For discussion on 3 November 2014

HC/16/2014

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

#### **REPORTING PERIOD**

This progress report covers the period from August to October 2014.

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

<u>Seventeenth Meeting – 15 September 2014</u>

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

#### (a) Signature Project in Central & Western District: Harbourfront Enhancement and Revitalisation at the Western Wholesale Food Market (WWFM)

- The Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) sought Members' views on the preliminary design of the signature project of the Central and Western District Council to develop waterfront promenade and revitalise the four disused piers at WWFM.
- Members in general supported the design knowing the constraint posed by a limited budget, but offered various suggestions on the design including the type of railing to be used. provision of water-land interface facilities. arrangement of different activity spaces, landscaping features and whether to preserve the mechanical crane presently situated there. Members emphasized the importance of enhancing pedestrian connectivity from the hinterland to the project site so as to facilitate public enjoyment upon completion of the project.
- C&WDO and ArchSD were asked to refine the design having regard to Members' comments, and inform the Task Force of the finalised design when available.

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#### (b) Signature Project Scheme in Eastern District: Eastern District Cultural Square

- The Eastern District Office (EDO) sought Members' views on the conceptual framework of the signature project of the Eastern District Council (EDC) to develop a cultural square at a waterfront site at Tam Kung Temple Road adjacent to Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter.
- Members unanimously supported the early implementation of the project which would further extend the Aldrich Bay Promenade and convert the existing temporary car park into open space which would provide space for cultural performances. Members offered some suggestions for EDC's consideration such as to facilitate marine uses at the future waterfront promenade; to cancel the existing road between the project site and Tam Kung Temple so as to provide better pedestrian environment; to adopt a simple design for the performance stage in order to facilitate street performers; and if possible, to extend the waterfront promenade further to Shau Kei Wan Wholesale Fish Market, etc.
- EDO was invited to take into account Members' comments when taking forward the project and consult the Task Force when a preliminary design was available.

### (c) Central Harbourfront Event Space

- The tenant of the event site at the new Central harbourfront briefed Members on its plans to operate events and activities at the site.
- Members welcomed the commencement of the tenancy which could bring more activities to the waterfront, adding vibrancy to the Central harbourfront. They opined that the site should be used for community events that were open to the general public as far as possible. A Member also conveyed that it was not desirable to hang banners to the effect of blocking the harbour view around the site.

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#### (d) Shatin to Central Link – Exterior Design of the West Ventilation Building of the Exhibition Station

- The Highways Department (HyD) and the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) briefed Members on the proposed exterior design of the west ventilation building of Exhibition Station of the Shatin to Central Link, which would be constructed in the vicinity of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- Members considered that the proposed design should be further improved having regard to the harbour planning principles and guidelines, and raised particular concerns in terms of footprint of the ventilation building, design of landscaping features, lack of accessibility to the rooftop of the ventilation building and accessibility provided for pedestrians etc. HyD and MTRCL were asked to amend the design having regard to Members' comments.
- Subsequently, a working session was organised on 6 October 2014 for Members to consider a revised design proposed by HyD and MTRCL. While recognising that the parties concerned had made some improvements, Members attending the session concluded that the revised design had not fully addressed their concerns, and that the footprint of the ventilation building should be further minimised. HyD and MTRCL were asked to provide further information to justify the proposed footprint requirement of the ventilation building with the goal of providing more ground floor space for public access.

Secretariat Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island October 2014