

For discussion on
24 November 2015

Legislative Council
Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Development
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the
West Kowloon Cultural District Project

Update on the Progress of the
West Kowloon Cultural District Development

PURPOSE

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

BACKGROUND

2. The past year saw a significant step up in the pace of development on the WKCD project. Transformation of the physical landscape of the District has visibly taken place, with the construction of the Xiqu Centre, the Arts Pavilion, and the M+ building moving full steam ahead and giving shape to the core arts and cultural venues that constitute the beginning of the cultural district. Considerable progress has also been made on the architectural design of the Park, Freespace and the Lyric Theatre Complex. This paper focuses on the progress of the hardware development of the WKCD. Detailed updates on software development in relation to the Xiqu Centre and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA)'s work on capacity building and stakeholder engagement will be provided at the next meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the WKCD Project.

NURSERY PARK

3. The Nursery Park opened to the public in July 2015 and the first of a series of public events, Freespace Happening, took place on 9 August 2015. Over the past few months, WKCDA has hosted four Freespace Happening events on the site, which successfully attracted some 19 000 spectators. The Nursery Park provides a good opportunity for testing out WKCDA's park management philosophy which is enshrined in its proposed bylaw and guidelines, aiming at a flexible, user-friendly mode of park management. Upcoming programmes will see an increase in the frequency of the Freespace Happening to twice a month from December in support of Government's 'Appreciate Hong Kong' campaign. We will also be working with a range of other organisers to host a variety of different events in the Nursery Park. These aim to reach out to the youth community, encourage public participation, groom new partners, provide a platform for artistic development and provide visitors with opportunities to experience the atmosphere of the future Park.

XIQU CENTRE

4. The main construction works for the Xiqu Centre commenced in December 2014. Construction of the six mega columns which will support the suspended main theatre is complete. The four fabricated mega roof trusses spanning between the mega columns have been assembled and lifting of the first portion of the theatre structure is targeted to commence in early 2016. The target completion date for the Xiqu Centre is on track for mid-2017 as planned. Upon completion, the Xiqu Centre will provide a landmark platform for the development of different Chinese operatic theatrical performances in a contemporary setting.

THE PARK

5. The vision for the Park is to integrate arts and culture within a quality green open space in the heart of the city, providing a vibrant venue for open-air and indoor performances of music, dance and theatre as well as other events. In terms of the overall delivery programme, the Park design is ongoing.

The construction programme is planned to deliver the Park in phases: the first phase of the Park to the South of the Nursery Park and the promenade adjoining the Nursery Park to be completed in 2017; the second phase including the Freespace theatre in mid-2018; and the final phase adjoining M+ to be completed at the same time as M+ in end of 2018. The phasing plan for the Park development is at **Annex A**.

ARTS PAVILION

6. The works for the Arts Pavilion commenced on site in April 2015. Construction works are making excellent progress and remain on schedule for target completion in mid-2016. The Arts Pavilion will provide exhibition space for M+ before the opening of the M+ building.

M+

7. Following the completion of the foundation works for the M+ project, including the M+ building, conservation and storage facility and retail/dining/entertainment (RDE) facilities/other arts and cultural facilities (OACF) to be developed in a building on site P39B, the award of the contract for the main construction works took place in September 2015. Excavation works are expected to commence in November 2015. The museum building of M+ is targeted for completion by the end of 2018.

LYRIC THEATRE COMPLEX (LTC)

8. LTC is the next major performing arts venue to be developed in the WKCD after the Xiqu Centre. The theatre complex will be used for a variety of performing arts events including drama and musical performances, with a focus on dance as its artistic positioning. Digital projection equipment will be installed to allow film screenings and other such events to take place as well. As reported previously, one Black Box Theatre previously planned for the Centre for Contemporary Performance and one medium theatre will be incorporated into the LTC. This change will enhance the vibrancy in the vicinity

of M+ and expedite the delivery of some planned facilities for public enjoyment in a cost-effective manner. The detailed design of LTC is progressing well and on target for completion in 2016. In parallel, tendering for the foundation works for the LTC and the Extended Basement is in progress. Commencement of the foundation works is expected in December 2015. The venue is targeted for completion by around 2020.

9. LTC together with M+, OACF, RDE facilities as well as office/residential developments in the vicinity will be developed into a mini-WKCD, which we call the Artist Square Development Area (ASDA). In order to create a sense of place for the general public and to bring vibrancy to ASDA, the design team for the Park has been commissioned to carry out the open space design for ASDA, including the Artist Square and associated promenade. The schematic designs for the OACF and RDE facilities within ASDA are being prepared and the business case will be reviewed in due course. ASDA is targeted for completion in around 2020. A plan showing the completion timeframe of the facilities in ASDA is at **Annex B**.

