

Southern District Council

Work Progress Report and Proposed Work Plan for 2021-22
on the District-led Actions Scheme of the Southern District

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of the implementation of various initiatives under the “District-led Actions Scheme of the Southern District” (the DAS) in the previous year and outlines the proposed work plan for 2021-22.

Background

2. In his 2016 Policy Address delivered on 13 January 2016, the Chief Executive proposed the implementation of the DAS in the 18 districts, with a view to further realising the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities”. Upon consultation with the Southern District Council (SDC), the Southern District Management Committee (SDMC) resolved to implement the following DAS initiatives:

- Initiative 1: Improving the overall traffic conditions of Aberdeen
- Initiative 2: Strengthening action against illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers in the Southern District
- Initiative 3: Stepping up efforts to address the environmental hygiene issue of Aberdeen town centre and typhoon shelter

Work Progress

Initiative 1: Improving the overall traffic conditions of Aberdeen

3. Located in the heart of the Southern District, Aberdeen attracts heavy traffic. However, its narrow roads have given rise to quite a number of traffic problems. In

view of this, SDC proposed that under DAS, a traffic consultant should be engaged to study the overall traffic conditions of Aberdeen to fully understand the traffic problems of the area concerned, and to conduct traffic impact assessment with recommendations on the improvement measures as appropriate. Based on the findings of the consultancy study, the Southern District Office (SDO) would orchestrate inter-departmental efforts in formulating and implementing practical improvement measures.

4. SDO engaged a traffic consultant in July 2017 to conduct a 52-week study on the overall traffic conditions of Aberdeen, which was completed in mid-2018. To tackle the traffic problems identified based on the survey data and observation, the traffic consultant proposed short-term, medium-term and long-term improvement measures, and consulted members of the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC) under SDC on 19 March and 21 May 2018. Based on the findings, Transport Department (TD) implemented some of these measures in phases from early 2019, such as re-routeing CTB Route No. 7 (Shek Pai Wan bound), NWFB Route No. 94A (Lei Tung Estate bound) and GMB Route No. 58/58A (Aberdeen bound) away from the busy streets in Aberdeen town centre, improving kerbside arrangement at Nam Ning Street, providing loading and unloading spaces for goods vehicles and coaches at Aberdeen Main Road near Aberdeen Centre and installation of railings outside Wu Nam Street Public Toilet. After implementation of the above improvement measures, TD will consider any other medium-term and long-term improvement measures as appropriate to the actual traffic condition.

Initiative 2: Strengthening action against illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers in the Southern District

5. The severe problem of illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers in the Southern District has not only caused inconvenience to residents, but also led to obstruction to roadways and vehicular flow, resulting in traffic congestion and thus aggravating the pressure on the transport network of Southern District. In view of this, SDC suggested that the Police step up their enforcement actions against illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers through a flexible deployment of manpower under DAS.

6. In July 2016, SDO consulted SDC members on the major locations of illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers in the district, and discussed with the Police

effective measures to tackle the problem. T&TC members of the previous and the current terms reflected that the problem of illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers at individual locations in the district was severe, causing blocked traffic along major trunk roads. In response to members' concern, the Police have taken targeted enforcement action against unlawful practices through suitable deployment of manpower. Details are given at **Appendix 1**. The Police would deploy police officers or traffic wardens in the district if circumstances so required to carry out traffic diversion arrangement or law enforcement operations, depending on such factors as the district's traffic conditions, manpower resources and policing priorities to maintain smooth traffic flow.

7. Currently, the Police have implemented the Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities 2020 (STEP) to tackle the irresponsible behaviour of road users who cause traffic accident and obstruct traffic flow. Under the STEP, Police officers and Traffic Wardens would take immediate law enforcement action against irresponsible illegal parking without giving prior verbal warning, thereby disseminating a clear message of zero tolerance to motorists. In 2020, the Police reviewed 27 illegal parking locations identified by SDC members. After setting appropriate priorities, arrangement was made to deploy Police officers and Traffic Wardens for stepping up patrol operations accordingly. With regular reviews on the effectiveness of the enforcement action, deployment of manpower was flexibly adjusted for a more targeted approach to address the unlawful practices. The respective numbers of patrol and law enforcement operations, as well as complaints filed in the second half of 2020, are given at **Appendix 1**. The relevant information has been regularly reported at the meetings of T&TC under SDC.

8. The Police would continue to take targeted action at the traffic blackspots in the Southern District through strategic deployment of Police officers and Traffic Wardens according to the actual situation and availability of resources.

