

(Translation)

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Southern District Council (SDC)
(2024-2027)

Date : 6 November 2025
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : SDC Conference Room

Present:

Ms CHEUNG Pui-shan, Sandy, JP Chairman
District Officer (Southern)

Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH
Ms HO Yuen-wei
Ms LI Ka-ying
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH
Ms LAM Wing-yan
Ms LAM Wing-yee
Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung
Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH
Mr CHAN Man-chun, JP
Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP
Ms CHAN Wing-yan
Mr PANG Siu-kei
Mr WONG Choi-lap
Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole
Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun
Mr CHAO Howard
Mr LAU Ngai, Victor
Mr SIU Wai-chung
Mr LAI Ka-chi

Secretary:

Ms CHAN Shuk-man, Agnes Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Southern District Office

In Attendance:

Miss CHAN Tsz-ling, Samantha Assistant District Officer (Southern)
Mr LEUNG Ying-kit Senior Executive Officer (District Management),
Southern District Office

Ms CHAN Grace Senior Liaison Officer (1),
Southern District Office

Ms CHUNG Chui-yan, Chris Senior Liaison Officer (2),
Southern District Office

Miss LAI Wing-sau, Winsy District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent
(Southern), Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Ms LEE Suk-han, Yvonne Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr YU Chi-ying District Leisure Manager (Southern),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHOW Suk-ling, Vera Senior Housing Manager / MC 1,
Housing Department

Ms CHU Lai-ye, Rachel Chief Transport Officer / Hong Kong,
Transport Department

Ms IP Ka-ye District Commander (Western District),
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WAN Fu-kwan, Nelson Police Community Relations Officer (Western
District), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr YEUNG Chong-tak, Clarence Chief Engineer / South and Sustainable Lantau 1,
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 11th SDC Meeting held on 18 September 2025

1. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had been circulated to members for comments prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.
2. The Chairman asked SDC members whether to confirm the captioned minutes.
3. The Chairman said that SDC confirmed the captioned minutes.

**Agenda Item 2: Promotion of Recreational Trails Under the Theme of “Where Mountains Meet the Sea: A Breath-taking Journey into Nature” and A Boost to the Development of Natural Resources and Tourism in the Southern District
(Item raised by Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LI Ka-ying, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam, Mr WONG Choi-lap, Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP, Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, Mr SIU Wai-chung and Ms Lam Wing-yee)
(SDC Paper No. 29/2025)**

4. The Chairman said that the Tourism Commission and the Antiquities and Monuments Offices (AMO) were unable to attend the meeting as invited.
5. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LI Ka-ying, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam, Mr WONG Choi-lap, Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP, Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, Mr SIU Wai-chung and Ms Lam Wing-yee had made a request to discuss the captioned matter at the meeting. The details were given in Annex 1 and the written replies from the Government Departments were given in Annex 2.
6. The Chairman invited Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH to briefly introduce the agenda item.

7. Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH briefly introduced the agenda item and added the following:

- (i) As the Government aspired to advance from stability to prosperity and was vigorously pursuing economic growth, the tourism industry definitely had an important role to play. With its abundant blue and green resources, the Southern District had the potential for developing island tourism and trail tourism, realising the vision of “tourism is everywhere”. The proposed touring route (the proposed route) named “Where Mountains Meet the Sea: A Breathtaking Journey into Nature” traversed mainly the eastern part of the Southern District, including Repulse Bay and Stanley;
- (ii) In the capacity as a deputy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the National People’s Congress (NPC), he had discussed the development of the tourism industry in Hong Kong during a session of the NPC. In 2024, the Central Government even deployed staff to Hong Kong to research on the development of nature tourism in the city. He suggested that SDC collaborate with Government Departments to explore for more blue and green resources useful for the development of tourism in the Southern District;
- (iii) He opined that while boasting blue and green resources made for hiking and water sports activities, the Southern District was situated close enough to downtown with convenient transport links. It had an obvious edge over comparable overseas counterparts that were rather remotely located. Therefore, the development of the proposed route was worthy of the Government’s interdepartmental studies. Meanwhile, the Government should also ramp up efforts in promoting the existing touring routes in the Southern District for a boost to the local tourism; and
- (iv) With a view to facilitating visits to the Southern District, he had proposed at a previous Traffic and Transport Committee meeting the provision of waterborne transport links to Stanley as well as necessary supporting facilities for sightseeing buses. He further suggested that in addition to developing various means and routes of transport, the Transport Department (TD) should also advise relevant Government Departments on the provision of local transport services and facilities for advancing tourism in the Southern District.

