

Implementation of Signature Project Scheme by the Central & Western District Council

This paper reports and seeks Members' advice on the outcome of public consultation on the implementation of the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) by the Central & Western District Council (C&WDC).

Background

2. The Working Group on Central & Western District Council Affairs (Working Group) met on 8 February 2013 to discuss the implementation of SPS by C&WDC. After discussion, the Working Group identified the following two potentially viable SPS projects for public consultation during the period of 15 February to 11 March 2013 to invite views from residents and local organisations of the Central & Western District –

	Project	Proposal
1	Beautification and Revitalisation of Western District Harbourfront	As the blueprint of the Central section of the C&W promenade is more or less finalised, some Councillors suggested that part of the waterfront sites adjoining the Western Wholesale Food Market and its four idling piers near Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park should be enhanced and revitalised into open space for public to enjoy, thereby connecting the waterfront area to the Central and Sheung Wan sections of the C&W promenade for the progressive development of a continuous and accessible waterfront promenade.
2	Conversion of Vacant Buildings to Youth Hostels	Some Councillors suggested that youth hostels should be built in the district to promote youth development and to relieve the housing needs of the younger generation to some extent. One of the potential site is the school premises of the Hong Kong Academy at Ka Wai Man Road, Kennedy Town which will soon be vacated.

A consultation document has been prepared (**Annex A**) for the purpose of public consultation.

Public Consultation

3. The C&WDC Secretariat distributed the consultation document to all 18 C&WDC Members, 18 co-opted C&WDC Members and 25 district-based organisations or committees, including Area Committees, Kai-fong associations, district committees/ organisations on fight crime, youth, fire safety, new arrivals, IT services, women, sports, arts and school heads, Owners' Corporates association, etc. The consultation notice was also posted up on website, District Office, Public Enquiry

Services Centre and Community Halls. In addition, C&WDC Members were encouraged to launch their own local consultation. On top of promotion through publicity materials (e.g. banners, posters and leaflets) and distribution of consultation document to some 13 000 members of the public, a number of C&WDC Members also arranged residents' forum and collected opinions through questionnaires and surveys. **Annex B** gives an account of these consultation efforts.

Outcome of Consultation

(i) Responses received by the Secretariat

4. During the consultation period, the C&WDC Secretariat received a total of **150 returns**. Of these, 64% indicated support to Proposal 1 while 36% supported Proposal 2 –

Proposal	Support	Against
Proposal 1 (Western harbourfront enhancement and revitalisation)	64% (96/ 150)	15% (22/ 150)
Proposal 2 (Conversion of vacant premises to youth hostels)	36% (54/ 150)	31% (47/ 150)

Summary of these returns is at **Annex C (Table C1)**.

(ii) Responses collated or relayed by C&WDC Members

5. C&WDC Members had collated or relayed public views gathered through Owners' Corporates and opinion surveys to the C&WDC Secretariat. A total of **2 353 referrals** were received, with summary as follows –

Proposal	Support	Against
Proposal 1 (Western harbourfront enhancement and revitalisation)	85.6% (2014/ 2353)	3.1% (73/ 2353)
Proposal 2 (Conversion of vacant premises to youth hostels)	22.2% (522/ 2353)	10.5% (248/ 2353)

Summary of these referrals is at **Annex C (Table C2)**.

(iii) Analysis of consultation results

6. Proposal 1 received majority support as indicated from the returns received by the C&WDC Secretariat (64%) or those responses referred by C&WDC Members (85.6%). Proposal 2 also received positive votes though of lesser number (36% of Secretariat's returns and 22.2% of Members' referrals). There are also objections to Proposal 1 (ranging between 3% and 15% of returns) and Proposal 2 (10.5% to 31% of returns). A few respondents offered specific comments on the feasibility or expected benefits or constraints of the two proposals. In addition to expressing views on the two identified options, a number of respondents raised other suggestions, such as rejuvenating Mount Davis as a country park; developing a harbourfront cycle lane; construction of Central/ Mid-level escalator link; provision of more elderly homes/ service centres in the district. Summary of these alternatives is at **Annex C** (Table C3).

Steering Committee

7. Apart from the discussion on the above findings and subject to Working Group's recommendation on the signature project, Members may also consider proposing to the C&WDC on the setting up of a Steering Committee on the implementation of SPS under C&WDC. A draft Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee is at **Annex D** for Members' reference.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to comment on the outcome of consultation and the way forward for the implementation of SPS, with a view to making recommendation to the C&WDC at its meeting on 21 March 2013.

