# MINOR RELAXATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT SITE

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

**12 February 2014** 

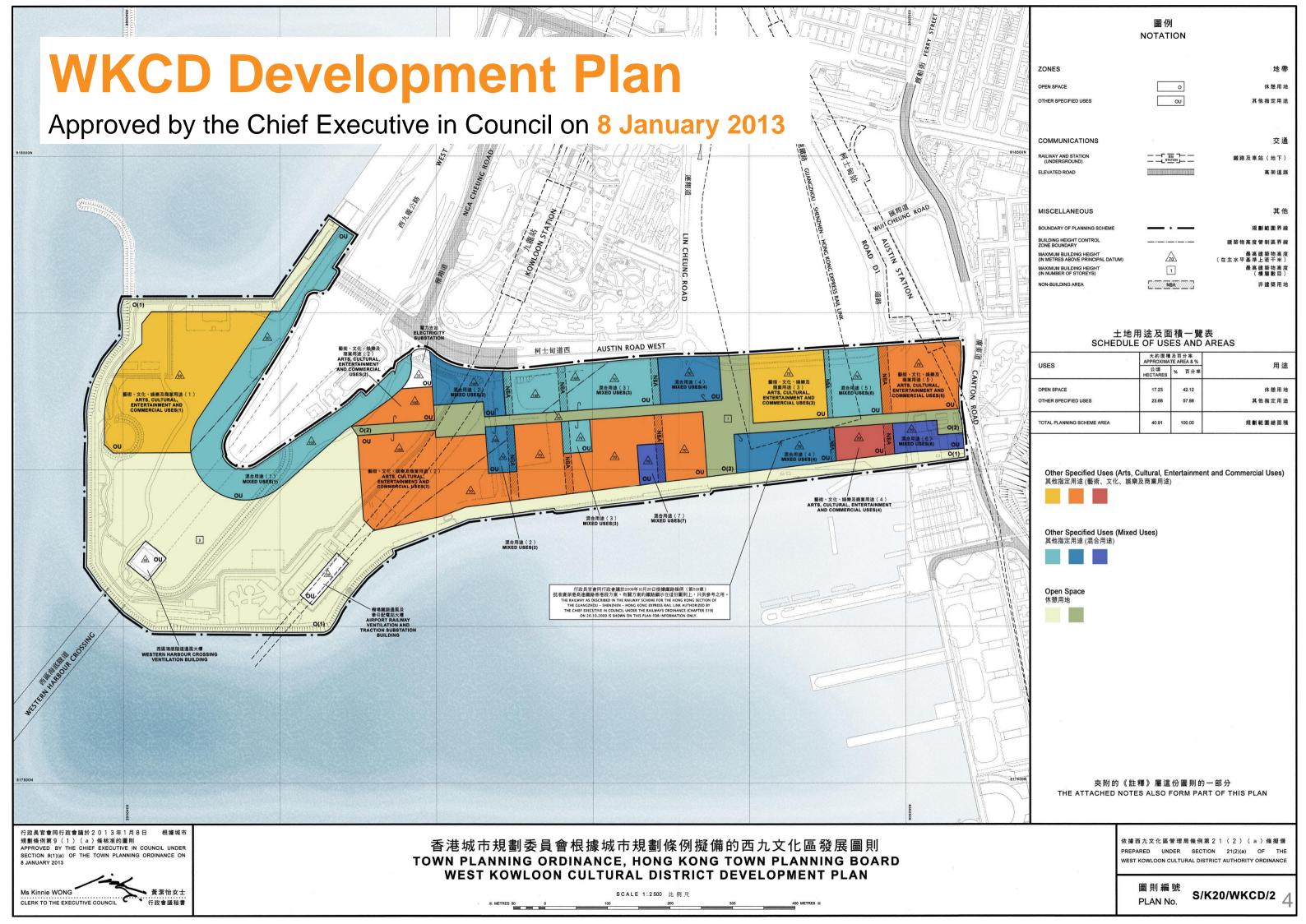


#### Purpose

To seek Members' views on the proposed Town Planning Board (TPB) submission for minor relaxation of the development intensity of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) site.

