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Panel on Development

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

**Proposed continuation of work by the Subcommittee
in the 2009-2010 legislative session**

Purpose

This paper seeks the views of members of the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning (the Subcommittee) on the need for the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Development in November 2008 to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. The major areas of the Subcommittee's study, as agreed by the Panel, include the following --

- (a) short-term, medium-term and long-term initiatives to enhance the environment and accessibility of harbourfront areas for public enjoyment;
- (b) development of continuous promenades along the harbourfront;
- (c) planning control in respect of development projects at harbourfront sites; and
- (d) institutional arrangements for the planning and management of harbourfront areas.

Work of the Subcommittee

3. Under the chairmanship of Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, the Subcommittee has held five meetings and conducted a round-the-harbour tour on 21 February 2009. The Subcommittee has studied the following major issues --

- (a) major strategies adopted by the Administration in formulating and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives;
- (b) planned harbourfront enhancement measures on government land and private land in the short term, medium term and long term; and
- (c) connectivity of the harbourfront areas for pedestrian access on the Hong Kong Island; and
- (d) major harbourfront issues discussed by individual District Councils, and the updated position of those issues.

4. In the course of deliberations, the Subcommittee has made reference to relevant overseas experience. Having regard to the research findings of the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat and the Administration, the Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore, as these cities are well known for their successful experiences in waterfront planning and management. After securing the endorsement of the Panel on Development, the Subcommittee obtained the permission of the House Committee at its meeting on 10 July 2009 to conduct the duty visit.

5. The duty visit was originally scheduled to take place from 25 September to 3 October 2009. However, due to unforeseen commitments, three members of the delegation informed the LegCo Secretariat that they could not take part in the duty visit. After consulting the other members of the delegation, the Chairman of the Subcommittee advised that the duty visit should be rescheduled. The rescheduling arrangements would be considered when the Subcommittee resumes its meetings after the summer recess of LegCo.

Need for continuation of work in the 2009-2010 session

6. Having regard to the policy pledges and ongoing work of the Administration on harbourfront matters, the Subcommittee has planned to study the following issues --

- (a) connectivity of the harbourfront areas for pedestrian access on the Kowloon side;
- (b) urban design framework for the new Central harbourfront and implementation arrangements¹; and
- (c) institutional arrangements for the planning, implementation and management of existing and new harbourfront areas².

Apart from these issues, the Subcommittee may further examine strategies adopted by the Administration in formulating and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives, in particular the strategies to overcome or mitigate the constraints imposed by existing land uses on harbourfront enhancement.

7. In examining these issues, the Subcommittee may conduct site visits, meet with the Administration and solicit views from relevant parties and the general public. It is anticipated that if the Subcommittee decides to continue its work and pursue the issues in paragraph 6, the study may take about six to nine months.

8. The Subcommittee may wish to note that in accordance with House Rule 26(c), a subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the relevant Panel. If it is necessary for a subcommittee to work beyond that 12 months, the subcommittee should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel, report to the House Committee (HC) and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period.

Advice sought

9. Subject to members' views on the continuation of the work of the Subcommittee, the approval of the Panel will be sought at its meeting on 15 October 2009 for the Subcommittee to continue to work in the 2009-2010 session.

¹ The Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront commissioned by the Administration is about to be concluded. The Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC) discussed the report of its Task Group on Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront on 17 August 2009. On that occasion, the Secretary for Development responded to certain recommendations of the Task Group including those on the locations for re-assembly of the Queen's Pier and the Star Ferry Clock Tower. The Administration is expected to put up relevant proposals to the Subcommittee before the plans for the new Central Harbourfront proceed to the implementation stage.

² The Task Group on Management Model for the Harbourfront of HEC is drawing up its recommendation report for submission to HEC within the next six months. It is expected that the Administration will put up relevant proposals to the Subcommittee after it has considered the recommendations of the Task Group and the relevant advice of HEC.

Upon approval given by the Panel, a report will be made to HC on the justifications for continuing the work of the Subcommittee beyond the 12-month period.

Council Business Division 1
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