

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 6 May 2016. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Cavern Master Plan

2.1 At the meeting, representatives from the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), Planning Department (PlanD) and their consultants briefed members on the Cavern Master Plan (CMP) prepared under the “Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study” with special consideration of the issues relating to Hong Kong Country Parks and Special Areas.

2.2 Members noted that CEDD aimed at introducing a conceptual idea of the CMP, which provided a strategic planning framework to guide and facilitate territory-wide cavern development in Hong Kong, rather than discussing the details of individual Strategic Cavern Areas (SVCAs) listed in the CMP at the meeting. Members expressed their views on public consultation and enquired about the associated potential environmental impacts and cumulative impacts. CEDD informed the members that a Strategic Environmental Assessment had been carried out as part of the Strategic Cavern Study. Members were also assured that suitable mitigation measures would be taken to minimise any potential adverse environmental impacts. Having heard the presentation of the consultant and responses from the representatives of CEDD and PlanD to their enquiries, members in general had no adverse comment on the CMP while some showed their support in principle to the proposal for better utilisation of land resource.

3. A Pilot Floating Solar Power System at Shek Pik Reservoir

3.1 Representatives from the Water Supplies Department (WSD) briefed members on their proposed Pilot Floating Solar Power System at the Shek Pik Reservoir

within Lantau South Country Park. WSD informed members that the proposal was only a small scale pilot project and WSD would gather views from the public on the project.

3.2 Although a few members expressed concerns about the potential visual impact of the photovoltaic panels of the solar power system in the country park, the majority of the members supported the proposal as a pilot scheme, which aimed at promoting the development of renewable energy. The CMPB or its CPC would be consulted again if there are further developments of the pilot scheme, such as to extend the project scale or to carry out similar proposals in other country parks.

4. Review on the Plantation Enrichment Project in Country Parks

4.1 Members were briefed on the Plantation Enrichment Project (PEP) in country parks by a representative of AFCD. Member generally supported the proposal of thinning of exotic trees and in-planting of native tree seedlings to increase biodiversity of plants in country parks. They also supported the idea of involving NGOs and the public in PEP in country parks.

4.2 Some members raised their concern about technical issues of the required enrichment work. In response, a representative of AFCD assured members that AFCD would organise a briefing for the participating NGOs and provide technical advice during the implementation of the project.

5. Advice Sought

5.1 Members are invited to note the contents of this paper