#### Background

- At the last TFK meeting on 2 December 2013, WKCDA reported that, with the support of the Government, it would apply for minor relaxation of maximum gross floor area (GFA) and/or building height restrictions under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance in order to optimise the development potential of the WKCD site.
- WKCDA has appointed a planning consultant to study the proposed increase in total GFA and the feasibility of the proposal to ascertain that it will not generate unacceptable impacts to the surrounding areas.



## Statutory Planning Control in the Approved DP

- maximum total GFA of 740 350m²
- not less than 23 hectares of public open space
- GFA control of different uses only applicable to hotel/office/residential (HOR) uses
- Maximum building height of 1 or 3 storeys in "Open Space" zones; and 50, 70 or 100 mPD in "Other Specified Uses" zones





#### Proposed development intensity

- Objective of the planning application is to optimise the development potential of the whole WKCD site.
- Consultant's study suggested that 15% increase in total GFA is a reasonable target, and GFA of different land uses should be increased on a pro-rata basis to ensure a balanced development mix with good day and night vibrancy in the WKCD.
- GFA mix provided in the Explanatory Statement of the approved DP will be maintained:

Arts and Cultural Facilities	35-40% of total GFA
Retail/Dining/Entertainment (RDE)	15-20% of total GFA
Hotel/Office	20-25% of total GFA
Residential	Not more than 20% of total GFA
Government/Institution/Community (GIC)	Not less than 1% of total GFA
Total:	100%

### **Key Planning Parameters**

	Approved Development Plan	Proposal	Proposed Changes to DP
Maximum total GFA for the whole site	740 350m <sup>2</sup>	851 400m <sup>2</sup>	+111 050m <sup>2</sup> (+15%)
Maximum GFA for HOR uses	318 800m²	366 620m <sup>2</sup>	+47 820m <sup>2</sup> (+15%)
Maximum GFA for residential use	148 070m <sup>2</sup> (20% of total GFA)	170 280m <sup>2</sup> (20% of total GFA)	+22 210m <sup>2</sup> (+15%)
Remaining GFA for Arts and Cultural Facilities, RDE and GIC ("Non-HOR GFA")	421 550m²	484 780m²	+63 230m <sup>2</sup> (+15%)
Equivalent to Plot Ratio	1.81	2.08	+0.27 (+15%)
Public Open Space	23 ha	23 ha	No change

#### Proposed development components

- Original development scale of the planned core arts and cultural venues will remain unchanged.
- The increase of about 63 000m<sup>2</sup> "non-HOR" GFA will allow development of more arts and cultural facilities ancillary to or in support of the core arts and cultural venues. Facilities being considered include a hostel/hotel for visiting artists, rehearsal facilities/offices for arts groups and creative space for young people and artists.
- Benefits:
  - Further promote the image of the whole district as an arts and cultural hub
  - Provide necessary space to support both artists and practitioners of the creative industries
- Would also provide office accommodation for WKCDA to reduce operating expenditure; and dining facilities to increase recurrent revenue of WKCDA to support the operation of arts and cultural facilities in WKCD

#### Proposed development components

- Additional HOR GFA of about 48 000m² will help increase hotel, office and housing supply in the urban area.
- The proposed increase in HOR GFA and the relaxation of maximum GFA for residential use from 148 070m² to 170 280m² are based on a pro-rata increase of 15%, which is the same as the percentage increase in total GFA for the whole site.
- In view of the current stage of the WKCD development, the planning application will not be scheme specific in order to allow adequate flexibility in future developments.
- With a view to coping with the increase in development intensity and to facilitate variation in building heights to promote a more interesting skyline in the district, minor relaxation of building height restrictions may be considered.

#### **Technical Assessments**

- A full range of technical assessments are being carried out by the consultant who has been looking into the traffic, environmental, air ventilation, visual impacts and building height implications of the proposal.
- Mitigation measures and design requirements will be set out in the application to ensure that the resultant development will be technically feasible, and the original urban design concept as spelt out in the approved DP will be maintained.

#### **Submission Timeframe**

<b>Key Milestone Dates</b>	
Result of technical assessments available for relevant government departments' consideration	By February 2014
Submission of planning application to TPB	By March 2014

#### **Advice Sought**

Members are invited to provide comments on the proposed minor relaxation of development intensity for the WKCD site.

www.wkcda.hk

**Thank You** 

