

**LegCo Members' meeting with Wan Chai District Council  
("WCDC") Members on 3 April 2003  
– the Administration's comments on issues raised**

The draft Wan Chai North Outline Zoning Plan ("OZP") is currently the subject of a judicial review. Pending its settlement, the Administration has no comments to make.

2. However, we understand that the Town Planning Board ("TPB") has all along taken heed of public opinions on the planning and development of the Wan Chai North area. At every stage of the plan-making process, right from inception feasibility study, preparation of the draft OZP to objection hearing, various sectors of the community including the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and WCDC had been consulted. Their views on the OZP, the Harbour Park in particular, had been submitted to the TPB for consideration. Hence, the TPB is fully aware of the public sentiment on the Harbour Park.

3. In arriving at a decision on whether the Harbour Park should be included in the OZP, the TPB had carefully considered the public comments on and the planning merits of the proposal. The TPB concluded that the public benefits of the Harbour Park would outweigh the preservation of that particular part of the harbour and the proposal was in compliance with the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance. The TPB's decision was based on the following considerations –

- (a) the Harbour Park would be an integrated element of the waterfront promenade and would transform an otherwise barren breakwater into a focus of life in the harbour, providing a unique and new experience to the general public;
- (b) the Harbour Park would integrate with the adjacent public marina and promenade to attract people to the waterfront and provide a high-quality public space for the enjoyment of the public and tourist;
- (c) connected by elevated walkways, the Harbour Park and waterfront promenade would form an extension of the Victoria Park, thereby creating a major open space in Hong Kong;

- (d) the Harbour Park would be a unique, interesting, dynamic and usable public space at a prominent location in the Victoria Harbour and would provide unrivalled spectacular views of the harbour and of the Hong Kong Island; and
- (e) the Harbour Park was a gem of the whole Central and Wan Chai waterfront and an important element for fulfilling the TPB's Vision Statement of the Victoria Harbour of bringing the harbour to the people and the people to the harbour.