INTEGRATED BASEMENT

10. Following the Finance Committee (FC)'s funding approval for the first and second stages of design, site investigation and construction works of the integrated basement in July 2015, the integrated basement works, which are integrated with and essential to support the ASDA developments, have commenced in conjunction with the construction of M+, and will continue with the foundation works for LTC and the Extended Basement.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (PIW)

11. The scope of PIW in supporting the Park, Xiqu Centre and ASDA developments involves the construction of an at-grade road, water mains, drainage and sewerage works, diversion of cooling mains and construction of a footbridge (Artist Square Bridge) to connect the MTR Kowloon Station/Elements shopping mall and the Artist Square in the

WKCD. These works will be carried out in two construction packages.

12. FC approved the funding application for the first construction package of the PIW for the WKCD in July 2015. Tendering for the first PIW Works Contract is in progress. Construction works are targeted to commence in end of November 2015 to tie in with the progress of the M+ project.

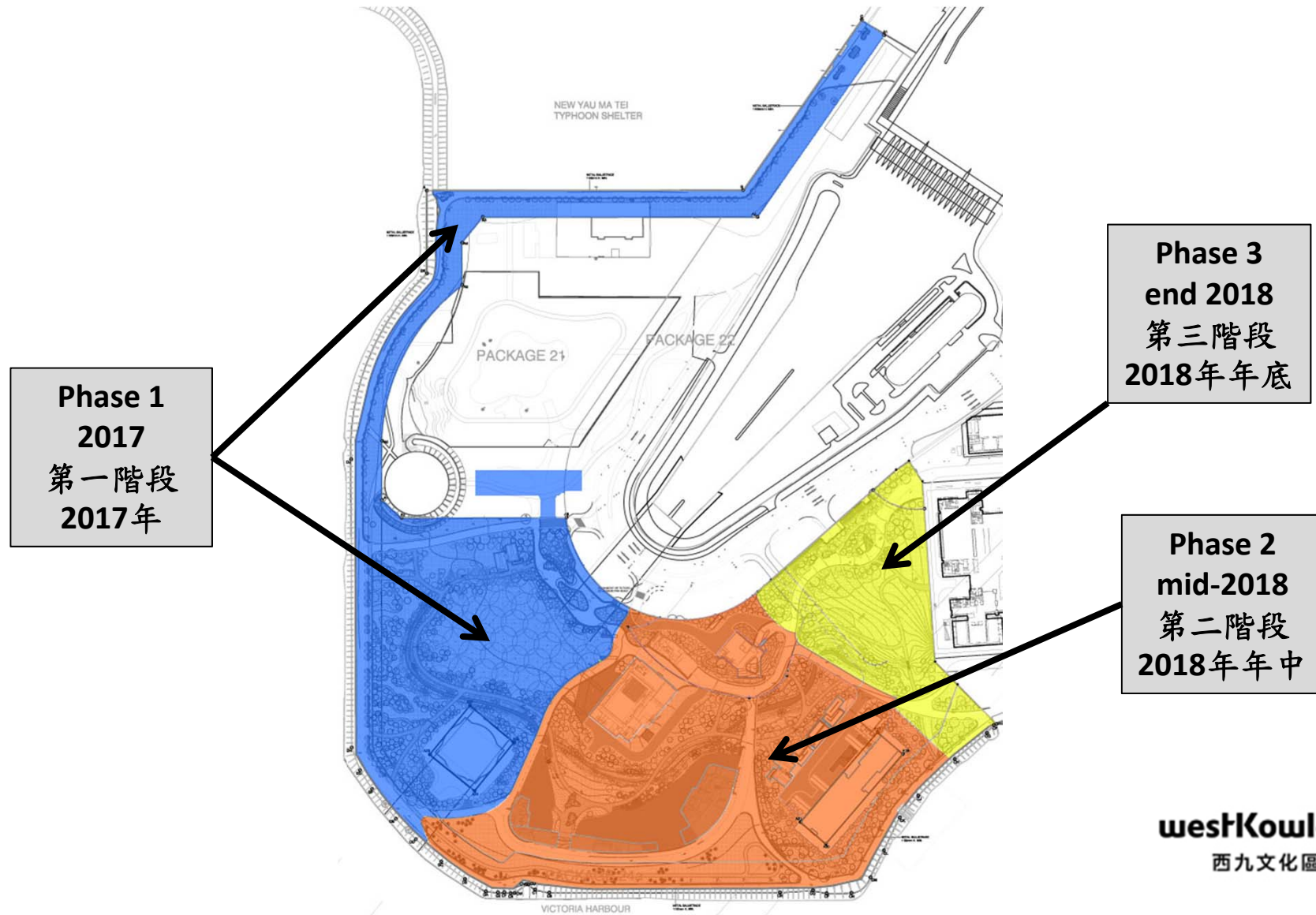
13. For the second Works Contract, primarily for the construction of the Artist Square Bridge, a funding application will be made to FC in the second quarter of 2016. Subject to FC's funding approval, the second construction package is targeted to commence in the second half of 2016. With this approval, an important link between Artists Square and Elements will be built to facilitate access to the western end of the WKCD.

ADVICE SOUGHT

14. Members are invited to note the progress of the WKCD development.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
November 2015**

Phasing Plan of the Park 西九公園分階段發展圖



Completion Timeframe of Artist Square Development Area 藝術廣場發展區完成時間表

