

**For information on  
8 December 2023**

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## **LANTAU DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor – Investigation**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper aims to brief the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) on the proposals under the “South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor – Investigation” (the Study).

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. Based on the overarching principle of “Conservation for the South” embraced by the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint, the Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) formulated the “Lantau Conservation and Recreation Masterplan”<sup>1</sup> (the Masterplan) in 2020. Among others, it is proposed further enhancing the eco-recreation potential of the areas along South Lantau. To take forward the proposals, SLO commenced studies<sup>2</sup> in 2021 to explore the good use of the natural, historical and cultural resources of South Lantau for eco-tourism or sustainable recreational uses.

3. The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address announced recently mentions that South Lantau could be developed for eco-tourism or recreational uses, including providing eco-recreational facilities at Cheung Sha, Shui Hau, Shek Pik and Pui O, in order to take forward the “South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor”.

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<sup>1</sup> The “Lantau Conservation and Recreation Masterplan” recommends using trails, cycle tracks, water and land based transports to connect different attractions, activities and themed points, formulating five themed clusters, while the theme for the coastal area of South Lantau (covering Chi Ma Wan Peninsula, Cheung Sha, Shek Pik, Shui Hau and Pui O) is “South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor”.

<sup>2</sup> The two studies that take forward the “South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor” are (1) “Sustainable Leisure and Recreation Initiatives in Shek Pik and Adjoining Areas – Investigation” and (2) “Initiatives for South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor – Investigation”. They cover the areas in the north and south of South Lantau Road respectively, including 300 hectares of “Green Belt” zone. As SLO has already implemented the project of mountain bike in Chi Ma Wan, the two studies do not cover the Chi Ma Wan Peninsula.

## **STUDY FOCUS**

4. The Study first reviewed and consolidated information about the natural resources of the ecosystem, leisure and recreation, transport and other relevant information about South Lantau. After taking into account of the unique geographical conditions, natural or historical and cultural resources and characteristics, as well as the development restrictions and potential of individual areas, the Study recommended providing ecological/nature-based leisure and recreational facilities, as well as water and land transportation in South Lantau with due consideration of associated preliminary technical assessments on ecology, environment, traffic and infrastructures.

5. The recommendations of the Study aim to bring people closer to the nature. Through eco-tours and leisure and recreational activities, visitors would have diversified leisure and recreational experiences, increased understanding and conservation awareness of the natural resources, culture and history of the South Lantau. It can also promote healthy life and foster local economy.

## **PROGRESS OF THE STUDY**

6. The Study recommended the following key proposals at four clusters, namely Cheung Sha, Shek Pik, Shui Hau and Pui O (**Annex 1**):

### **Cheung Sha – Recreation Hub**

7. Cheung Sha is in the immediate vicinity of Tung Chung Road and it is the first destination to South Lantau through land transport. Cheung Sha has an excellent location and it has the longest beach in Hong Kong of 2 km long. It offers a panoramic view of the beach from both the eastern end and northern hill sides of the beach. The entire area has great potential for leisure and recreational development. However, owing to the lack of ancillary facilities and inadequate connectivity between Upper and Lower Cheung Sha, most of the beach activities are located at Lower Cheung Sha.

8. The Study recommended making Cheung Sha a recreation hub that is suitable for everyone and a gateway to South Lantau through improving the connectivity and accessibility of Upper and Lower Cheung Sha and their vicinity, and fully utilising the Cheung Sha beach and the blue and green resources in the area. The recommendations of the Study include:

- (a) setting up a landmark visitor centre with design that will blend with the local environment at Lower Cheung Sha near South Lantau Road. The centre will provide a full range of ancillary facilities, such as catering

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and retail services, event space and eco-tourism information about South Lantau. Other than giving a deep impression to the visitors, the ancillary facilities also provided travelling convenience for the visitors to tour around South Lantau.

