

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Planning Study on Setting up a Visitor Hub at Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung – Inception Phase

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to brief members on the progress of the planning study on setting up a visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung (the Study) commissioned by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

2. Background

2.1 AFCD completed the consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas in 2019. The consultancy study recommended setting up country park visitor hubs at appropriate locations to provide one-stop services to visitors of different needs, and where possible the visitor hubs should connect with nearby public transportation facilities. Given the strategic location to access Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks, Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung was identified as a potential location for a visitor hub. The Government announced in the 2019 Policy Address its plan to study the feasibility of developing Pak Tam Chung into a green tourism hub with a view to further promoting green tourism. To take forward this initiative, AFCD commissioned URBIS Limited in March 2020 to conduct a planning study on setting up a visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung.

3. Study Area

3.1 The Study Area primarily includes (i) Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre and its ancillary facilities (e.g. kiosk, toilet, and open spaces) at Pak Tam Chung; (ii) parking spaces, public transportation facilities and the barrier gate at Pak Tam Chung; and (iii) physically-handicapped and able-bodied site at Pak Tam Chung (the **Annex**). Besides, considerations should also be given to the green attractions in Sai Kung to which the visitor hub would serve as a gateway to facilitate visitation.

4. Scope of Study

4.1 The Study aims to identify service requirements and develop planning parameters for setting up the visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung through:

- (i) defining the requirements of the existing and potential users with different needs, service operators and site managers for operating and managing Pak Tam Chung as the visitor hub and gateway for visitation to Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks, Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region) and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park;
- (ii) reviewing the existing traffic conditions and connectivity of public transport in Pak Tam Chung with a view to suggesting practicable improvement of public transport services and facilities as well as traffic management measures to facilitate visitation to the green attractions of country parks, geopark and marine park in the region;
- (iii) identifying the constraints and restrictions for setting up the visitor hub; and
- (iv) formulating functional and accommodation requirements as well as recommending the schematic layout, management plan and mode of operation of the visitor hub to cater the required services and facilities.

4.2 The Study will ensure that the proposed visitor hub would be able to provide one-stop services to visitors with different needs without compromising the conservation objective of the country parks and special areas. Furthermore, the use of existing footprint of the visitor centre and associated recreation facilities in Pak Tam Chung should be optimised and the concepts of sustainability and cost effectiveness be incorporated in the planning and future management and maintenance of the visitor hub.

5. Implementation Programme of the Study

5.1 In the inception phase, the consultants identified a number of key issues that need to be addressed in the Study, which included compliance with the legislation, accessibility, site sensitivity, user groups of particular needs, sustainable design and compatibility of the open spaces for different uses. They also recommended

according importance to the traffic review and public engagement in the Study.

5.2 The consultants would conduct the following tasks during the course of the Study:

- (i) baseline review;
- (ii) public engagement and opinion survey;
- (iii) traffic and development constraints review and recommendations;
- (iv) consolidation of service need and recommendation of schematic layout, initial management plan and mode of operation; and
- (v) formulation of functional and accommodation requirements.

5.3 The Study is expected to be completed within 2020. Its recommendations, in particular the functional and accommodation requirements, will provide the basis for the preparation of a project brief for the visitor hub in the next stage.

6. Advice sought

6.1 Members are invited to offer views on the study approach and the service requirements of the proposed visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung. The progress and recommendations of the Study will be reported to the Country Parks Committee and Country and Marine Parks Board at various stages of the Study.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
May 2020

Location Plan of Study Area

