

Harbour-front Enhancement Committee

Review on Harbour Planning Principles

1. Purpose

1.1 The Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) is invited to comment and adopt the proposed Harbour Planning Principles as a basis for the work of the HEC.

2. Background

2.1 The Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review decided on 4 August 2004 to set-up a Task Group to oversee the review exercise with the aim of formulating a set of Harbour Planning Principles to reflect changing circumstances and community aspiration.

2.2 The Task Group on Harbour Planning Principles (Task Group) held a number of meetings and discussion sessions, and reviewed various studies and overseas examples. The Task Group agreed that vision and mission statements should be included as an overall framework of the Harbour Planning Principles.

3. Vision and Mission

3.1 The Vision Statement promulgated by the Town Planning Board (TPB), namely 'To make Victoria Harbour attractive, vibrant, accessible and symbolic of Hong Kong – a harbour for the people and a harbour of life', has been taken as a base reference in the review. (**Annex I**) The Task Group considered the statement is still valid but needs to be further developed into vision and mission statements.

3.2 With increasing concerns and emphasis on sustainable development, the Task Group agreed that such concept be prominently featured in the revised statement. With that, the following vision and mission statements have been put forth:

Harbour Plan: Vision

Victoria Harbour: A harbour for the people, a harbour of life.

Harbour Plan: Mission

To transform Victoria Harbour and its harbour-front areas into: an attractive, vibrant, accessible and sustainable world-class asset.

4. Harbour Planning Principles

4.1 Focusing on a spectrum of community aspirations, the eight key planning principles, detailed in **Annex II**, are:

Principle 1 – Preserving Victoria Harbour as a Natural, Public and Economic Asset.

Principle 2 – Victoria Harbour as Hong Kong’s Identity.

Principle 3 – A Vibrant Harbour.

Principle 4 – An Accessible Harbour.

Principle 5 – Maximizing Harbour-front for Public Enjoyment.

Principle 6 – Integrated Planning for a World-class Harbour.

Principle 7 – Sustainable Development of the Harbour.

Principle 8 – Early and Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement.

4.2 The Harbour Planning Principles would form a set of guidelines for all individuals and organizations in the planning, development and management of Victoria Harbour, and its waterfront areas. The principles should be applied in the harbour planning review and comprehensive planning studies such as the Kai Tak and Wan Chai Planning Review at key harbour-front areas, as well as a guideline at the local level in the formulation of enhancement proposals.

4.3 The principles are subject to review to reflect further input and changing planning circumstances and public aspiration where appropriate.

5. Way Forward

5.1 The Task Group also discussed ways to take forward the proposed Harbour Planning Principles. In considering the principles are goals and conceptual frameworks towards harbour planning, the Task Group decided to recommend, subject to any amendments from Members, the following publicity arrangements for consideration:

- (i) Harbour-front Enhancement Committee
Members are invited to review the Harbour Planning Principles with their member organizations and to revert with amendments, if any.
- (ii) Town Planning Board
A paper be submitted to the Town Planning Board outlining the vision, mission, and Harbour Planning Principles aiming at an adoption of these principles.
- (iii) Legislative Council, Executive Council and Government Bureaux/Departments
Following adoption by the Town Planning Board, the LegCo, ExCo, and the rest of the Government will be advised of the adopted Harbour Planning Principles.

(iv) District Councils

A working session be arranged between HEC and the district councils around the Harbour to introduce the Harbour Planning Principles.

(v) Statutory/Advisory Bodies and the Public

The adopted Harbour Planning Principles would be featured in the public engagement programmes/events associated with the relevant planning studies and harbour enhancement proposals. Both statutory/advisory bodies and the public are encouraged to participate in such programmes/events and provide comments in refining the principles.

6. Advice Sought

6.1 Members are invited to:

- (i) adopt the proposed Harbour Planning Principles as the guideline for HEC in reviewing both existing and new harbour-front areas; and
- (ii) agree to the proposed programmes as outline in para. 5 above.

Vision and Goals for Victoria Harbour of Town Planning Board

Vision:

To make Victoria Harbour attractive, vibrant, accessible and symbolic of Hong Kong – a harbour for the people and a harbour of life

Goals:

1. To bring the people to the Harbour and the Harbour to the people;
2. To enhance the scenic views of the Harbour and maintain visual access to the harbour-front;
3. To enhance the Harbour as a unique attraction for our people and tourists;
4. To create a quality harbour-front through encouraging innovative building design and a variety of tourist, retail, leisure and recreational activities, and providing an integrated network of open space and pedestrian links;
5. To facilitate the improvement of the water quality of the Harbour; and
6. To maintain a safe and efficient harbour for the transport of people and goods and for the operation of an international hub port.

HARBOUR PLAN: VISION, MISSION & PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Harbour Plan: Vision and Mission

Harbour Plan: Vision

Victoria Harbour: A harbour for the people, a harbour of life.

Harbour Plan: Mission

To transform Victoria Harbour and its harbour-front areas into: an attractive, vibrant, accessible and sustainable world-class asset.

Harbour Plan: Planning Principles

The Harbour Planning Principles are a set of guidelines for all individuals and organisations in the sustainable planning, development and management of Victoria Harbour, and the harbour-front areas.

The principles are developed and monitored by the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee. The principles are dynamic and may be changed to meet future aspirations of the people of Hong Kong.

Principle 1 – Preserving Victoria Harbour as a Natural, Public and Economic Asset

Victoria Harbour must be preserved for Hong Kong people and visitors as a special public asset, a natural and cultural heritage, and a driver for the economy.

Principle 2 – Victoria Harbour as Hong Kong's Identity

Planning, developing and managing Victoria Harbour must enhance the harbour and harbour-front areas as Hong Kong's symbol of urban design excellence and Hong Kong's "brand identity" to the international community.

Principle 3 – A Vibrant Harbour

Balancing the harbour as a maritime and logistics hub for the safe and efficient passage of people and goods, with the harbour as a culture and leisure facility catering to the aspirations of all sectors of the community, requires diverse, attractive and vibrant harbour-front areas and a multitude of commercial, public, tourist, leisure, sports, culture, infrastructure and marine facilities.

Principle 4 – An Accessible Harbour

Victoria Harbour must integrate with the hinterland in a comprehensive manner, including ample unrestricted and convenient visual and physical access to and along it as well as around the harbour-front areas.

Principle 5 – Maximizing Opportunities for Public Enjoyment

With limited land available around Victoria Harbour, land required for transport infrastructure, utilities and uses incompatible with the above planning principles should be minimized.

Principle 6 – Integrated Planning for a World-class Harbour

Integrated and long-term planning, development and management of infrastructure, land and marine uses, and water quality is required to ensure that Victoria Harbour and its harbour-front areas support Hong Kong's economic pillars and the aspirations of Hong Kong's people.

Principle 7 – Sustainable Development for the Harbour

The planning, development and management of Victoria Harbour and its harbour-front areas should embrace the principles of sustainable development, i.e. balancing and catering to the economic, social and environmental needs of all sectors of the present generation, without compromising the needs of future generations.

Principle 8 – Early and Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

All sectors of the community must be engaged in the planning, development and management of Victoria Harbour and the harbour-front areas, through comprehensive consensus building processes involving relevant institutions.