

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Economic Development**  
**Meeting on 27 April 2009**

**Background brief on the Aberdeen Tourism Project**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the Aberdeen Tourism Project (the Project) and summarizes Legislative Council (LegCo) Members' views and concerns on related issues.

**Background**

*Initial Concept Plan for the Project*

2. In May 2002, the interdepartmental "Task Force on Redevelopment of Ocean Park (OP) and Tourist Attractions in Aberdeen" chaired by the Financial Secretary was set up to oversee the future development of OP and the development of Aberdeen tourism node. On the basis of the redevelopment plan of OP submitted to the Government in March 2005, the Planning Department drew up an updated planning framework for the Aberdeen Harbour. To complement OP's redevelopment plan, the Tourism Commission (TC) formulated an initial concept plan for the Project.

3. The initial concept plan comprises 3 thematic clusters: the traditional fishing harbour along the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Promenade, Fisherman's Wharf at Tai Shue Wan proposed for development by OP, and the existing leisure and dining node off the coast of Sham Wan as the linkage. The scope of the Project will include both hardware (e.g. enhancement works) and software (e.g. development of more structured sampan tours and traditional cultural walks) with a view to bringing out the unique character of Aberdeen and enhancing its tourism appeal.

4. TC consulted the Southern District Council (SDC) in June 2005 and received their support on using "traditional fishing harbour" as the theme of tourism development in Aberdeen. TC also informed the Panel on Economic Services<sup>1</sup> in October 2005 of the initial concept plan in the context of policy briefing relating to the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2005-2006.

5. At the end of 2005, TC conducted a consultation exercise on the initial concept plan to solicit the views of the stakeholders, including members of SDC and local organizations, representatives from fishermen groups, sampan and "kaido" operators, the travel and relevant trades, etc.

#### *Initial Conceptual Design for the Project*

6. On the basis of the feedback received during the consultation exercise, TC appointed a consultant at the end of 2006 to develop a conceptual design for the Project which aimed to further bring out the unique features of "traditional fishing harbour" and the local culture of Aberdeen, and to enhance Aberdeen's attractiveness to both international visitors and local residents by reinforcing the elements of diversified tourism. The study area of the consultancy covered both sides of the Aberdeen harbour and the scope of study included hardware facilities, software and local traffic arrangements, etc.

7. The Consultant completed the framework for the conceptual design of the Project in mid 2007. The key features<sup>2</sup> included:

- (a) re-developing and revitalizing both sides of the Aberdeen harbour under the theme of "Fisherman's Wharf";
- (b) developing exhibition facilities based on the theme of "traditional fishing harbour";
- (c) enhancing the use of traditional sampans to shuttle between both sides of Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau and to link with OP;
- (d) organizing local cultural activities to bring out the traditional and cultural characteristics of Aberdeen;
- (e) setting up a visitor information centre and visitor signages at appropriate locations along the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau promenades; and

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<sup>1</sup> The Panel on Economic Services has been renamed as the Panel on Economic Development with effect from the 2007-2008 session.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Website of Tourism Commission  
([http://www.tourism.gov.hk/english/current/current\\_aberdeen.html](http://www.tourism.gov.hk/english/current/current_aberdeen.html))

- (f) providing additional coach parking and pick-up/drop-off points at appropriate locations for visitors' convenience.

8. TC consulted SDC in April 2007 on the proposed conceptual design and members supported the development of both sides of the Aberdeen harbour under the theme of "Fisherman's Wharf". TC also informed the Panel on Economic Development about the completion of the conceptual design in October 2007 when members were briefed on the relevant policy in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2007-2008.

#### *Assessment of the Initial Conceptual Design*

9. In 2007 and early 2008, the Administration<sup>3</sup> consulted the local community, travel trade and relevant business groups to ascertain public support for and market interest in the Project. In view of the diversified views received, the Administration appointed a business consultant in 2008 to assess the business potential and financial viability of the conceptual plan of the Project. The study is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2009. Works are expected to commence in late 2009 for phased completion in 2012-2013.

10. According to the consultant's preliminary assessment, although the proposed tourism facilities in Aberdeen should have certain tourism appeal, there is rather limited space along both sides of the typhoon shelter for development (around 34 000 square meters only). Besides, compared with other tourist attractions in Hong Kong, the location of the Project may not be as favourable and that there may be difficulty in attracting investment from private enterprises. Under the financial tsunami, the consultant has to review the related financial data and conduct further analysis to ensure that the assessment results can reflect the current economic situation.

#### *Existing sightseeing facilities in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter*

11. Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter retains some features of a traditional fishing port and is a popular tourist attraction where visitors can take sampan rides for sightseeing, watch dragon boat races during the Dragon Boat Festival, and join the event called "Wedding FUN at Southern District Fishing Port" introducing the lifestyle and marriage customs of fishing folks. There are visitor signages erected at different spots to show visitors locations to take sampan rides. Seats with covers are also provided along Kwun Hoi Path of Aberdeen for visitors waiting to board the sampans or go sightseeing in the vicinity. More seats and additional pergolas are planned to be provided. Meanwhile, the government departments concerned have taken various measures to keep the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter clean and to ensure its water quality.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Website of Tourism Commission  
([http://www.tourism.gov.hk/english/current/current\\_aberdeen.html](http://www.tourism.gov.hk/english/current/current_aberdeen.html))

### **Views/suggestions of LegCo Members about the Project**

12. During the debate on the motion "Expediting the construction of MTR South Island Line" at the Council meeting on 11 January 2006, some Members also expressed the views on the Project and urged the Administration to:

- (a) replan the land use in the Southern District and connect the developments in the Aberdeen Harbour to other tourist attractions in the Southern District to develop it into a major centre for tourism and commerce, thus generating significant economic growth; and
- (b) take measures well in advance to meet the transport needs arising from the increased flow of people and goods in the Southern District after the completion of various tourism development projects.