- (b) enhancement and provision of diversified water-friendly leisure and recreational activities and ancillary facilities, such as provision of a water sports and recreation centre, a multi-purpose event space, a beach boardwalk (connecting Upper and Lower Cheung Sha), beach camp site, children beach playground and featured sitting-out area, etc. Visitors can participate in various types of dynamic or passive activities according to their preferences.
- (c) making good use of the hillside in the green belt between the northern side of South Lantau Road and the catchwater channel to provide recreational facilities that have more contact with the forests, such as uphill chairlift, rope adventures, etc. This would allow visitors of different ages to enjoy the beautiful scenery of South Lantau during their trips.

#### Shek Pik – Leisure and Recreation

9. Shek Pik Reservoir is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest reservoir in Hong Kong. It offers beautiful scenery and from the reservoir the Lantau Peak and Ngong Ping Big Buddha can be seen from a distance. There are also rich historical resources, including Shek Pik Rock Carving, ruins of Hung Shing Temple and old Shek Pik Village underneath the reservoir. There are also hiking trails connecting to Ngong Ping, Fan Lau and other areas. Walking along the catchwater channels of the reservoir/mountain bike trail, the areas straddling from Pui O to Kau Ling Chung can be reached.

10. The Study proposals include:

- (a) injection of leisure and recreational, historical and cultural facilities along the reservoir, such as construction of boardwalk around the reservoir, widening a section of South Lantau Road at the existing waterdam, displaying the local history and village culture through design concept of an open-air museum. The facilities are integrated with the natural environment and linking up the heritages, such as Shek Pik Rock Craving. With the magnificent scenery of Shek Pik, visitors can enhance understanding and appreciate the natural resources and history of the area.

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- (b) appropriately widening and enhancing the existing catchwater channel for space for diversified leisure activities, such as installation of cultural and art pieces such that visitors can enjoy and experience the nature and understand the characteristic of South Lantau through participating in the activities.
- (c) provision of ancillary facilities such as sanitary facilities and drinking water points at appropriate locations.

#### Shui Hau and Pui O – Nature Education

11. Having a high biodiversity habitat, many visitors come to Shui Hau sandflat to enjoy the picturesque scenery. The Study recommended setting up an education centre on the landside with a boardwalk at the shoreline to introduce the ecological importance of the sandflat habitat as well as the traditional village customs and cultures in South Lantau to the visitors. The education centre also serves as a conservation / education base to promote nature-based educational activities, allowing visitors to enhance knowledge and raise awareness of conservation and respect of natural habitats and the local environment.

12. Pui O is another area in South Lantau with high ecological value. Other than the wetland, Pui O is also popular for beach camping activities. Noting that most of the current activities are located at the eastern side of Pui O Beach, the Study recommended constructing a trail in the form of treetop walkway to connect Pui O Beach with the catchwater channel at the western end of Pui O hillside. The treetop walkway also serves as an open-air classroom displaying the importance of ecological value of Pui O, and offers stunning view of Pui O wetland and Pui O Beach.

#### Transport and Other Supporting Facilities

13. To balance the traffic demand and the planning intention for conservation in South Lantau, currently visitors mainly come to South Lantau by public transport. The Study's recommendations help strengthen public transport for the attraction points of South Lantau in-between and its ancillary facilities with a view to improving the connectivity and accessibility. They include increasing car and coach parking spaces as well as improving hiking trails between South Lantau Road and the catchwater channel on the hillside. Moreover, the Study proposed constructing a new pier at Cheung Sha, facilitating visitors to take water transport to South Lantau whereby they could enjoy the beautiful shoreline scenery of South Lantau. This also provides

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opportunity of developing round-island trip to Tai A Chau, Siu A Chau and other areas.

14. To allow visitors to stay for a few days to explore Lantau attractions, the Study recommended providing overnight accommodation such as glamping facilities or high quality eco-lodges at Cheung Sha and Pui O. These accommodations focus on visitors' experience, sustainability and integration with the local environment, and at the same time increase visitors' awareness on the natural and cultural resources of Lantau.

### **WAY FORWARD**

15. The Study team is currently finalising the assessments of the above proposals. We plan to consult the public on the study proposals in the first half of 2024.

### **CONCLUSION**

16. Members are invited to note the proposals of the Study.

**Civil Engineering and Development Department**  
**December 2023**