9. Apart from manpower deployment, the Police have endeavoured to maintain close liaison with major local institutions (including the Ocean Park, schools and local organisations, etc.) and exchange information on upcoming activities that might give rise to illegal parking, with a view to making corresponding arrangement in traffic control. As for publicity and education, the Police have, in collaboration with local stakeholders, conducted publicity and education activities for road users at a number of traffic

blackspots in the Southern District to disseminate the message of the Police's commitment in vigorous law enforcement, with a view to changing the behaviour of those non-compliant road users committing illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers.

10. Promising results have been achieved in combating illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers, as a result of effective deployment of Police officers at traffic blackspots and stringent law enforcement action alongside the launch of publicity and education activities. In 2020, the Police Western Division issued a total of 147 123 fixed penalty tickets, representing an increase of 117% when compared with the number of 67 724 issued fixed penalty tickets in 2019. Of the fixed penalty tickets issued in 2020, 139 711 tickets were issued for illegal parking, representing an increase of 127% as contrasted with 61 530 tickets in 2019. On the other hand, in 2020, a total of 97 vehicles were towed away for causing serious obstruction, which represents an increase of 52% comparing with 64 vehicles on tow in 2019.

Initiative 3: Stepping up efforts to address the environmental hygiene issue of Aberdeen town centre and typhoon shelter

(a) Environmental hygiene issue of Aberdeen town centre

11. The undesirable hygiene conditions of certain streets in Aberdeen town centre not only undermined the quality of life of residents but also tarnished the image of Aberdeen as a tourist hotspot. In view of this, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has stepped up their efforts in monitoring, cleansing and taking law enforcement action against environmental hygiene problems in Aberdeen town centre. FEHD has also reported progress periodically to the Environment, Hygiene and Healthcare Committee (EHHC) under SDC and collected views from the members.

12. Apart from maintaining routine services, FEHD has continued to employ additional outsourced cleansing workers to provide daily cleansing services every day from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (including one-hour lunch break) at Old Main Street, Aberdeen, Yue Fai Road, and the lift tower leading to Shek Pai Wan Estate and its vicinity in order to maintain environmental hygiene.

13. On the publicity and education front, FEHD organised a publicity activity in Aberdeen in January 2021, including demonstrating to SDC members how street cleansing was carried out as well as disseminating to residents the messages of rodent control and maintaining environmental hygiene.

(b) Marine refuse problem of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter

14. While the cleanliness of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter has improved significantly, there were still individual locations in the district where marine refuse accumulated, affecting the environment and landscape of the typhoon shelter and tarnishing the image of Aberdeen as a tourist hotspot. SDO has worked with the relevant departments/institutions, including the Marine Department (MD), FEHD, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Drainage Services Department (DSD), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the District Lands Office/Hong Kong West and South (DLO) and the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) to consider feasible and effective measures for the problem. SDO and the above departments also report progress to the EHHC under SDC from time to time and collect views from the members in following up implementation of the measures.

15. Under the coordination of SDO, the departments/institutions concerned have taken actions against marine refuse problem of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, with details as follows:

- (i) With resources under the DAS, MD conducted special cleaning operations at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter on 6 September 2020 and 10 January 2021. During these two operations, 11.5 and 7.6 tonnes (12.6 cubic metres) of marine refuse were disposed of respectively (including domestic refuse collected from boat dwellers);
- (ii) Besides, MD conducted large scale clean-up operations at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter from 23 to 24 April and 18 to 19 November 2020, during which water cannons were specially deployed to clear refuse trapped between rock crevices of breakwaters and vessels. In these two operations, 17.3 tonnes of refuse were collected respectively (i.e. 34.6 tonnes in total);

- (iii) Starting from September 2016, MD's marine cleansing contractor has increased the frequency of marine refuse cleansing to an average of once per week near the foreshore areas of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, including the breakwaters, along the coastal areas between Ocean Court and Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market (the Fish Market), underneath Ap Lei Chau Bridge and Ap Lei Pai, etc. Besides, MD also instructed the contractor to deal with locations with more floating refuse (including the waters off the Fish Market, Ocean Court and Ap Lei Chau Bridge) first on their daily operations. MD officers also conducted patrol and anti-marine littering law enforcement operations from time to time in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, during which promotional leaflets were distributed to urge the local community to maintain a clean environment and to prevent refuse along the shoreline from falling into the sea. MD officers have also conducted anti-marine littering law enforcement operations at the Fish Market in collaboration with AFCD officers, and instituted prosecutions against offenders of marine littering. A breakdown of the respective amounts of floating refuse and shipboard domestic waste collected from the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter is provided at **Appendix 2**; and
- (iv) In view of the concern from the local community about the impacts of the Fish Market that may possibly have on the environment of the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, AFCD has conducted a review in collaboration with the FMO and implemented a series of enhancement measures in the Fish Market, including controlling waste at source and preventing refuse from falling into the typhoon shelter, strengthening the enforcement and management, and recycling / reducing the use of Styrofoam containers. In addition, the FMO has introduced administrative measures to execute a de-merit points system and other punitive measures against market users (including seafood stall operators) who violate the cleanliness guidelines without prior notice, such as prohibiting fish trucks with repeated violations from entering the Fish Market and taking part in trading. As at 1 February 2021, the FMO has administered a total of 26 point-deductions and 125 bans on offenders from entering the market to deter improper waste disposal. To better prevent people from randomly dumping refuses in the Fish Market, the FMO has installed 5 CCTVs near the waterfront of the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market since March 2018 to strengthen surveillance. The FMO has also arranged for vessels to clean up floating refuses from the waters of the typhoon shelter every week. In

