

Sai Kung District Council
Implementation of Pier Improvement Programme

PURPOSE

This paper serves to introduce the new initiative of “Pier Improvement Programme” (PIP), and seeks Members’ comments on the PIP and support on seeking funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo).

BACKGROUND

2. Hong Kong is an international metropolis and comprises of many natural scenic spots, rare geological features and hiking trails with rich biological diversity. These attractions are mostly located at remote rural areas without land access and rely on marine transport. In recent years, numbers of tourists attracted to these destinations has been constantly increasing.

3. Although regular inspections and maintenance for the remote public piers are carried out by the Government to ensure its structural integrity, some public piers at remote rural areas are in place for many years and cannot cope with the current needs / usages, such as:

- (1) Small or primitive piers leading to safety concerns during berthing and unsatisfactory boarding condition especially for kids and elderly;
- (2) Inadequate draft for berthing during low tide;
- (3) Limited berthing space or narrow accesses which cannot cater for the fluctuating utilization during festive times or weekend; and
- (4) Aged pier structures with a need for improvement works.

4. The Chief Executive featured the new initiative of PIP in the Policy Address on 18 January 2017 and announced that the Government will improve a number of remote public piers to facilitate public access to outing destinations and natural heritage. The PIP also responds to the local requests to meet the needs of remote villagers relying on marine transport or fishermen’s operation. The first phase of the PIP will focus on public piers in the New Territories and the Islands District.

CONSIDERATION

5. Under the current mechanism, we can secure resources for improvement works of public piers in accordance with the prevailing procedures of the Public Works Programme (PWP). In the light of the existing policy which places particular emphasis on utilization, this has resulted in many improvement works of public piers, especially the remote ones but favorable to green tourism or convenience to villagers, unable to commence in a timely manner.

6. Therefore, spearheaded by the Development Bureau (DEVB) in coordination with relevant bureaux and departments, a Committee on Piers (the Committee) has been established to take forward the PIP. In addition to the DEVB, the Committee comprises Environmental Bureau, Tourism Commission, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Home Affairs Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department and Transport Department. Representatives from Transport and Housing Bureau, Financial Service and the Treasury Bureau and Marine Department will also be invited to advise the Committee on an ad hoc basis when needed.

7. The Committee takes into account in a balanced and holistic manner a host of factors with a view to improving the structural and facility standard of a number of public piers. The key assessment criteria consists of the following:

- (1) Public safety;
- (2) Accessibility of nearby natural and heritage scenic attractions;
- (3) Local sentiment;
- (4) Utilization; and
- (5) Technical feasibility, etc., for instance, are there any complicated and controversial environmental problems involved?

DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE

8. Under PWP, a series of administrative and resource allocation procedures should be proceeding prior to commencing a works project. To compete with some large-scale infrastructure development for resources, the priority of improvement works of remote public piers is relatively low in general.

9. The PIP is an initiative to benefit the public. There is a number of public piers at remote rural areas that cannot cope with the current needs and hence demand for swift improvements. Taking into account the similar nature and scale among various pier improvement works, we propose to make reference to the "Universal Accessibility Programme" and seek an approval of

the FC for creation of a new dedicated subhead of block allocation under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. It allows greater flexibility in arrangement of different projects and resource allocation based on the actual circumstances and works progress. Ultimately, a number of projects can commence and finish in quick and efficient manners in order to benefit the public.

10. As the pier improvement works are relatively extensive in scopes and technically complicated, we will first carry out technical study, including investigation and preliminary design, on the potential pier items. Upon receiving confirmation of technical feasibility and supports on pier items, we will then make use of the proposed dedicated subhead to carry out detailed design and construction. The proposed dedicated subhead will cover all costs to be incurred in the detailed design and construction stages of the improvement works under PIP, including the costs of project management, further investigation, detailed design, contract procurement and construction supervision, as well as the construction cost.

PROGRESS

11. In the meeting held on 21 April 2017, the Committee had taken into account the assessment criteria given in paragraph 7 above and recommended Leung Shuen Wan Pier and Kau Sai Village Pier in Sai Kung District as the potential pier items under the first phase of the PIP. The Committee would like to obtain the support from the Sai Kung District Council for the potential pier items to proceed to the technical study including investigation and preliminary design.

12. We will seek funding approval from the FC in a timely manner in order to carry out the detailed design of the feasible and supported pier items and strive for the works commencement in 2019 with a target for the staged completion of the first phase of the PIP from 2021.

ADVICE SOUGHT

13. Members are invited to provide their views and comments on the proposal. We appeal for Members' support on the implementation of the technical study on the potential piers items and the funding application for the detailed design and construction for the PIP in order to facilitate the timely commencement of the associated tasks.

Civil Engineering and Development Department
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