13. At the meeting with LegCo Members on 5 February 2009, SDC members expressed concern that TC had not reported to SDC since April 2007 on the progress of the Project and that its timely implementation is essential to revitalize the entire Southern District, thus leading to the creation of job opportunities as well as boosting Hong Kong's economy. SDC members also suggested redeveloping the Aberdeen Promenade to bring in business opportunities, developing museum using traditional fishing harbour as major theme, and promoting the unique temples along Aberdeen harbour as a tourist attraction. LegCo Members attending the meeting also raised the following views/suggestions:

- (a) the development plan of the Fisherman's Wharf should be finalized as a matter of top priority followed by other complimentary facilities;
- (b) night markets in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter should be developed, but with prior assessment on the possible nuisance caused to the nearby residents, and a review on the hawker licensing policy;
- (c) sea food restaurants should be developed in Aberdeen promenade;
- (d) the Administration should ensure appropriate development plan of Wong Chuk Hang<sup>4</sup> to tie in with the tourism development in Aberdeen; and

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<sup>4</sup> Since the new zoning of the Wong Chuk Hang Business Area from "Industrial" to "Other Specified Uses (Business)" on 22 June 2001, applications for hotel development in respect of 13 sites have been approved by the Town Planning Board. Among them, one project is under construction whereas the planning approval for five have been lapsed, further action is pending for another five, and lease modification is either completed or undergoing for the remaining two.

- (e) the Administration should enhance the linkage between various tourist attractions in the Southern District so that tourists can travel to other scenic spots after their visits to OP.

### **Latest developments**

14. The Administration will report the result of the consultancy and the recent development of the Project to the Panel at the meeting on 27 April 2009.

### **References**

15. A list of the relevant papers is in **Appendix I**.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
21 April 2009

## Background brief on the Aberdeen Tourism Project

## List of relevant papers

Panel/Committee	Date	Paper
Panel on Economic Services (ES Panel)	27 June 2005	Administration paper on "Redevelopment Plans for the Ocean Park" LC Paper No. CB(1)1855/04-05(03) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/es/papers/es0627cb1-1855-3e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/es/papers/es0627cb1-1855-3e.pdf</a>  Minutes of the Meeting <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/es/minutes/es050627.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/es/minutes/es050627.pdf</a>
---	October 2005	Consultation on Initial Concept Plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project <a href="http://www.tourism.gov.hk/resources/english/paperreport_doc/consultancy/2005-10-26/InformationPaper_on_ATP_-_for_uploading_-_Eng_-_final.pdf">http://www.tourism.gov.hk/resources/english/paperreport_doc/consultancy/2005-10-26/InformationPaper_on_ATP_-_for_uploading_-_Eng_-_final.pdf</a>
ES Panel	20 October 2005	Administration's paper on "Policy Initiatives of the Economic Development Branch of the Economic Development and Labour Bureau for 2005-2006" LC Paper No. CB(1)15/05-06(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/es/papers/es1020cb1-15-1e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/es/papers/es1020cb1-15-1e.pdf</a>
Council Meeting	11 January 2006	Motion on "Expediting the construction of the MTR South Island Line for commissioning in or before 2012" <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0111ti-translate-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0111ti-translate-e.pdf</a>
ES Panel	23 October 2006	Administration's paper on "Policy Initiatives of the Economic Development Branch of the Economic Development and Labour Bureau for 2006-2007" LC Paper No. CB(1)35/06-07(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/es/papers/es1023cb1-35-1e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/es/papers/es1023cb1-35-1e.pdf</a>

Panel/Committee	Date	Paper
Panel on Economic Development	22 October 2007	Administration's paper on "Policy Agenda of the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau" LC Paper No. CB(1)43/07-08(02) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/es/papers/edev1022cb1-43-2-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/es/papers/edev1022cb1-43-2-e.pdf</a>
Panel on Transport	7 January 2008	Background brief on Mass Transit Railway – South Island Line LC Paper No. CB(1)521/07-08 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0111cb1-521-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0111cb1-521-e.pdf</a>
Finance Committee (FC)	---	The Administration's reply dated 20 March 2008 to Hon TONG Ka-wah, Ronny's question <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/fc/fc/w_q/cedb-cit-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/fc/fc/w_q/cedb-cit-e.pdf</a>
Panel on Economic Development	17 March 2008	Minutes of the meeting <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/es/minutes/ev080317.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/es/minutes/ev080317.pdf</a>
Panel on Economic Development	November 2008	Administration's paper on "Tourism District Enhancement Programme" <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/edev/papers/edev1024cb1-198-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/edev/papers/edev1024cb1-198-1-e.pdf</a>
Council Meeting	7 January 2009	The Administration's reply to Hon Paul TSE dated 7 January 2009 <a href="http://www.tourism.gov.hk/resources/english/paperreport_doc/legco/2009-01-07/LCQ14.pdf">http://www.tourism.gov.hk/resources/english/paperreport_doc/legco/2009-01-07/LCQ14.pdf</a>
Finance Committee (FC)	---	The Administration's reply dated 17 March 2009 to Hon CHAN Tanya's question <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/w_q/cedb-cit-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/w_q/cedb-cit-e.pdf</a>
Panel on Economic Development	23 March 2009	Hotel Development in Wong Chuk Hang <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/edev/papers/edev0223cb1-1160-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/edev/papers/edev0223cb1-1160-1-e.pdf</a>