

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Planning Study on the Harbour and its Waterfront Areas - An Assessment of the Potential of the Harbour for Tourism Purposes

Purpose

1. This paper is to brief Members of the Committee on the key recommendations of the Planning Study on the Harbour and its Waterfront Areas (the Study).

Background

2. In October 1999, Town Planning Board promulgated a Vision Statement for Victoria Harbour – *“To make Victoria Harbour attractive, vibrant, accessible and symbolic of Hong Kong - a harbour for the People and a harbour of Life”*. The Study was then commissioned in December 1999 to examine ways to realise this Harbour Vision.

3. Between March and May 2001, a public consultation exercise on the key Harbour Planning Principles and Framework was held. A briefing was made to the Committee on 15 May 2001. A report on this consultation, documenting comments received and Government’s initial responses, was prepared and released to all concerned in January 2002. Comments received, where appropriate, have been taken into account in formulating the Study recommendations.

Key Recommendations

4. The Study is now completed, the key recommendations of the Study are :
- a Harbour and Waterfront Plan;
 - a Harbour Tourism Plan;
 - illustrative planning schemes for selected Action Areas; and
 - a preferred institutional framework to implement Harbourfront proposals.
5. These key recommendations are explained in the Executive Summary at

Annex 1. The Final Report is available for reading at Planning Department's website at www.info.gov.hk/planning.

Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWA) and Typhoon Shelters

6. The recommendations of the Study had taken into account comments raised by the trade in the first stage consultation, the position is generally the same as that expressed in the Consultation Report which was distributed to the Committee in early 2002. In brief, they are:

- the existing PCWAs at Stonecutters Island and Rambler Channel would not be affected by the Harbour Plan Study proposals;
- relocation or termination of the PCWA/typhoon shelters affected by committed reclamation projects in the inner harbour (but which are being integrated into the Harbour Plan Study) are being separately addressed under those specific projects i.e. the Wanchai Development Phase II and South East Kowloon Development; and
- the only PCWA / typhoon shelter which may be affected by specific recommendation of the Study (i.e. a secondary tourism node) is the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter / Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWA).

7. It is recognised that the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter/PCWA is a major urban port facility, and relocation or reprovisioning arrangements would be a key issue which need to be resolved. The proposal is a long term vision for the area given its strategic location adjacent to the planned West Kowloon Cultural District. It is however, still subject to detailed feasibility study before its implementation (like relocation of existing facilities, environmental quality of water, traffic issues etc.)

8. In a wider perspective, the territorial demand and supply of port and port-related facilities, including typhoon shelters and PCWAs, are currently being studied under the Hong Kong Port Master Plan 2020 Study, commissioned by the Economic Development and Labour Bureau.

Way Forward

Working towards the Harbour Vision

9. The Government is committed to working with the community to achieve the Vision of making Victoria Harbour attractive, vibrant, accessible and symbolic

of Hong Kong. The Government welcomes the recommendations of this Study, which have in fact been incorporated in key harbourfront projects such as the Central (Phase III) and Wanchai (Phase II) Reclamations and the Further Urban Design Study for Planning and Development of South East Kowloon. They will be taken into account in the planning of other harbourfront areas.

Institutional Setup

10. The Government has also noted the recommendation of the Study on the institutional framework, that a “Harbour Authority” along the model of some overseas cities may not be suitable and that a high level “Harbour Committee” is more preferable. As a first step, a high level Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration has been established to spearhead and co-ordinate the planning and development of the West Kowloon Cultural District. The need for a “Harbour Committee” to oversee the entire harbourfront will be reviewed based on the experience of the Steering Committee.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to note paras. 4 to 10 above. Any further comments from Members are most welcome and will be taken into account in the future planning of harbourfront projects.

Presentation

12. Mr. Raymond Wong, Chief Town Planner of the Planning Department will attend the meeting and make the presentation.

ATTACHMENT

Annex 1: Executive Summary of the “Planning Study on the Harbour and its Waterfront Areas” (Chinese Version only)

Planning and Development Branch
Planning and Services Division
Marine Department
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