8. Ms LI Ka-ying raised the following comments:
- (i) Stanley was a famous tourist destination in Hong Kong. Apart from Stanley Market and Stanley Plaza, the trails nearby were also popular among tourists and members of the public. Several scenic spots along the proposed route, such as Stanley Road and Tiger's Den Stone Bridge, had been recommended by several key opinion leaders before. However, the trails they recommended were unestablished. The entrances, as well as the whole trails, were opened up by members of the public themselves. Moreover, the trail surfaces were uneven, and the trees on both sides frequently collapsed under extreme weather conditions such as rainstorms. She therefore suggested that the relevant Government Departments make good those trails to ensure the safety of hikers, tourists or members of the public; and
 - (ii) Although SDC had been requesting the Government to improve the traffic conditions in the eastern part of the Southern District, TD did not introduce new public transport routes in claiming inadequate patronage. Unfortunately, the inconvenient transport in the Southern District was one of the reasons deterring tourists from visiting. She suggested that TD promptly enhance the transport network and facilities in the District to support the growth of local tourism and economy.
9. The Chairman asked the TD representative whether she had anything to add apart from the written reply.
10. Ms CHU Lai-yee, Rachel added the following:
- (i) There were several number of franchised bus and green minibus routes passing through the tourist attractions (including Stanley) mentioned in Annex 2. Additionally, Citybus Limited had introduced the Tourist Services Route H4 in recent years to serve the Stanley and Repulse Bay areas; and
 - (ii) Regarding the waterborne transport services, in addition to the existing kaito ferry route stopping by Stanley as mentioned in the written reply, TD had been liaising closely with the Tourism Commission to tie their work in with the Government's policy of promoting island tourism and "tourism is everywhere".

TD also reviewed the operations of regular kaito services on a half-yearly basis to keep track of tourists' demand for marine tourism. Furthermore, TD also encouraged kaito operators to actively introduce suitable routes in response to the passenger demand.

11. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.
12. Ms LAM Wing-yee raised the following comments:
 - (i) The Southern District was exclusively blessed with a wealth of blue and green resources plus an array of historical and cultural assets, which should be leveraged well. She suggested that while seeking to improve the transport links to and the supporting facilities for renowned hiking trails such as Wilson Trail and Dragon's Back, the Government should also explore developing more hiking routes in the District;
 - (ii) She suggested that the Government put up road signs along hiking routes to guide the way. To enhance tourist experience, scannable QR codes linking to audio guides to the history and culture of a location could also be incorporated onto the road signs. The Government could also consider installing additional supporting facilities, such as drinking fountains and portable toilets, along the way for tourists' convenience; and
 - (iii) She hoped that the Government could conduct a feasibility study on the proposed route and submit a concrete plan together with a schedule. In addition, she recommended that the Government develop the Southern District into a sustainable tourist destination by upholding conservation principles, optimising tourist experience and improving transport facilities.
13. Mr SIU Wai-chung raised the following comments:
 - (i) Boasting a scenic coastline and a wealth of cultural heritage, such as the uniquely exotic Stanley and the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter brimming with the distinctive ambience of a fishing port, every nook and cranny of the Southern District had an immense potential for in-depth tourism;

- (ii) He suggested that the Government integrate hiking tourism with the local economic development. For example, thematic “green tours” could be planned, integrating scenic spots such as Dragon’s Back and Cape D’Aguilar with guided tour services and green transport. That should serve to create immersive tourist experiences, which could translate into a boost to the local economy;
- (iii) The public transport provision for some tourist destinations in the Southern District was unsatisfactory, particularly in the eastern part plagued with insufficient transport services. He suggested that the Government upgrade the existing transport services and facilities as well as enhance the transport capacity to better serve tourists’ needs; and
- (iv) He further suggested that the Government publicise the information on hiking routes and step up promotion to attract more members of the public and tourists to the Southern District for a boost to the local economy. Moreover, he hoped that the Government could make holistic planning and be innovative in developing the Southern District into a destination for in-depth tourism, and transforming its natural resources into a sustainable driving force for the local economic development.

