

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 7 January 2014

HC/04/2014

Progress Report from Task Force on Water-land Interface

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from September to December 2013.

MEETING(S) HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sixth Meeting on 13 December 2013

2. The Task Force discussed the following items –

(a) Election of Task Force Chair

- Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, was elected as the Task Force Chair of the current term.

(b) Planning of Victoria Harbourfront: Approach and Process

- Planning Department (PlanD) briefed Members on the approach and process for harbourfront planning established by the then Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC) and the Harbourfront Commission (HC) over the last decade.
- The Task Force recognised the concerted efforts by the then HEC and HC together with PlanD and other relevant departments in realising the vision of the Victoria Harbourfront over the last nine years. Members were also

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aware of the increasing and repeated calls from the public for better planning of marine uses and the associated water-land interfaces within Victoria Harbour to enhance public enjoyment of the Harbour in recent years.

- Members noted the difficulty in identifying a single department to take up the holistic planning of all marine uses in Hong Kong, taking into account that the planning of water was dynamic in nature and involved multiple facets such as marine safety, water transport and compatibility with adjacent land uses which fell under the mandates of various departments. Since the Task Force and the relevant departments currently had limited knowledge on planning of water, some Members suggested that the Task Force should be briefed about marine spatial planning to enhance Members' understanding on the subject and facilitate future deliberations. The Meeting agreed to have these presentations at the coming Task Force meetings.
- While appreciating the Task Force's vision for a holistic plan for the Harbour, Development Bureau (DEVB) proposed a more pragmatic approach to look into various issues related to the planning of Victoria Harbour and its harbourfront areas, which could be categorised into three types: (i) the planning of land uses abutting the water; (ii) the water-dependent facilities or water-land interfaces and (iii) marine uses and related services within Victoria Harbour. The three categories should be tackled by different approaches. Members generally agreed to proceed with future discussion at the Task Force as proposed, and asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper to further elaborate this three-pronged approach at the next meeting.

(c) Review of Berthing Spaces and Sheltered Space for Local Vessels in Hong Kong

- Marine Department (MD) briefed Members on its preliminary plan for the fundamental review of berthing and sheltered space for local vessels in Hong Kong.
- The Task Force welcomed the review to be taken forward by MD which responded to the rising public concerns for optimising marine uses in Victoria Harbour. Apart from studying the demand and supply situation of berthing space for local vessels, Members suggested that the review should also cover the demand for ancillary land-side facilities to support the berthing space of vessels, such as storage, fuel supply and other utilities.
- Having regard to the rising trend of visiting pleasure vessels (particularly the cross-boundary yachts) to Hong Kong and their contribution to the tourism and economic development in Hong Kong, some Members reckoned that MD should also address the demand for sheltered space and ancillary land-side facilities from these vessels. MD was asked to take into account Members' comments when preparing the consultancy brief and consult the Task Force again at appropriate junctures.