

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 29 April 2014

HC/05/2014

Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from January to April 2014.

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

Fifteenth Meeting – 18 February 2014

2. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items –

(a) Conceptual Master Plan for the Western Harbourfront

- The Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) and the Department of Urban Planning and Design of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) briefed the Task Force on the background of C&WDC's study and the features of the Conceptual Master Plan for the Western Harbourfront (the Plan).
- Members appreciated the efforts of C&WDC and HKU in proposing harbourfront enhancement for the Western harbourfront which formed the basis for the community to discuss further. While some Members expressed that the

functional need of the existing facilities for the working harbour should be taken into account, the Task Force in general welcomed the Plan and was willing to collaborate with C&WDC to integrate it with the overall harbourfront enhancement planning.

(b) Proposed Rationalisation and Expansion of Public Viewing Areas at the Central Star Ferry Terminal

- The private proponent briefed the Task Force on the proposed re-arrangement of commercial space and public viewing area at the Central Pier No. 7 and the Central Terminal Building (CTB). Members were also informed of the planning history of the current provision of public viewing areas at the site.
- Some Members supported the proposal and opined that it would help rationalise the distribution of public viewing areas and commercial space in the sites concerned for better public enjoyment and more efficient commercial operation, and considered the proposed reprovisioning of the public viewing area at the rooftop of CTB a suitable arrangement.
- Some Members held a different view and objected to the proposal. They considered that the proposed reprovisioning of public viewing area at the rooftop of CTB, which was totally unsheltered and not easily accessible, was an unacceptable option from the public enjoyment point of view. They were of the view that the proponent should improve the setting and operation of the restaurant and demonstrate

greater efforts in promoting and facilitating public use of the existing public viewing areas.

(Note: The summary of discussion on this item was conveyed to the Town Planning Board on 20 February 2014.)

(c) Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas – Proposed Study Scope

- The Planning Department (PlanD) briefed the Task Force on the proposed scope of an urban design study (the Study) which aimed to formulate design concept and development parameters to guide the permanent development of the Wan Chai North and North Point harbourfront areas after the gradual completion of the Wan Chai Development Phase II (WDII) works.
- Members in general supported the commissioning of the Study and would like to play a more active role in the process. Some Members commented that the scope of the Study should be further expanded to cover a larger area and additional elements such as reviewing the existing themes of the key sites, enhancing nearby streetscape, identifying possible marine uses, etc. Some said that the Study should allow flexibility to review whether the current land uses were still in congruence with the community's vision.
- The Government responded that the suggestions and comments expressed by Members would be taken into account when refining the scope. While the Study would

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focus mainly on urban design aspects of the new land which would be available for permanent development after the completion of the WDII project, interfaces with the adjacent developments and connectivity issues would be duly covered during the Study. Any revisions to the existing land uses, if found to be necessary and justified in the course of the study, would also be considered. A working group would be formed under the Task Force for Members to actively participate in the study process after a consultant was engaged.

Secretariat

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

April 2014