

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1008/12-13(05)

Ref : CB2/PS/3/12

**Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 23 April 2013**

Park Development in the West Kowloon Cultural District

Purpose

This paper provides information on the development of the park in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") and highlights the relevant views expressed by members of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project formed in the Fourth Legislative Council ("the former Joint Subcommittee") on the subject.

Background

2. In March 2011, the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") selected the Conceptual Plan "City Park" designed by Foster+Partners ("F+P CP") as the preferred option for the development of WKCD. Based on F+P CP, WKCDA prepared a detailed Development Plan ("DP") for consultation with the public in the Stage 3 Public Engagement exercise conducted from 30 September to 30 October 2011.

3. The former Joint Subcommittee received a briefing by the Administration and WKCDA on the proposed DP at its meeting on 29 November 2011. Members were advised that the proposed DP strictly complied with the development parameters and other statutory requirements as stipulated in the South West Kowloon Outline Zoning Plan approved by the Chief Executive in Council in March 2009, which included, among others, the provision of not less than 23 hectares of public open space (including three hectares of piazza areas and a waterfront promenade of not less than 20 metres in width) in WKCD. Members also noted that one of the key features of the proposed DP was a great park with open-air performance venues to be built at the western headland of WKCD.

4. WKCDA finalized the DP and submitted it to the Town Planning Board for consideration on 30 December 2011. According to the proposed timetable for completion of facilities in WKCD in **Appendix I**, part of the park with its outdoor performance facilities are the first batch of facilities expected to be commissioned around 2014-2015, followed by the phased completion of other core arts and cultural facilities ("CACF") starting from 2015.

Members' views

5. While the former Joint Subcommittee had not specifically discussed the subject of the park development in WKCD, some members expressed views on matters relating to the park in the context of discussing the proposed DP at the meeting on 29 November 2011. Members' views are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

6. Noting that the park to be built in WKCD was named as "Great Park" in the proposed DP, some members considered that a better name should be given to the park and asked whether the public would be consulted on the naming of the park and other CACF in WKCD. According to WKCDA, the name "Great Park" was only used as a working title and no final decision had been made on the name of the future park.

7. Concern had been raised about the feasibility of planting deep-rooted trees in the park on the reclaimed WKCD site. Members were advised that WKCDA planned to build a tree nursery at the headland area of the WKCD site after assuming control of it in early 2012 to look at issues on trees and the design of the park. WKCDA was confident that an array of trees would be able to be planted for the park, which would be built with the right degree of coverage across the WKCD site.

Recent development

8. On 6 July 2012, the Administration gazetted the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Public Pleasure Grounds) (Amendment of Fourth Schedule) (No.2) Order 2012 ("the Amendment Order"), which sought to cease to set aside the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade ("the Promenade") for use as a public pleasure ground. According to the Administration, the Promenade was no longer required to be used as a public pleasure ground and would be handed over to WKCDA to facilitate its preparation for the advance works for the planned facilities in WKCD, including the park which was scheduled to be opened for public enjoyment in phases from 2014, and holding of temporary events to bring people to WKCD.

9. A subcommittee was formed under the House Committee in October 2012 to scrutinize the Amendment Order. In the course of scrutiny, the Subcommittee expressed grave concern over the arrangement whereby the Promenade, which had been under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and subject to statutory regulation before the gazettal of the Amendment Order, was handed over to WKCDA for use and management under a set of temporary and administrative house rules with no legal basis. In response to the Subcommittee's concerns, the Administration advised that WKCDA would prepare the relevant bylaws in accordance with the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (Cap. 601) in 2013 to cater for the opening of the first phase of the future park in late 2014. The Administration and WKCDA undertook to consult the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") or relevant subcommittee before the legislative process of the bylaws was initiated. WKCDA also undertook to consult the Panel or relevant subcommittee before making any amendments to its house rules for managing the Promenade.

10. On 8 November 2012, WKCDA announced that seven design teams had been shortlisted for submission of technical proposals for the development of the park in WKCD. According to WKCDA, 22 design teams from around the world had expressed interest in being considered for the project, following an open call for Expression of Interest launched by WKCDA in July 2012. The seven design teams were shortlisted by the Development Committee of WKCDA upon recommendation of the Working Group of Park Development set up under WKCDA to steer and oversee the exercise. The shortlisted teams were requested to submit detailed technical proposals to WKCDA and their entries would be judged by an assessment panel comprising representatives from relevant professions and arts and culture disciplines. WKCDA aimed to appoint the chosen design team by early 2013.

11. Subsequent to the approval of the draft WKCD DP by the Chief Executive in Council on 8 January 2013, the Administration and WKCDA briefed the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project of the Fifth Legislative Council ("the Joint Subcommittee") on the approved DP at its meeting on 25 February 2013. Members noted that WKCDA had embarked on the design process for the future facilities in WKCD, including the park, for commencement of construction as soon as possible. Members were also advised that the construction of a tree nursery was about to commence to support the future soft landscaping works of the park.

12. The Administration and WKCDA will brief the Joint Subcommittee on the latest progress of the development of the park in WKCD at the meeting on 23 April 2013.

Relevant papers

13. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
19 April 2013

Proposed Timetable for WKCD Facilities Completion

Phase	Target Completion Year	Key Facilities and Venues
Phase 1	2014-2015	Arts Pavilion
		Great Park (Early portion of the Park)
	2015-2017	Xiqu Centre (Main Theatre, Tea House and Arts Education Facility)
		Free Space (with Music Box) and Outdoor Theatre
		Centre for Contemporary Performance (3 Blackboxes and Arts Education Facility)
	2017-2020	M+ (Phase I)
		Lyric Theatre
		Medium Theatre I
		Music Centre (Concert Hall, Recital Hall and Arts Education Facility)
		Mega Performance Venue **
Exhibition Centre **		
Musical Theatre **		
Phase 2	Beyond 2020	M+ (Phase II)
		Great Theatre
		Medium Theatre II
		Xiqu Small Theatre

*** Subject to alternative funding options.*

Source : Information extracted from the Administration's paper entitled "Proposed Development Plan for the West Kowloon Cultural District and Related Matters" (LC Paper No. CB(2)385/11-12(05))

**Relevant papers on
Park Development in the West Kowloon Cultural District**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Former Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	29.11.2011 (Item IV)	Agenda CB(2)385/11-12(05) Minutes
Subcommittee on Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Public Pleasure Grounds) (Amendment of Fourth Schedule) (No.2) Order 2012 ("the Subcommittee")	-	Report of the Subcommittee
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	25 February 2013 (Item II)	Agenda CB(2)658/12-13(01)