**Central and Western District Office
March 2013**

**Implementation of Signature Project Scheme by the Central & Western District Council
Public Consultation**

Background

1. The Chief Executive announced on 16 January 2013 in the Policy Address to enhance district administration by introducing the Signature Project Scheme (“SPS”). Under the scheme, a one-off allocation of \$100 million will be earmarked for each district to support District Councils (“DCs”) in implementing signature projects.

2. The objective of the SPS is mainly to provide a larger amount of resources to DCs for implementing large-scale and sustainable projects that address district needs. Signature projects may involve works or non-works elements, or a mixture of both, and should bring a visible and lasting impact on the districts. The projects should be commenced, or even accomplished, within the current DC term as far as practicable.

Proposed Projects

3. At its meeting on 8 February 2013, the Working Group on Central & Western District Council Affairs under the Central & Western District Council (“C&W DC”) discussed the implementation of SPS by the DC. After discussion, the Working Group identified the following two potentially viable projects and would like to invite views from residents and organisations of the C&W district to facilitate further discussion by the DC:

	Project	Proposal
1	Beautification and Revitalisation of Western District Harbourfront	As the blueprint of the Central section of the C&W promenade is more or less finalised, some Councillors suggested that part of the waterfront sites adjoining the Western Wholesale Food Market and its four idling piers near Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park should be enhanced and revitalised into open space for public to enjoy, thereby connecting the waterfront area to the Central and Sheung Wan sections of the C&W promenade for the progressive development of a continuous and accessible waterfront promenade. Please refer to the Annex for location.
2	Conversion of Vacant Buildings into Youth Hostels	Some Councillors suggested that youth hostels should be built in the district to promote youth development and to relieve the housing needs of the younger generation to some extent. One of the potential site is the school premises of the Hong Kong Academy at Ka Wai Man Road, Kennedy Town which will soon be vacated.

Public Consultation

4. **We look forward to your opinions on the above proposals. You may share your views with us by completing the enclosed Reply Slip and returning it to the Central & Western District Council Secretariat by mail, fax or e-mail on or before 11 March 2013:**

E-mail Address: cwdcch@cwdc.had.gov.hk

Fax No: 2542 2696 / 3691 8024

Postal Address: 11/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Enquiry Tel. No: 2852 3549

Central & Western District Council Secretariat
18 February 2013

Ref no: _____
 Date of receipt: _____
 (For Official Use Only)

REPLY SLIP

(Please reply on or before 11 March 2013)

To: Central & Western District Council Secretariat

Implementation of Signature Projects Scheme by the Central & Western District Council

Public Consultation

My views on the initial proposals put forward by the Central & Western District Council are as follows (*please use supplementary sheets if necessary*):

	Project	Proposal	My Views (please put a ✓ in the appropriate box)
1	Beautification and Revitalisation of Western District Harbourfront	Part of the waterfront sites adjoining the Western Wholesale Food Market and its four idling piers should be enhanced and revitalized into open space for public enjoyment, thereby connecting the area to the Central and Sheung Wan sections of the C&W promenade.	* <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not support <input type="checkbox"/> Other views:
2	Conversion of Vacant Buildings into Youth Hostels	Youth hostels should be built in the district to promote youth development and to relieve the housing needs of the younger generation to some extent. One of the potential site is the school premises of the Hong Kong Academy at Ka Wai Man Road, Kennedy Town which will soon be vacated.	* <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not support <input type="checkbox"/> Other views:
3	My other views:		

Personal particulars (Optional)

Name:

Telephone No:

Correspondence address / Fax / E-mail:

Resident of the Central & Western District?

Yes No

Organisation (if applicable):

Date:

Signature:

Note: Please note that your personal data provided in this reply slip will be used exclusively for this public consultation. You have a right of access and correction with respect to personal data as provided for under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap 486). Your right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data provided in this form. Enquiries concerning the personal data collected by means of this form, including the making of access and corrections, should be addressed to the Secretariat.

**Proposed Beautification of the Waterfront Sites and Four Idling Piers
of the Western Wholesale Food Market for Public Enjoyment**

Four idling piers to be enhanced
and open to the public

Pier No. 5



Part of the road adjoining the
site to be enhanced and open to
the public

Local Consultation conducted in relation to
the implementation of Signature Project Scheme in Central & Western District
(February – March 2013)