14. Mr LAI Ka-chi raised the following comments:

- (i) In his recent visit to a residential care home for the elderly in Chung Hom Kok, he was told that many hikers passing by had requested use of its toilets. In his opinion, toilets in residential care homes should not be made open for public use. He recommended that in planning a hiking route or developing a tourist spot, the Government should ensure the provision of sufficient portable toilets in the vicinity as supporting facilities to improve tourists’ hiking experience; and
- (ii) He recommended that the Tourism Commission maintain close liaison with local tour organisers including community groups and small to medium-sized travel agents, and promote the unique appeal of the Southern District and local tours via more diverse channels.

15. Mr WONG Choi-lap raised the following comments:

- (i) This agenda item concerned three aspects, namely whether the Government would (a) seek to develop the proposed route; (b) restore the scenic spots along the route; and (c) enhance the transport links to those spots. However, the Government Departments had not given concrete responses from those aspects in their written replies;
- (ii) The scenic spots along the proposed route, including Tiger's Den Stone Bridge, Stanley Road, Devil's Claw and Rhino Rock, each possessed cultural significance and had every potential to become a tourist attraction in the Southern District; and
- (iii) The Government Departments had not elaborated in their written replies on how they were going to plan and materialise the proposed route. He recommended that relevant Departments conduct on-site inspections of the route and undertake feasibility studies. Furthermore, it was hoped the Government would designate a lead Department to oversee the development of the proposed route, with a view to exploiting the Southern District's natural resources and realising the vision of "tourism is everywhere" in the District.

16. Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung raised the following comments:

- (i) He was supportive of the development of the proposed route, which he believed could make the most of Stanley's beautiful scenery and coastline, and would be well received by both residents and tourists. He advised that in planning a hiking route, the Government should always ensure the route's safety, put up appropriate signage, and remind hikers to exercise caution;
- (ii) Stanley hosted a good number of international competitions and events annually on dragon boat races, windsurfing, etc. He suggested that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department should seize the opportunities presented by such international events to promote hiking routes in the Southern District in collaboration with other relevant Government Departments; and
- (iii) Regarding AMO's classification of those historic structures including Tiger's Den Stone Bridge as items pending grading assessment, he requested that AMO provide a timetable for the grading work.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding Tiger's Den Stone Bridge, one of the historic structures of the Old Paths near Stanley Gap Road, AMO's reply is as follows: "The Historic Structures of the Old Paths near Stanley Gap Road, Stanley, Hong Kong" have been included in the "List of new items for grading assessment" and is given the serial number N374. AMO will conduct detailed studies of the "new items for grading assessment" in batches according to the six prevailing assessment criteria (namely historical interest, architectural merit, group value, social value and local interest, authenticity and rarity). Upon completion of the studies for a historic structure, the findings will be submitted to the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel of experts for assessment of its architectural heritage value and recommendation of a proposed grading for consideration by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB). Should AAB endorse the proposed grading, AMO will conduct a one-month public consultation on the proposed grading. AAB will not decide on the grading until deliberating all the public comments received during the consultation period. In view of the prolonged studies of the historic structures of the Old Paths near Stanley Gap Road (including Tiger's Den Stone Bridge), AMO has not yet drawn up a timetable for the related grading work.

The grading system is administrative in nature. The grading does not affect the ownership, usage, management and development rights of a historic building. Should the Department which owns or is in charge of the above-mentioned historic structure plan to make it a historical tourism project, AMO will be pleased to offer technical advice from the heritage conservation perspective.)

17. Mr Pang Siu-kei raised the following comments:

- (i) The proposed route would mainly pass by three scenic spots in Stanley, including Stanley Road adjacent to Ma Hang Estate, Rhino Rock by Stanley

Fort, and Chung Hom Kok. As a matter of fact, the proposed route could also be found on country maps as well as the paper map (HM20C) published by the Lands Department. However, the route was practically an uneven, overgrown trail rarely visited by hikers. He suggested that the Government improve the trail condition along the way and develop it into a brand-new hiking route;

- (ii) In their written replies, the Government Departments only mentioned about promoting existing hiking routes and tourist attractions. It was hoped that the Government could develop new hiking routes and equip them with adequate supporting facilities; and
- (iii) The three above-mentioned scenic spots were not conveniently accessible by transport. It was recommended that the Government follow the practice of Mainland cities in providing shuttle bus service to and from the scenic spots. Alternatively, in case of limited resources, means of access ought to be provided and adjustments to the existing green minibus or franchised bus routes to cover those scenic spots be considered.

