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summary of themes from what we've heard so far

In April of 2016, The Planning Partnership was selected by Canada Lands Company to lead a multidisciplinary consulting team to undertake the master planning and community engagement process for the former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour – Portsmouth Visioning. The first phase of public consultation took place over the course of June and July 2016. Consultation events included one-on-one interviews (in-person and by phone), roving information stations, table group discussions during Public Workshops and email submissions. The purpose of these consultation events was to guide the Portsmouth Visioning team in developing principles that will inform the development of plan options illustrating potential redevelopment scenarios for the site. The principles will help guide discussions about options for the site during the following phases of the study.

There are three more phases for this project, consisting of Options, Options Evaluation and Preferred Plan. Each phase will include additional opportunities for involvement through a Public Workshop. The next Public Workshop to explore Options, will take place in the fall of 2016. The workshop will invite participants to work with urban designers to create concepts and sketches based on the principles and the “What We Heard” report.

There were many, many, many ideas and visions for reimagining the former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour site. This level of enthusiasm for the future redevelopment by Kingston residents and stakeholders represents how important this opportunity is for the future of the City, and beyond. In reviewing all the interview, information station and public workshop notes and submitted comments, the Portsmouth Visioning team identified the most common themes, outlined below. These themes will provide a foundation for the development of the vision statement and principles. However, it is critical to first acknowledge the following theme, to better understand the dynamics involved with the “Portsmouth Visioning” process:

There is no consensus for what the future of the former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour site should be, either with respect to built form, land use or heritage and culture.

Despite this, a number of themes are evident from among the public input received over the course of the first phase of this project.

new uses

The future development of the former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour should bring life and activity to this site and the surrounding area, by attracting new residents and tourists through diverse and dynamic uses.

The site must be allowed to adapt to the changing economic, social, cultural and physical contexts, while retaining meaningful links to its past.

The site and future uses should seek opportunities to support Kingston's economy by fostering innovation and partnerships.

When redevelopment or intensification occurs, it must respect the character of the site and incorporate visual or physical access to the water.

heritage and culture

The opportunity presented by the former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour is of national importance and its future should be considered in the context of its ability to leave a lasting positive legacy for the next generation.

The future of this site should take inspiration from other world-class heritage redevelopments while celebrating its unique heritage with a "made in Kingston" solution.

At a minimum, some of the buildings and wall segments should be conserved and reused to be consistent with Kingston's heritage character and to retain links to an important chapter of Canadian history.

water and recreation

It is critical that the future of this site provides public access to the waterfront.

The future of this site should include opportunities to strengthen and build on Kingston's connection to the water by enhancing the facilities for both water and land recreationists.

The Portsmouth Olympic Harbour should be better linked to the former Kingston Penitentiary waterfront and lands.

Kingston's international reputation for sailing should be reflected along the waterfront; however it is also important to meet the needs of all community members and demographics.

community

A balance is needed between capitalizing on the potential for larger scale economic and tourism development and focusing on meeting the needs of the local Kingston communities.

The connectivity between this site and the surrounding city must be enhanced through links with City programming and cultural events.

The former Kingston Penitentiary and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour have the potential to develop into valuable components of the larger community; their redevelopment should be integrated with respect to transportation, character and built form.