addition, the FMO has been using a set of Styrofoam compressor to reduce the volume of Styrofoam containers to improve the efficiency of collecting Styrofoam boxes that can no longer be reused in the Fish Market. The FMO also cooperated with and participated in cleansing activities in the district, such as large-scale cleansing activities in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter with Government departments and SDC. The FMO and the fishermen's organisations of Aberdeen also participated in and provided support for the cleansing operations organised by local NGOs in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter to further promote the importance of keeping the marine environment clean.

16. FEHD has hired additional contract cleansing workers to provide strengthened street cleansing services in the vicinity of Yue Shi Cheung Road and Tin Wan Praya Road between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily in order to minimise the probability of refuse getting into the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter through the downstream of drainage channels or by wind.

17. On the publicity and education front, in addition to routine patrol operations and publicity work performed by MD, SDO has arranged with the assistance of local organisations to put up banners and display posters, reminding members of the public to maintain environmental hygiene. Since August 2017, MD also offered assistance to SDO in enhancing the publicity effect by putting up banners on the scavenging vessels of MD's marine cleansing contractor.

Proposed Work Plan for 2021-22

Initiative 1: Improving the overall traffic conditions of Aberdeen

18. After the traffic consultant completed the Aberdeen study in mid-2018, TD has implemented some of the traffic improvement measures and will consider implementing any other medium-term and long-term improvement measures with regard to the traffic condition. SDO will continue to play its role as a coordinator by having consultation with SDC and the stakeholders concerned on traffic improvement measures on the one hand; and coordinating inter-departmental efforts in studying other improvement measures on the other hand, and to implement such measures as far as practicable.

Initiative 2: Strengthening action against illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers in the Southern District

19. The strategies currently adopted by the Police in combating the problem of illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers have proved effective. In view of this, SDO proposes to continue with the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 7 to 10 above in 2021-22, whereby the Police will leverage its resources to make strategic deployment of Police officers and Traffic Wardens in law enforcement action coupling with the launch of publicity and education activities, to effectively address the problem of illegal parking and pick-up/drop-off of passengers.

20. SDO will collaborate with the Police and other departments concerned to continue with the reporting of the related figures on patrol and law enforcement operations conducted as well as complaints filed to T&TC, and seek members' views on the situation of illegal parking and comments on the solutions with a view to coordinating the law enforcement operations.

Initiative 3: Stepping up efforts to address the environmental hygiene issue of Aberdeen town centre and typhoon shelter

(a) Environmental hygiene issue of Aberdeen town centre

21. According to past experience, the employment of additional cleansing workers has helped improve the hygiene conditions of Old Main Street, Aberdeen, Yue Fai Road, and the lift tower leading to Shek Pai Wan Estate and its vicinity. On top of the routine services being undertaken by FEHD, the above arrangement will also be retained in 2021-22 to maintain environmental health.

(b) Marine refuse problem of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter

22. As the measures stated in paragraph 15 above have been effective in improving hygiene conditions of the typhoon shelter, it has been planned that implementation of the measures concerned will be continued in 2021-22 to control over waste disposal at source and prevent refuse from dropping into the typhoon shelter. Besides, cleansing operations at the typhoon shelter will be strengthened, and law enforcement and prosecution action against cases of illegal disposal of refuse into the sea will be stepped

up as well. As the fishing boats berthing at the waterfront of the Fish Market may affect hygiene conditions along the shoreline, AFCD/FMO will continue to strengthen management measures inside the Fish Market, whereas FEHD will continue to hire contract cleansing workers who are mainly responsible for the cleansing duties at Yue Shi Cheung Road, Tin Wan Praya Road and its vicinity. Besides, since the hygiene conditions of the typhoon shelter are likely to be affected by such factors as seasonal climate and wind direction, SDO will conduct regular reviews on the situation and coordinate the cleansing operations with various departments if circumstances so required.

23. Regarding the publicity and education activities, SDO will continue to put up publicity materials such as banners and posters in the district to disseminate to the public the message of maintaining a clean environment.

