Progress Report from Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review of Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC)

Reporting Period

This progress report covers the period from July to August 2008.

Meeting(s) held and the Major Outcome, Findings and Recommendations

23rd Sub-committee Meeting - 28 July 2008

- 2. The Sub-committee endorsed the change of the representative of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers at the Sub-committee. The updated membership of the Sub-committee is at Annex.
- 3. The Sub-committee discussed the following items -
 - (a) Re-provisioning of Refuse Collection Point (RCP) at Paterson Street, Causeway Bay
 - ♦ The project team led by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department briefed the Sub-committee on the re-provisioning of the RCP at Paterson Street to facilitate the proposed widening of Victoria Park Road westbound.
 - ❖ The Sub-committee appreciated the design of the RCP, but expressed reservation on the siting of the facility at a location close to the waterfront. The Sub-committee considered that the subject site and its adjoining vacant land could provide opportunity to enhance public accessibility to the waterfront. However, the siting of the proposed RCP at the subject location would deprive the public of such an opportunity. The adjoining vacant land could only be turned into a

landscaped area for greening effects.

(b) Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2A: Sewage Conveyance System - Layout Design of Facilities at the Eastern End of Fung Mat Road, Sai Ying Pun

- ♦ In July 2006, the project team led by Drainage Services Department consulted the Sub-committee on the proposed use of the site for construction of the permanent HATS facilities. At this meeting, the project team further briefed Members on the layout design of the facilities. According to the latest design, most of the facilities would be put underground, whilst the above-ground structures would only occupy a land area of 10m². Upon completion of the construction works in 2014, both the temporary works area and the permanent area would be landscaped and open to the public.
- ♦ The Sub-committee appreciated the design of the facilities to reduce the scale of the above-ground structures, which could promote permeability. There were however concerns about the large size of the temporary works area as it was located right at the waterfront. The Sub-committee noted that a number of infrastructure projects would be carried out in the Western District and expressed concern about their impacts on the design integration and programme coordination of the planned open space along the waterfront in the area.

(c) MTR West Island Line (WIL) - Proposed Re-provisioning of Kennedy Town Swimming Pool and Temporary Works Areas

❖ The project team, comprising representatives of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Ltd. and Highways Department, briefed the Sub-committee on the re-provisioning of the Kennedy Town Swimming Pool (which was affected by the WIL alignment) at Kennedy Town Praya and the temporary works areas of the WIL project (including a temporary underground magazine site at Victoria Road to store explosives and 2 seafront works area at the Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) outside the Belcher Bay Park and the ex-abattoir site at Kennedy Town).

- ♦ The Sub-committee had no major comments on the design of the swimming pool but suggested the project team to consider improving the connectivity of the swimming pool with the waterfront and adjoining areas to enhance public accessibility.
- ♦ Whilst acknowledging the need for works areas related to the construction of the WIL, the Sub-committee had concern about the large size and waterfront location of these works areas. The Sub-committee was of the view that the government should take the opportunity to require the project proponent to landscape such works areas for public enjoyment upon completion of the WIL project.
- ❖ The Sub-committee had a lengthy discussion on the 3 existing piers at/outside the ex-abattoir site. The Sub-committee suggested to fix up the eastern pier and make it available for community use as soon as possible, and to retain the central pier and, as far as possible, the western pier for public use in future. The project team agreed to consider the suggestions.

(d) Amendments to the Draft Quarry Bay Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/H21/24

- → Planning Department briefed the Sub-committee on the amendments to the draft Quarry Bay OZP No. S/H21/24 gazetted on 25 July 2008 which included, amongst others, the introduction of building height (BH) control to prevent out-of-context developments and to regulate the development profile of the built-environment.
- → The Sub-committee noted that relevant Harbour Planning Principles had been considered in proposing the BH restrictions, but reiterated the views that BH control alone could not resolve issues affecting the urban fabric. There were also discussions on how the amendments could

improve quality of life, preservation of views to the ridgelines, implications of tightening the BH upon redevelopment and maintaining breezeways and air corridors.

(e) Project No. 9327WF - Laying of Western Cross Harbour Main and Associated Land Mains from West Kowloon to Sai Ying Pun

- ♦ Water Supplies Department and its consultants briefed the Sub-committee on the project and the related works area proposed at the waterfront of the West Kowloon Cultural District.
- ❖ The Sub-committee had reservation on the proposed works area as it would lead to the partial closure of the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade, which was a quick-win project championed by HEC. Members had queries on the siting, land requirement and duration of the proposed works area. It was generally considered that the works area should be so located to minimise disruption to public use of the harbour-front, and the land should be enhanced for public enjoyment upon completion of the works.
- ♦ The Sub-committee also expressed concern about the absence of complete information on temporary works areas along the harbour-front and how they were coordinated in terms of land requirements and programming.

(f) Harbourfront Enhancement Opportunities

- ♦ Development Bureau (DEVB) briefed the Sub-committee on harbour-front enhancement opportunities including 2 quick -win projects (i.e., temporary promenade along the Kwun Tong PCWA and extension of the promenade along Aldrich Bay) and the improvement to directional signage to the harbour-front.
- ♦ The Sub-committee noted that an inter-departmental

working group would be set up to explore other opportunities for harbour-front enhancement. It generally considered that DEVB should take the lead to coordinate the planning and development of the harbour-front areas, including acquisition of funding and identification of works/management agents to expedite implementation of quickwins. Members also considered it necessary to have an overview of all existing and planned works projects along the waterfront for the Sub-committee's reference. A Member also tabled suggestions to beef up the lists of quick-wins and the Inventory. The Sub-committee would further discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Secretariat, HEC Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review August 2008

Annex

Membership of HEC Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review

Chairman	Mr Vincent Ng, HK Institute of Architects
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Non-official Members	Represented by	Alternate
Business Environment Council	Dr Andrew Thomson	Mr Roger Nissim
Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour	Dr Sujata Govada	Dr Ng Mee-kam
Conservancy Association	Dr Alvin Kwok	Ms Lister Cheung
Friends of the Earth	Mrs Mei Ng	Prof Carlos Lo
HK Institute of Planners	Mr Kim Chan	Ms Y Y Pong
HK Institute of Surveyors	Mr Yu Kam-hung	Dr Paul Ho
HK Institution of Engineers	Ir Dr Chan Fuk-cheung	Ir Dr Greg Wong
HK Tourism Board	Mr Mason Hung	Ms Priscilla Poon
Society for Protection of the	Mr Dennis Li	Mr Paul Zimmerman
Harbour Limited		
Mr Nicholas Brooke		
Mr Patrick Lau		

Official Members	Represented by	Alternate
Development Bureau	Principal Assistant	Assistant Secretary
	Secretary (Planning &	(Planning) 3
	Lands) 2	
Transport and Housing Bureau	Principal Assistant	Chief Engineer/Transport
	Secretary (Transport) 3	Planning, Transport
		Department
Civil Engineering and	Chief Engineer/Kowloon	Senior Engineer/Kowloon
Development Department	East	
Home Affairs Department	Chief Executive Officer (2) 1	-
Lands Department	Deputy Director (General)	Assistant Director
		(Headquarters)
Planning Department (PlanD)	Assistant Director of	Chief Town Planner/
	Planning/Territorial	Studies & Research