

**Central and Western District Council**

**Peak Improvement Scheme**

**Purpose**

To seek members' views on the scope and conceptual design of the Peak Improvement Scheme.

**Background**

2. To enhance and sustain Hong Kong's attractiveness as a premier tourist destination, the Tourism Commission (TC) has since 2000 embarked on a Tourism District Enhancement Programme. One of the earliest projects implemented under this Programme is the Central and Western District Enhancement Scheme due for completion this year. The Peak, being a "must-see" attraction to our visitors, has also been identified for improvement under the Programme.

3. In 2002, the Hong Kong Tourism Board conducted a consultancy study on "Improvement and Further Development of the Peak as a Visitor Attraction" which recommended, inter alia, the "Victorian" theme be adopted for the Peak Improvement Scheme.

**Project Scope**

4. The project area will cover the commercial core, the walking trails and the Victoria Peak Garden. Proposed improvement works will include more planting, repaving and re-surfacing, upgrading of street lighting, provision of seating facilities and shelters, installation of signage etc. A layout plan is at Annex I. Detailed Information on the proposed works is at Annex II.

**Consultation**

5. We have been consulting relevant stakeholders since March 2004.

These include Peak Tramways Co Ltd; Hang Lung Properties Ltd; the Peak Association; the Cultural, Leisure and Social Services Committee and the Working Group on Development of Tourism and Local Community Economy of the Central and Western District Council; the Chung Wan and Mid-Levels Area Committee and the Peak residents. Generally speaking, the conceptual design of the Peak Improvement Scheme is agreeable to parties concerned. We shall take into account their comments when finalizing the design.

6. During the aforesaid consultation sessions, we had informed the parties concerned that we were exploring the possibility of constructing a new footpath linking Mount Austin Road Playground and Gate Lodge which will serve as a short-cut to the Victoria Peak Garden. Departments concerned have examined the site condition in detail during feasibility study. In view of the extremely difficult site conditions, extensive tree felling would be required in constructing a proper footpath. The construction of the footpath is therefore not recommended and has been excluded from the project scope. We shall revert to the parties concerned accordingly.

### **Programme**

7. Subject to the views of the District Council, we plan to seek funding approval of the Legislative Council in mid 2005. Works are expected to commence in end 2005 for completion in 2007. The Peak Improvement Scheme will be implemented in phases with a view to minimizing inconvenience to the Peak residents and visitors. Peak Tramways Co Ltd will carry out refurbishment works for the Peak Tower between February 2005 and early 2006. We will work closely with the Company to ensure proper interface of works between the two projects.

### **Traffic Condition**

8. At present, visitors can go to the Peak by buses, minibuses, coaches, taxis, private cars or the Peak Tram. There are more than 400 and 20 parking spaces for private cars and coaches respectively and 32 loading/unloading spaces inside the Peak Galleria for public use. The capacity should be sufficient to meet the demand. During Golden Week periods when demand is generally higher, the Police will implement special traffic arrangements. We shall continue to liaise closely with TD to monitor the traffic and pedestrian flow on the Peak.

## **Advice Sought**

9. Members are invited to comment on –
  - (a) the conceptual design of the Peak Improvement Scheme; and
  - (b) whether the project should include the enhancement works at Gate Lodge and Victoria Peak Garden in view of the exclusion of the proposed footpath from the project scope mentioned in para. 6 above.

Tourism Commission  
January 2005