Paper No. 18/2009 For discussion on 17 August 2009

Progress Report from Task Group on Management Model for the Harbourfront (TGMMH) of Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC)

Reporting Period

This progress report covers the period from July to August 2009.

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

9th Task Group Meeting – 28 July 2009

2. The Task Group discussed the following items –

(a) **Presentation by HBF**

The Harbourfront Business Fourm (HBF) gave a presentation to TGMMH outlining several options for an overarching body to oversee the planning, delivery and management of harbourfront areas.

In particular, HBF proposed the establishment of a Harbour Committee (HarbourComm) as a start, which would be a high level public-private committee to be chaired by a senior Government official. The HarbourComm would be responsible for providing strategic planning advice on matters including land use, with no transfer of land ownership involved and the duty of management resting with existing Government departments. This proposal has the merit of requiring a short lead time for establishment with no legislation involved, thus minimising disruption to existing allocation of duties within the Government. In the long run, HBF proposes the establishment of a statutory body known as Harbour Agency (HarbourA+), which would be a high-powered, statutory agency with assumption of statutory powers such as land ownership and planning.

(b) Recommendation Report to the HEC

Following a TGMMH Retreat on 13 June, Mr Nicholas Brooke was tasked to draft the Recommendation Report on Management Model for the Harbourfront with input from both official and non-official members.

The report provides a comprehensive review of TGMMH's work and findings over the past two years. It establishes the objectives and principles for the proposed harbourfront management model and advocates the early establishment of a high level Harbourfront Commission. The Commission would replace the HEC and play not only an advocacy and advisory role, but also exercise overall coordination and monitoring of harbourfront planning, urban design and development. The draft report is being refined with further input from Members.

Informal Meeting with Legislative Council Panel on Development Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning (LegCo Subcom)

3. LegCo Subcom will conduct an overseas duty visit to Vancouver, Baltimore, Boston and New York from 25 September to 3 October 2009 to study the experience of selected cities in waterfront planning and management. It has proposed to meet with TGMMH members to exchange views before their visit. The Secretariat is making the relevant arrangements.

Secretariat, HEC TGMMH August 2009