

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 18 July 2011

HC/15/2011

Proposed Establishment of a New Task Force on Water-land Interface

PURPOSE

This paper invites Members to consider the establishment of a new task force under the Harbourfront Commission (“the Commission”) to focus discussions and work on water-land interface.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. We recommend that –
 - (a) the Commission establish a new task force on water-land interface;
 - (b) the proposed terms of reference (“ToR”) of the Task Force set out in paragraph 5 be endorsed; and
 - (c) the modus operandi of the Task Force meetings set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 be agreed.

BACKGROUND

3. According to the recommendation report of the Task Group on Management Model for the Harbourfront endorsed by the former Harbour-front Enhancement Committee at its final meeting in February 2010, the Commission may set up Task Forces to assist it in carrying out its key functions. The Task Forces are to be convened by and made up of Commission Members. If necessary, the Commission may co-opt additional Members into the Task Forces to provide expertise on specific aspects. Since its establishment in July 2010, the Commission has already set up 3 geographical Task Forces, namely the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island, the Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development, and the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing.

4. The Commission has at its earlier meetings listened to the presentations on “Overview of Land Use Framework for Victoria

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Harbourfront” by the Planning Department, “An Overview of Commercial Port Operations and Facilities in Victoria Harbour” by the Marine Department and “Study on Water-land Interface” by the Harbour Business Forum. Subsequently at the 5th Commission Meeting held on 17 May 2011, the Chair suggested and the Meeting agreed that the Commission Secretariat would prepare a paper on the proposed establishment of a task force on water-land interface including the proposed ToR for discussion by the Commission. In discussing the proposed task force, Members raised the question of overlapping purview between it and the three geographical Task Forces. This is an issue which should be further addressed.

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

5. With reference to the Commission’s ToR (**Annex A**) and Members’ discussion thus far, it is proposed that the new Task Force on Water-land Interface should be established to assist the Commission in the following areas with respect to water-land interface within the Harbour Limit (**Annex B**) -

- (a) to review the water-land interface situation of the existing water-dependent uses of harbourfront areas around the Victoria Harbour;
- (b) to advise on water-land interface issues for formulation of a holistic plan for the Harbour in recognition of the Harbour as both a working harbour and a place for leisure;
- (c) to identify development opportunities (both short-term and long-term) within the holistic plan and to advise on matters concerning water-land interface relating to implementation of proposals to capitalise on opportunities;
- (d) to advise from the water-land interface perspective on the feasibility of water transportation within the Harbour and, subject to such feasibility, the promotion of water transportation with a view to increasing the accessibility from the sea and enhancing the tourism appeal of the Harbour;
- (e) to provide advice from the water-land interface perspective on the need for leisure/water-sports uses of the Harbour and the promotion of these uses subject to such need; and
- (f) to provide advice from the water-land interface perspective on promoting the branding and cultural heritage of the Harbour including facilitating the organisation of events in the Harbour.

6. The Task Force on Water-land Interface should be established

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to focus on specific duties under its ToR. On the question of overlapping of work with the three existing geographical Task Forces, we recommend that specific proposals should continue to be submitted to the relevant geographical Task Force. The new Task Force on Water-land interface will explore holistically and strategically related issues concerning water-land interfacing. As all Task Forces report to the Commission on their recommendations and progress, Members may share views at the commission level based on actual experience.

MODUS OPERANDI

Membership

7. All Members of the Commission who are interested in the work of this Task Force are welcome to join it in accordance with the House Rules. Subject to the Commission's agreement to set up the new task force, the Secretariat will invite Members to indicate if they will join it. Additional Members may be co-opted into the Task Force as necessary to provide expertise.

Operation of the New Task Force

8. Considering that the nature of this Task Force is different from that of the other three geographical Task Forces, the new Task Force may run for a year first, and then review its work. As a start, this Task Force may need only meet as frequently as it is necessary for complementing the work of the geographical Task Forces. The Secretariat will manage the meeting schedule and its discussion agenda in consultation with the Chair of the new Task Force.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to endorse the recommendations as proposed in paragraph 2 above.

**Secretariat
Harbourfront Commission
July 2011**

Terms of Reference of Harbourfront Commission

The Harbourfront Commission is set up to –

- (a) play an advocacy, oversight and advisory role in the envisioning, planning, urban design, marketing and branding, development, management and operation of the harbourfront areas and facilities on a continuous and ongoing basis;
- (b) exercise overall coordination and monitoring of harbourfront planning, urban design, development and management to ensure effective integration of these major aspects; and
- (c) foster and encourage the development, management and maintenance of the harbourfront through a wide range of contractual entrustment/partnership arrangements with the private sector (including the community, social enterprises and non-governmental organisations).

