

Invigorating Island South Initiative

Written Replies from Relevant Government Bureau and Department

(I) Response from the Development Bureau

Regarding the four documents on the “Invigorating Island South” initiative submitted by members of Southern District Council (SDC), the Development Bureau provides a consolidated reply.

As announced by the Chief Executive in her 2020 Policy Address, the Government will implement the “Invigorating Island South” initiative to develop the Southern District into a spot full of vibrancy, vigour and velocity, making it the right place for people to work, live, explore new ideas and have fun. Relevant bureaux and departments will study and take forward the following key projects being contemplated:

1. formulating a proposal for the rebirth of Ocean Park, with emphasis on enhancing and leveraging its strengths in education and conservation, making use of its natural landscape, strategic seaside location and the Water World which will open this summer to offer diversified entertainment, leisure and travel experiences;
2. revitalising the Jumbo Floating Restaurant, which is a historic landmark in Hong Kong. The owner of the floating restaurant has recently agreed to donate it to Ocean Park at no cost. The Government will facilitate the collaboration between Ocean Park and non-governmental organisations for the rebirth of the floating restaurant in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter on a non-profit-making basis, so that it will become a distinctive cultural heritage and tourist attraction in the Southern District;
3. enhancing the cultural and leisure facilities in the vicinity of Aberdeen and Wong Chuk Hang, including the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, Aberdeen Promenade and Ap Lei Chau Main Street to enable members of the public and visitors to immerse in the ambience, history and culture of a fishing village and enjoy eco-tourism in the area;

4. exploring new marine tourism routes by taking advantage of the district's seaside location with Ocean Park as the core to link up with other districts and islands, as well as exploring the expansion of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter area and the vessel berthing area as well as providing more landing facilities along the coastal area;
5. exploring the development of a water sports centre at the rehabilitated Shek O Quarry site under public-private partnership to provide advanced training facilities for athletes and water sports enthusiasts;
6. expediting the redevelopment or conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang through the Government's policy of revitalising industrial buildings, so as to provide more operating space for emerging industries and the arts and culture sector;
7. exploring room for redevelopment or consolidation of the existing "Government, Institution or Community" sites or facilities in the district so as to promote "single site, multiple use"; and
8. taking the opportunities brought by the large-scale topside development project at the Wong Chuk Hang Station, which will commence population intake two years later, to beautify public space and cityscape through "place making"; as well as enhancing pedestrian connectivity of the Wong Chuk Hang Business Area and the waterfront area nearby while improving the pedestrian environment along Shum Wan Road and Po Chong Wan through minor works.

The Development Bureau has set up the Invigorating Island South Office (IISO) formed by a multi-disciplinary team in February this year, which is responsible for co-ordinating with relevant bureaux and departments to take forward the "Invigorating Island South" initiative, undertaking studies on the overall strategy for "Invigorating Island South" and the various projects led by the Development Bureau as well as liaising with relevant bureaux and departments on those initiatives that require cross-bureau/department effort.

We are pleased to listen to views of members and other stakeholders on the "Invigorating Island South" initiative, while embarking on district liaison work.

(II) Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) strives to provide quality leisure facilities and landscaped environment in order to promote a healthy lifestyle and exercises for all. The LCSD manages parks and playgrounds in diverse scale including parks, gardens, children's playgrounds, sitting-out areas, soccer pitches, basketball courts and fitness trails. The venues are managed according to the "Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance" (Chapter 132) and its subsidiary regulations for ensuring public safety and order in the venues.

Seaview Promenade stands on government land and is a public pedestrian passage being built along the shore to connect Deep Water Bay Beach and Repulse Bay Beach. The LCSD is responsible for the tree maintenance at selected sites at this public passage, and vegetation maintenance at four pocket areas which was funded through district minor work projects. As Seaview Promenade is solely a public pedestrian passage, it does not have the potential for development into a leisure venue.

Regarding the suggestion of opening up public beaches as "Inclusive Beaches for Pets", the LCSD understands and has been proactive to respond to the requests of the pet owners. At present, the LCSD had not only setting up pet gardens or pet access in suitable leisure venues but also launched the "Inclusive Park for Pets" programme in February 2021 to gradually incorporate suitable parks into the programme. In fact, while relaxing to allow pet owners and their pets to use the LCSD park facilities with general public, consensus among different stakeholders should be reached. Therefore, the LCSD does not have any plan to expand the programme to the public beaches temporarily. However, the LCSD would take note the suggestion during the programme review. The LCSD would continue to keep in view to identify suitable venues and plan for provision of more pet gardens.