

Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee of
the Islands District Council (CICRC Paper No. 6/2026)
(For discussion on 9 February 2026)

Islands District Council
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee

Proposed Construction of Shui Hau Education Centre

Purpose

This paper aims to brief Members on the proposed Shui Hau Education Centre (the Centre).

Shui Hau Education Centre

2. The Chief Executive supported the development of the "South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor" (the Corridor) in the 2023 Policy Address. By providing diversified leisure and eco-tourism facilities at four locations along the southern coast of Lantau (namely Cheung Sha, Shek Pik, Shui Hau, and Pui O) and integrating existing natural and cultural resources, South Lantau will become a unique leisure and recreation destination. To enhance Hong Kong's appeal as a premier tourism destination, the 2024 Policy Address announced to expedite the development of the Corridor, and the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0 released in December of the same year identified the development of the Corridor as one of the key measures to promote island tourism.

3. CEDD conducted two studies¹ to formulate the preliminary proposals for the key elements and facilities of the Corridor. One of the study recommendations is to establish an education centre at Shui Hau to promote conservation education. Shui Hau boasts a rich ecological environment, including sandflats, wetlands, woodlands, and streams, which is highly suitable for promoting conservation and education². The Centre will help visitors

¹ The two studies are "Sustainable Leisure and Recreation Initiatives in Shek Pik and Adjoining Areas – Investigation" and "Initiatives for South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor – Investigation".

² According to CEDD's ecological study conducted, Shui Hau boasts a rich ecological environment, including sandflats, wetlands, woodlands, and streams, which supports a rich biodiversity. Shui Hau sandflat is a very rare and distinctive habitat in Hong Kong, preserving a seamless connection between terrestrial and marine natural habitats, as well as a gradual transition in the natural landscape. Shui Hau is of particular conservation importance and it functions as an important breeding and nursery ground for the Chinese horseshoe crab, and is very rich in variety and abundance of other intertidal organisms. Shui Hau also serves as a stopover site for migratory birds and is an important breeding and nursery ground for amphibians and odonates. During the survey in 2018-19, over 560 species of flora and fauna were recorded, including a number of rare or endangered species.

better understand the area's natural value and promote public awareness of nature conservation.

4. The proposed site for the Centre is located on Government land adjacent to South Lantau Road in Shui Hau (**Annex I** - Location Plan), covering an area of approximately 1,100 square metres. It will comprise a multi-purpose room, an outdoor activity lawn, toilets, a washing area, and a coach drop-off area. The multi-purpose room adopts an open-plan design that seamlessly connects to the outdoor activity lawn, providing visitors with a leisurely and comfortable outdoor activity space and allowing for flexible configurations for educational activities such as exhibitions, seminars, or workshops (**Annex II** - Preliminary Layout and Photomontage).

5. The Centre adopts sustainable building design elements to blend in with the surrounding natural environment. These include using a photovoltaic system to supplement the Centre's electricity needs, employing bio-filtration gardens to recycle rainwater for irrigation, incorporating skylights at roof to enhance natural daylighting in the building, using detention and infiltration rain gardens and permeable paving on ground surfaces to promote rainwater infiltration and reduce the burden on the drainage system. At the same time, the Centre integrates nature-based landscape design, with green roof and vertical greening to provide green coverage for birds and insects to inhabit, thereby enhancing local biodiversity. To enable visitors to appreciate the importance of natural ecology, the Centre incorporates biophilic design elements to foster a connection between visitors and nature. These include planting species suitable for butterfly foraging and habitat, installing bird houses and perches for birds, and providing "insect hotels" for insects to reside.

6. The Centre will serve as an education base promoting nature conservation. It will also actively preserve and showcase local traditional village culture and customs. By hosting nature-based and cultural activities and engaging local villagers as tour guides, visitors can better understand and appreciate the natural ecology, the culture and the traditions of the Shui Hau area, thereby raising their awareness of nature conservation and cultural tradition.

7. From May to July 2024, CEDD conducted a two-month public engagement exercises on the proposals recommended for the South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor. Briefing sessions with various stakeholders, including the Legislative Council Panel on Development, the Lantau Development Advisory Committee, the Islands District Council and the South Lantau Rural Committee were conducted. The public generally supported the establishment of the Centre.

Minor Local Improvement Works

8. Apart from the Education Centre, we are exploring minor local improvement works with a view to enhancing the existing nearby public facilities for public convenience, including:

- (a) provision of a pedestrian crossing on South Lantau Road near the Centre;
- (b) provision of a bus lay-by at the Lower Wan Lung bus stop (eastbound) on South Lantau Road;
- (c) provision of roadside parking spaces along South Lantau Road; and
- (d) improvement of the existing Shui Hau Public Toilet.

Progress and Way Forward

9. The Centre falls within “Coastal Protection Area” zone on the approved South Lantau Coast Outline Zoning Plan No. S/SLC/23. We plan to submit an application under Section 16 of Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) to the Town Planning Board in Q1 2026 for seeking planning permission.

10. The Centre and the minor local improvement works will be implemented in phases, with a target of inviting tenders in Q4 2026. Throughout the project implementation, we will continue to maintain close communication with relevant stakeholders.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to express views on the above proposals.

Annexes

Annex I - Location Plan

Annex II - Preliminary Layout and Photomontage

South Development and Sustainable Lantau Office
Civil Engineering and Development Department
January 2026