(for discussion on 17.11.2022)

Southern District Council (SDC) Economy, Development and Planning Committee

<u>Pedestrian Environment and Traffic Improvements to Bring Vibrancy to the</u> <u>Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen Waterfront and Ap Lei Chau North Areas -</u> <u>Feasibility Study</u>

Purpose

This paper is to consult members on the proposed pedestrian environment and traffic improvements as well as facelifting proposals to bring vibrancy to the Wong Chuk Hang (WCH), Aberdeen waterfront and Ap Lei Chau (ALC) North areas (the Study Area).

Background

- 2. The Invigorating Island South (IIS) initiative announced in the 2020 Policy Address aims to develop the Southern District into a place full of vibrancy, vigour and velocity for people to work, live, explore new ideas and have fun. The Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) covering the IIS focus areas formulated by the IIS Office (IISO) has adopted four broad strategies:
 - Enhance Connectivity and Walkability
 - Improve Urban Environment
 - Unleash Development Potential
 - Enliven the District
- 3. The broad strategies are generally supported by stakeholders. In concert with the efforts on taking forward the various proposals in the CMP, IISO commissioned AECOM in December 2021 to carry out the captioned study (the Study).

Pedestrian-Friendly Blue-Green Interlink Framework

- 4. The Study Area is characterised by its unique natural blue-green landscape, rich history of cultural, social and economic developments as well as having key recreational and tourism landmarks as its backdrop. Leveraging these strengths and assets, we advocate a pedestrian-friendly blue-green interlink framework for the Study Area through creation of comfortable, continuous and convenient networks linking up key nodes and multi-modal public transport facilities to bring more vibrancy. The aims of the framework are:
 - to establish interconnected public realm with integration of blue-green features to enhance connectivity and walkability;
 - to improve pedestrian safety and traffic circulation;
 - to enhance public open spaces and the waterfront areas;
 - to support existing and planned developments; and
 - to reinforce district identity.
- 5. Based on the strategies recommended in the study and having regard to the existing character, challenges and opportunities, the following objectives are proposed for four sub-areas:

Aberdeen Waterfront

- (a) to reinforce Aberdeen Praya Road as a key pedestrian spine, including its connection with Wong Chuk Hang;
- (b) to enhance the waterfront area as a key recreation and activity node and a pedestrian corridor;

Ap Lei Chau North

- (c) to enhance the waterfront area and extend the connectivity along the waterfront;
- (d) to integrate the existing pedestrian corridors with the open space network;
- (e) to promote pedestrian safety and address the traffic issues in the Main Street area.

Wong Chuk Hang

- (f) to create interconnected network of business, recreation, leisure and waterfront destinations;
- (g) to establish multi-level public realm to enhance walkability and pedestrian experience;
- (h) to improve pedestrian and traffic circulations to support existing and planned developments; and

Sham Wan and Po Chong Wan Waterfronts

- (i) to activate waterfront accessibility and synergise with the recreation, leisure and tourism attractions.
- 6. After studying the existing conditions and assessing the possible impacts of the key projects under the IIS initiative, the consultant has formulated comprehensive pedestrian environment and traffic improvements as well as facelifting proposals for the four sub-areas as detailed in the Public Engagement (PE) Digest at **Annex**.

Public Engagement

- 7. We are launching a PE exercise to gauge public views on the proposals formulated in the Study till 31 December 2022, through briefings, roving exhibitions and a public forum.
- 8. After the PE exercise and incorporating stakeholders' comments on the proposals where appropriate, we will work out the implementation arrangements and programme for taking forward the proposals.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to provide comments on the proposals detailed in the PE Digest.

Invigorating Island South Office Development Bureau November 2022