



Comments on Harbourfront Authority
to: hape@hfc.org.hk

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From: Trevor

To: hape@hfc.org.hk

History: This message has been replied to.

The digest fails to address concerns such as a lack of oversight over the harbour as a whole; the lack of advisory powers over Government departments; a lack of legitimacy in land allocation; bias towards commercial operations; and a loss of the public voice on the Board. These shortcomings need to be resolved before the community and legislators support the proposal.

There should be a strategy to justify the location of water-dependent land uses – pumping stations, sewage plants, waste transfer stations, container and oil terminals, cargo working areas, fuel and water supply stations, police, customs, marine department and fire stations.

There need to be plans to develop waterfront plans for each district not only in Victoria Harbour (Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau, Tseung Kwan O and Shatin) and to identify activities and facilities which the local communities want.

The authority must have advisory powers to guide government to invest in new projects, and to steer currently existing sites, including road and pavement design, pedestrian, cycling and dog walking routes, and places to eat cooked food outdoors at restaurants and kiosks along the waterfront.

Only when a local community has decided that neither the government nor developers can deliver what the people want, can a site be proposed for vesting to the authority, with well-argued reasons and community support.

As written the digest, the requirements for “financial sustainability” and a “balanced portfolio of projects” would force the authority to focus on commercial viability rather than community aspirations. This requirement should be dropped.

as it creates a conflict of interest, making it impossible for the authority to be able to comment on the planning of private waterfront sites next door.

With such changes, the authority becomes a solution provider rather than a commercial developer, a partner of the community rather than an aloof institution, and a creator of waterfronts with excellent public spaces with an abundant choice of activities for all people.

As an alternative to these changes why not simply create a well-funded works office under the Chief Secretary to implement projects identified by the existing

Harbourfront Commission and district councils?

Trevor G Cooper

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