Initiative 4: Improvement to the environmental hygiene of slopes in the district

24. The environmental hygiene conditions of slopes are poor in many areas of the district, such as the slopes at Wong Ma Kok Road, slopes at Mount Davis Road, slopes at Consort Rise, slopes at upper Tai Hau Wan Village, slopes at Red Hill Peninsula and slopes at Tai Tam Road. FEHD has received complaints about illegal dumping of refuse being found at the aforesaid locations time and again. In this connection, FEHD proposes to strengthen the slope cleaning work in 2021/22 while stepping up its enforcement and prosecution against non-compliance cases of refuse disposal. FEHD will engage contractors to patrol specified locations / areas and provide cleansing and refuse clearance services accordingly with a view to improving the cleanliness of slopes. Depending on the actual situation, SDO will regularly coordinate the work of various departments in carrying out their cleaning operations.

Initiative 5: Enhanced support for “three-nil” buildings in the district

25. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 over the territory, the Government has all along been closely monitoring the development of the pandemic and has put in place an array of epidemic prevention measures to cope with the pandemic in an all-round manner. In view of the serious outbreak of COVID-19, SDO has started to liaise with the “three-nil” buildings (i.e. those without owners’ corporations (OCs), residents’ organisations or property management companies) in the district since March last year,

taking the initiative to provide them with cleansing services which have met with favourable response from the participating buildings. To encourage the “three-nil” buildings in stepping up their cleansing work to combat the coronavirus pandemic, SDO will, depending on the situation, engage a contractor to provide one-off cleansing services to the common areas of “three-nil” buildings in order to help improve the environmental hygiene and enhance the living environment of these buildings. Meanwhile, SDO hopes that, through dissemination of the message on good building management practices, all occupants are encouraged to take part in the work of building management proactively. SDO also assists owners in the formation of OCs which serve to facilitate proper maintenance of the common areas in buildings, and thereby ensuring safety for the owners and occupants as well as the public.

Deployment of Resources

26. A provision of \$2,800,000 has been allocated to the Southern District for funding various DAS initiatives for the 2020-21 financial year. To date, a total actual expenditure of about \$2,552,625 has been incurred, with its breakdown set out in the table below.

	Tasks	Lead Department(s)	Actual Expenditure (\$)
(i)	Employment of contract cleansing workers to step up cleansing efforts against environmental hygiene issues of Aberdeen ¹	FEHD	984,000
(ii)	Employment of a contract pest and rodent control team to step up pest and rodent control work in Aberdeen ²	FEHD	1,063,200

¹ Including the deployment of two cleansing workers for providing cleansing services at Old Main Street, Aberdeen, Yue Fai Road, and the lift tower leading to Shek Pai Wan Estate and its vicinity (March 2020 to February 2021) as well as two cleansing workers for providing cleansing services in the vicinity of Yue Shi Cheung Road and Tin Wan Praya Road (March 2020 to February 2021) respectively.

² The pest and rodent control team includes a foreman and five workers, equipped with a light goods vehicle (March 2020 to February 2021).

	Tasks	Lead Department(s)	Actual Expenditure (\$)
(iii)	Engagement of contractor to conduct two special scavenging operations in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter	MD	96,000
(iv)	Publicity and education activities (including production of promotional banners and posters)	SDO	29,844
(v)	Employment of contract staff dedicated to the provision of administrative, coordination and interface support for the DAS	SDO	379,581
	Total		2,552,625

27. Looking ahead to the 2021-22 financial year, SDO plans to seek an allocation of \$2,800,000 from the Home Affairs Department for the implementation of various DAS initiatives, with breakdown as set out in the table below:

	Tasks	Lead Department(s)	Estimated Expenditure (\$)
(i)	Employment of contract cleansing workers to step up cleansing efforts against environmental hygiene issues of Aberdeen ³	FEHD	1,000,400
(ii)	Employment of contractor to provide cleansing and waste disposal service on the slopes at specified locations / areas ⁴	FEHD	300,000
(iii)	Engagement of contractor to conduct special scavenging operations in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter	MD	96,000

³ Including the deployment of two cleansing workers for providing cleansing services at Old Main Street, Aberdeen, Yue Fai Road, the lift tower leading to Shek Pai Wan Estate and its vicinity (March 2021 to February 2022) as well as two cleansing workers for providing cleansing services in the vicinity of Yue Shi Cheung Road and Tin Wan Praya Road (March 2021 to February 2022) respectively.

⁴ The number of contractor's workers and equipment will be adjusted with regard to the specific area/location for cleansing.

	Tasks	Lead Department(s)	Estimated Expenditure (\$)
(iv)	Engagement of contractor to provide cleansing service for “three-nil” buildings in the district	SDO	750,000
(v)	Publicity and education activities	SDO	30,000
(vi)	Employment of contract staff dedicated to the provision of administrative, coordination and interface support for the DAS	SDO	586,155
	Total		2,762,555

Southern District Office

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