

Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC)

Development of Greening Master Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central

INTRODUCTION

This paper is to brief members of the HEC on the development of the Greening Master Plan (GMP) for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central.

BACKGROUND

2. The Steering Committee on Greening (SCG) was established in end 2002 under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) (PSW) with members from 17 bureaux and departments. The SCG sets the direction on the overall greening strategy and oversees the implementation of major greening programmes.

3. The SCG directed that, to achieve enhanced and long-term effect, greening works should be carried out in a more coordinated manner. The preparation of district wide master plans for greening was considered a viable means to achieve the objective.

4. Against this background, the Greening Master Plan Committee was established in September 2004 as one of the working committees under the SCG to oversee the process and the subsequent implementation of the Greening Master Plan (GMP) for selected urban areas. The GMP Committee is chaired by the Director of Civil Engineering and Development. Besides Government bureaux and departments involved in greening works, representatives from the professional bodies and the academia, including President of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architect, President of the Hong Kong Institute of Architect and Professor C.Y. Jim of the University of Hong Kong, have been invited to participate

in the Committee as advisers.

SCOPE OF GREENING MASTER PLAN

5. The GMP concept aims to fully utilize the limited greening opportunity in urban areas to bring about noticeable improvements in urban greenery based on the existing layout and the planned improvements to the layout of the areas. The GMP defines the overall greening framework of the area including the identification of suitable locations for greening and the creation of greening themes. It will serve as a guide to all parties involved in the implementation of greening work within the area covered by the plan. This shall ensure the adoption of a consistent greening approach in the development of urban areas thereby bringing an overall greening effect with local characters.

6. Generally, the GMP is similar to the Landscape Master Plan prepared for new town developments but it will only cover the urban areas. Greening proposals in GMP will be mainly on public areas. However, greening opportunities in private developments and premises will also be addressed and recommended if considered appropriate.

7. Given the anticipated limited space available for planting works in urban areas, GMP will include other greening measures to enhance the greening effects, such as greening of free vertical face of buildings, column and superstructure of footbridges, hanging baskets on railings and rooftop/ podium greening, and to maximize the greening opportunities in the areas.

CURRENT PROGRESS

8. Two consultancy studies were commissioned in September 2004 and December 2004 to develop the GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central respectively. The study area of the two consultancies is as shown on the attached Plan in **Annex A**.

9. Under the studies, the consultants will review all relevant background information of the respective area, including their characteristics, existing vegetation, current and planned development projects and anticipated constraints

like underground utilities. Based on findings of the background study, the consultants will prepare conceptual GMP options identifying the constraints and greening opportunities in the areas. The conceptual GMP options will then be further developed into a Preliminary GMP and ultimately lead to the formulation of a Recommended GMP through extensive consultation.

10. The Yau Tsim Mong District Council was consulted on the preliminary greening concepts of the GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui in December 2004 with general support. Further consultation will be made again in April 2005 with the District Council when more detailed greening proposals will be available. Consultation with the Central and Western District Council will similar be made in May 2005 and July 2005 tentatively for the GMP for Central.

11. It is anticipated that the GMP development works for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central would be completed in April and July 2005 respectively. Implementation of the proposed greening measures will then commence with a tentative completion date of end 2006 for both areas. Development of GMP for other urban areas will follow on with the endorsement of the Greening Master Plan Committee. The areas under consideration include Sheung Wan, Wanchai, Causeway Bay, Mong Kok, Hung Hom and Kwun Tong.

INITIAL FINDINGS

12. The Preliminary GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui has proposed structured planting of trees along major traffic corridors to create a green avenue effect whenever possible. In areas with limited spatial opportunities, the consultants have proposed other greening types including the use of pot planters and flowering baskets hanging to railing or lamp poles for softening the congested environment.

13. Regarding the GMP for Central, as the consultants are still preparing the conceptual GMP options, the greening proposals could only be available at a later stage. District Council and other relevant stakeholders will be consulted.