Type	Action Party	Means/ Target recipient	Total distributed
<i>Distribution of consultation documents</i>	<i>C&W District Council Secretariat</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All 18 C&W District Council Members and 18 co-opted members ✓ Members of the public (website, notice boards at Community Hall and District Office, Public Services Enquiry Centre) ✓ District-based organisations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central and Mid-Levels Area Committee 2. Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun Area Committee 3. Kennedy Town and Shek Tong Tsui Area Committee 4. Central & Western District Committee on Promotion of IT 5. Central & Western District Coordinating Committee on New Arrivals Services 6. Central and Western District Youth Programme Committee 7. District Fight Crime Committee (Central and Western District) 8. District Fire Safety Committee (Central and Western District) 9. Women's Welfare Club, Western District, Hong Kong 10. Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association Limited 11. Central District Kai-Fong Welfare Association 12. Sai Ying Pun Kaifong Welfare Association 13. Kennedy Town Kaifong Association 14. Mt. Davis Kaifong Association 15. Central and Western District Road Safety Campaign Committee 16. The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District 17. CW Power 18. Central & Western Mid-Levels Owners Association 19. The Multi Storey Building Owners Association of Central District (HK) 20. Central Street Building Owners Association 21. Western District Building Owners Association 22. The Multi Storey Building Owners Association of Western District (HK) 23. Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association 	N/A

		24. Central and Western District Association for Culture and Arts 25. The Council of Central & Western District School Heads	
	<i>C&WDC Members</i>	✓ Members of the public ✓ Residents/ Owners' Corporate of private buildings	13 000
Forums	Ip Kwok-him, Chan Hok-fung, Siu ka-yi, Cheung kwok-kwan, Lo Yee-hang (5-6 March)		2
	Wong Kin-shing, Cheng Lai-king, Hui Chi-fung, Kam Nai-wai (16 March)		1
Opinion surveys/ interviews	C&WDC Members		30

**Summary of Responses to Public Consultation on Signature Project Scheme
in Central & Western District**

Table C1: Summary of responses received by C&WDC Secretariat (Total number of returns received: 150)

	Proposal 1 (Western Harbourfront Revitalisation)	Proposal 2 (Youth Hostel)
Support	96 (64%)	54 (36%)
<i>Individual</i>	76	52
<i>Organisation</i>	20	2
	Name of organisations: 1. The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District 2. CW Power 3. Mt. Davis Kaifong Association 4. Tung Sin Tan 5. Kennedy Town Kaifong Association 6. Sai Ying Pun Kaifong Welfare Association 7. The Multi Storey Building Owners Association of Western District (HK) 8. The Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association 9. 山水攀友 10. Caritas Mok Cheung Sui Kun Community Centre 11. St. James' Settlement Central & Western District Elderly Community Centre 12. Central Western Community Concern Committee 13. Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association Limited 14. 西區被迫遷租客大會 15. 中西區大廈節能網絡 16. Western District Building Owners Association 17. 社區大使隊城市規劃行動組	Name of organisations: 1. St. James' Settlement Central & Western District Elderly Community Centre 2. Central Western Community Concern Committee

	18. Central District Kai-Fong Welfare Association 19. The Multi Storey Building Owners Association of Central District (HK) 20. Central Street Building Owners Association	
<i>Specific Comments</i>	✓ The harbourfront upon revitalization can benefit the community ✓ To provide kiosks, jogging lane, fitness equipment, cycling lane, alfresco café, pet garden ✓ To improve transport link and accessibility ✓ To provide extra deck on the pier and leave sufficient space for the public on the ground level ✓ To avoid building landmark. Suffice to provide basic and safe facilities such as benches, planters, etc	✓ To help promote youth development and provide many job opportunities on completion of project ✓ Support the provision of budget housing
Against	22 (15%)	47 (31%)
<i>Individual</i>	20	33
<i>Organisation</i>	2	14
	Name of organisations: 1. Alliance for a Beautiful Hong Kong 2. Central & Western Concern Group	Name of organisations: 1. CW Power 2. Mt. Davis Kaifong Association 3. Kennedy Town Kaifong Association 4. 一億元街坊關注組 5. Alliance for a Beautiful Hong Kong 6. Caritas Mok Cheung Sui Kun Community Centre 7. Central & Western Concern Group 8. 西區被迫遷租客大會 9. 中西區大廈節能網絡 10. Western District Building Owners Association 11. 社區大使隊城市規劃行動組 12. Central District Kai-Fong Welfare Association 13. The Multi Storey Building Owners Association of Central District (HK) 14. Central Street Building Owners Association

<p><i>Specific Comments</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The suggested location which is situated at WWFM in full operation is remote. • The suggested location is not suitable for use as open space as the operation of WWFM may give rise to hygiene problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing issue requires long term planning and resources should not be spent on providing short-term housing facilities. • The Government should take the lead to build youth hostels. • The proposal would only benefit hostel occupants. • There is no need to provide additional youth hostel as the Government is already planning to convert the Tung Wah Hospital Group Lee Sai Chow Primary School premises to youth hostel.
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Table C2: Summary of responses collated/ relayed by C&WDC Members (Total number of referrals received: 2 353)

