-win portion since it is a node that connects the Ferry Pier, the future Tsui Ping River and the Kwun Tong Promenade. Through installation of iconic feature walls and creation of vivid floor patterns with wayfinding information (including the carbon footprint of travelling and calories burnt if travel by walking), the quick-win portion will become a welcoming node for public to stop over, interact and continue on to their next destination. Besides, the adjacent planter will be planted with grass and opened up to enhance connectivity.

Crossover of Remembrance

7. The third theme is “Crossover of Remembrance” which embraces the collective memory of the community. With the industrial background of Kwun Tong, it is proposed to facelift the columns and canopy outside the Ferry Pier concourse with historical elements for the public to enjoy, take photos and experience the nostalgia of Kwun Tong.

8. The juxtaposition of “Vibrant and Playful”, “Cardinal Point” and “Crossover of Remembrance” will transform the quick-win portion into a place for the public to experience, participate and explore.

CONNECTIVITY

9. Upon completion of the quick-win project, pedestrian connectivity along the Kwun Tong waterfront will be greatly enhanced. The existing congested pedestrian passageway beside the staircase of the footbridge¹ would be improved through modification of the planter areas to enhance pedestrian flow and safety. Details of the improved connectivity are shown in **Annex C**.

¹ The existing footbridge connecting the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier and Manulife Financial Centre would later be modified along with the development of KTAA.

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HARBOUR PLANNING PRINCIPLES

10. The following relevant Harbour Planning Principles have been taken into account in the design -

Preserving Victoria Harbour and Proactive Harbour Enhancement

- (a) The project does not involve any reclamation works. The proposed works for the quick-win portion will beautify the area and complement the opening of Tsui Ping River footbridge for public enjoyment.

Stakeholder Engagement and Integrated Planning

- (b) The project is part of a holistic development in KTAA proposed under the Study, and relevant stakeholders have been consulted on the recommended development including the quick-win portion in 2019 under the Study and during the outline zoning plan amendment stage in 2021. Regarding the design of the quick-win portion, we have coordinated with other projects in the vicinity, including the Revitalization of Tsui Ping River, to iron out design matters and interfacing issues during construction.

Principle 3: Sustainable Development

- (c) Recycled steel and metal sheet will be used to construct the back frame and the backing of the feature wall respectively. Eco-friendly water-based paint will be used for producing the flooring patterns. Sustainable construction management will also be implemented during construction. Apart from sustainable materials and construction method, the low-carbon design theme has been holistically adopted through fitness equipment selection, the bold statements on the feature wall, and provision of quality greening and floor patterns with wayfinding information showing the carbon footprint.

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Principle 6: Vibrant Harbour and Principle 8: Public Enjoyment

- (d) The proposed waterfront promenade will be child-friendly and pet-friendly. Ample space for different activities, such as street workout and photo spots, as well as potential pop-up display/events will also be provided for public enjoyment.

Principle 7: Accessible Harbour

- (e) Together with the enhancement made under the Tsui Ping River Revitalization Project, the quick-win portion would greatly enhance the connectivity along the waterfront as well as between the waterfront and the inland areas of Kwun Tong.

WAY FORWARD

11. We would like to seek views/comments from Members to refine and finalize the design of the quick-win portion, and work towards the target completion date currently set at Q1 2023. The quick-win portion will be managed and maintained by LCSD upon completion.

**Energizing Kowloon East Office
Development Bureau
August 2022**

Attachments

Annex A Location Plan
Annex B Architectural Design
Annex C Details of Connectivity