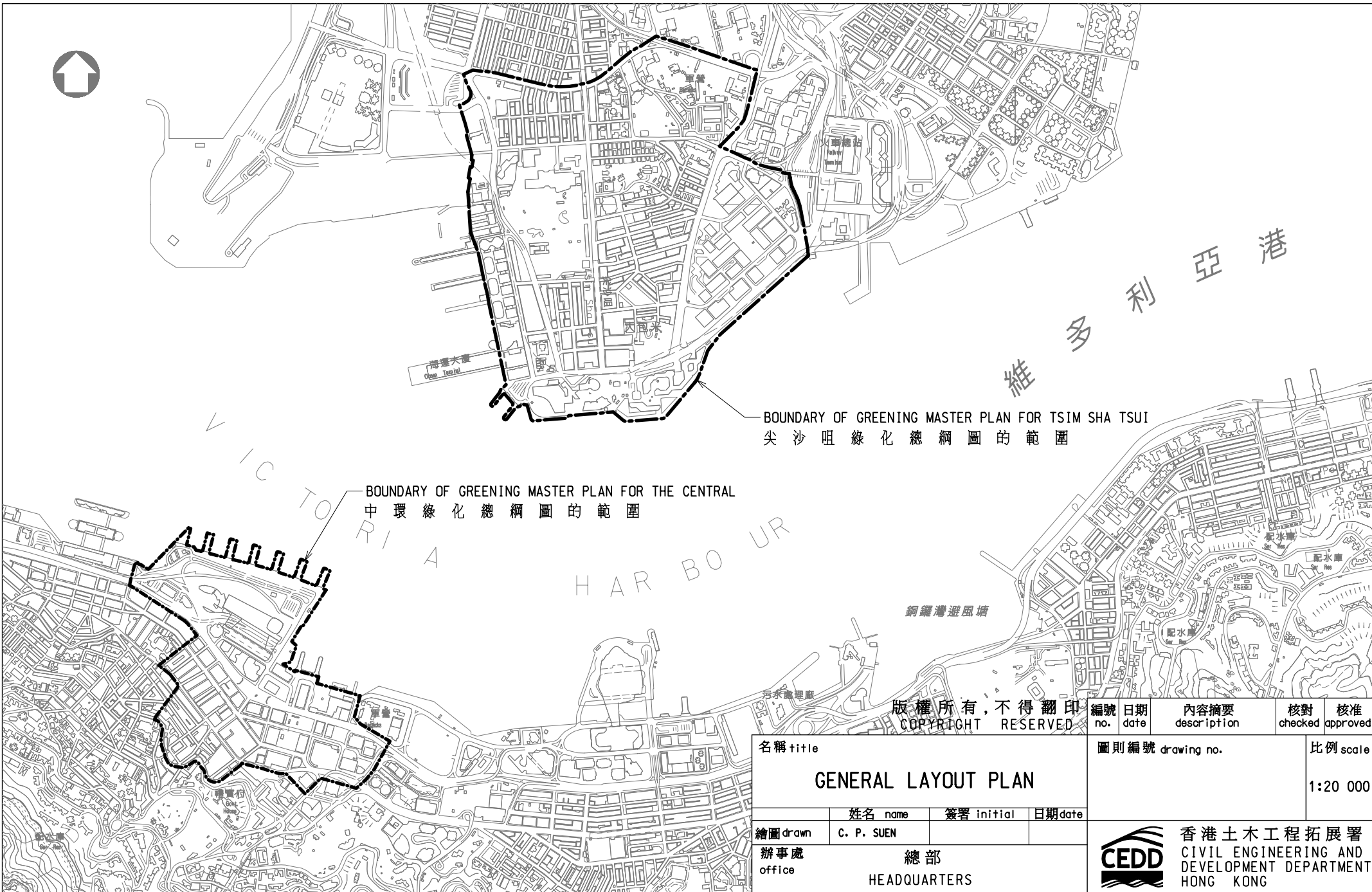
ADVICE SOUGHT

14. HEC Members are welcomed to give their views and suggestions

about the development of GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, particularly for the harbour-front areas.

Civil Engineering and Development Department

March 2005



BOUNDARY OF GREENING MASTER PLAN FOR TSIM SHA TSUI
尖沙咀綠化總綱圖的範圍

BOUNDARY OF GREENING MASTER PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL
中環綠化總綱圖的範圍

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