	<p align="center">Proposal 1 (Western Harbourfront Revitalisation)</p>	<p align="center">Proposal 2 (Youth Hostel)</p>
<p>Support</p>	<p align="center">2 014 (85.6%)</p>	<p align="center">522 (22.2%)</p>
<p>Against</p>	<p align="center">73 (3.1%)</p>	<p align="center">248 (10.5%)</p>
<p>Specific Comments</p>	<p><u>Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The proposal can benefit a wider population including the elderly. ✓ The district lacks open space and recreational facilities, and the proposal helps beautification of the district. ✓ To provide suitable fishing equipment to facilitate safe fishing activity. ✓ To provide elderly fitness area and cycling lane at the site. ✓ The proposal must ensure safety and easy access, and provide facilities such as sheltered benches, pavilions, lighting and toilets. <p><u>Against</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subject site is too remote. • There is already promenade at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. • The proposal may cause environmental pollution and the site would be subject to noise nuisance. 	<p><u>Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Housing is inadequate and many young people lack the resources to acquire home ownership. ✓ The proposal must be supported by ease of transport. ✓ The proposal should be subject to regular review and the stay in hostel should be short-term and limited to three years. ✓ Addressing housing problem is more imminent than developing a harbourfront promenade. <p><u>Against</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are already student hostels in the district. More activity venues should be provided to local residents. • The proposal would only benefit a particular segment of the community. • The subject site is small and the number of flats to be provided would be very small. • Subsidised home ownership flats should be provided instead. • There are competing demands in the district for community facilities (e.g. schools) and the proposal would come at the expense of other social services.

Table C3: Other proposals suggested by respondents

Other Proposals	Number
1. Rejuvenation of Mount Davis into a country park in the City/ provision of additional facilities at the hiking trail and peak of Mount Davis	16
2. Development of a harbourfront cycle lane	14
3. Construction of Central/ Mid-level escalator link	12
4. Provision of more elderly homes/ service centres in the district	12
5. Construction of barrier free access at Tai Pak Terrace	6
6. Setting up of a library in Sai Ying Pun	6
7. Construction of a community centre or municipal services building	5
8. Construction of a public housing estate or conversion of vacant buildings to public housing	4
9. Resurfacing of the private road section at Yat Fu Lane	3
10. Construction of swimming pools	3
11. Subsidy to non-profit-making organisations to launch environmental protection and energy conservation projects as well as installation of LED lighting in the public space of building in the district	3
12. Revitalisation of the former Western Magistracy	2
13. Organisation of a large scale athletic meet and construction of a sports ground	2
14. Rent subsidy for the poor	2
15. Construction of a park	2
16. Organisation of cultural, recreational and leisure activities	2
17. Provision of subsidy to grass-roots families	2
18. Provision of an indoor cycling ground	1
19. Provision of additional lifts at the footbridge near Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	1
20. Construction of a refuse collection point in SoHo area	1
21. Provision of additional hostel places for undergraduates	1
22. Beautification of the section of tram lane at Des Voeux Road West	1
23. Extension of lift service to the upper part of Sai Wan Estate	1
24. Provision of a zebra crossing at the junction of Cadogan Street and Forbes Street	1
25. Beautification of streets in the district	1
26. Subsidy to students from grass-roots families for attending tutorial classes and participating in extra-curriculum activities	1
27. Removal of old and hazardous signboards in the district	1
28. Construction of public toilets	1
29. Provision of child care and tutorial services	1

30. Provision of additional medical facilities in the district	1
31. Construction of a youth hostel at a waterfront site of the district	1
32. Provision of health vouchers or meal vouchers to elderly in the district	1
33. Subsidy to eco-friendly industry	1
34. Cash handouts to residents of the district	1
35. Provision of barrier free access	1

**Proposed Steering Committee on Signature Project
in Central & Western District**

Proposed Name

Steering Committee on Signature Project in Central & Western District
中西區社區重點項目督導委員會

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To discuss the implementation of the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) in Central & Western District and advise the Central & Western District Council on the matter;
2. To oversee the formulation, planning, execution, operation, promotion and other issues related to SPS in Central & Western District;
3. To monitor the progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of SPS in Central & Western District;
4. To assist in the implementation of SPS in Central & Western District, including organization of activities and public consultation; and
5. To report its work regularly to the Central & Western District Council for steer and endorsement.