18. Ms CHAN Wing-yan raised the following comments:

- (i) While concurring that more hiking routes and scenic spots should be established in the Southern District, she expressed concern over safety issues. Yue Kwai Shan was a case in point. Hikers there had had accidents due to a misjudgment of their abilities and underestimating of the route's difficulty, and only returned to safety with the help of a rescue team. Therefore, she strongly advised that when planning new hiking routes, the Government should educate the public on putting safety first and hiking within their abilities to avoid accidents; and
- (ii) She suggested that the Government promote newly established hiking routes on platforms such as Xiaohongshu and Douyin to bring in more tourists to give a boost to the local economy.

19. The Chairman invited the TD representative to respond.

20. Ms CHU Lai-ye, Rachel gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) There were actually a number of franchised bus and green minibus routes running in the Wong Ma Kok Road and Chung Hom Kok areas, with which tourists and residents could reach various scenic spots in Stanley. Overall, the service was sufficient to cope with the patronage;
- (ii) Nevertheless, TD would continue to monitor the patronage and review the opportunities for service enhancement with relevant operators as necessary; and
- (iii) TD had taken note of SDC members' comments and would forward them to the operators for consideration. In addition, TD would explore the feasibility of putting up additional signage to notify tourists and residents of what tourist attractions there were along the routes for promotional purposes.

21. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

22. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

23. The Chairman thanked SDC members for contributing their views. She believed all stakeholders were well aware that the Southern District possessed considerable untapped tourism resources. However, the development of a touring route involved complex works such as restoration of scenic spots and elimination of safety hazards on the route, which required close collaboration among Government Departments. The Southern District Office (SDO) would endeavour to contribute to that purpose as far as practicable subject to the availability of resources. Meanwhile, she anticipated that people would flock to Stanley in December for the Stanley Christmas Market 2025. She called on the Police and relevant Government Departments to work closely on that day to facilitate passenger and vehicular movement to ensure smooth traffic so that all visitors could arrive in Stanley with ease. She also hoped that people's easy trips to Stanley would serve to dispel their long-held perception of Stanley as a hardly accessible place. Finally, she vowed to actively promote the touring routes in the Southern District by mobilising additional local resources and fully utilising the platforms of the Tourism Commission and AMO.

Agenda Item 3: Any Other Business

Invitation to SDC to be a Supporting Organisation of “Winter Care Campaign in the Southern District 2025” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials

24. The Secretary said that declarations of interests were respectively received from Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH, declaring that she was a member of a special committee on elderly services under Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Limited (AKA), as well as Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, and Mr SIU Wai-chung, declaring that they were directors of AKA. As this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC members, the Chairman decided that the above SDC members could continue to take part in the discussion and decision-making of this agenda item.

25. The Secretary asked SDC members whether they had any declarations of interests to make.

26. No SDC members had other declarations of interests to make.

27. The Chairman invited the Secretary to briefly introduce the agenda item.

28. The Secretary briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from AKA inviting SDC to be a supporting organisation of “Winter Care Campaign in the Southern District 2025”. SDC’s consent for the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials was also sought;
- (ii) The campaign would take place on 14 December 2025 morning. For 27 consecutive years AKA had been the organiser of the campaign, arranging for over 600 volunteers to visit over 800 elderly households each year. During the visits, volunteers would extend greetings and distribute gift packs to the elderly, embodying the caring spirit of the community; and

(iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be a supporting organisation of the campaign and give consent to AKA to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

29. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

30. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

31. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be a supporting organisation of the campaign and gave consent to AKA to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

Invitation to SDC to Co-organise “Spring Reception in Celebration of the Year of the Horse” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials

32. The Chairman invited Ms CHAN Grace, Senior Liaison Officer (1) of SDO, to briefly introduce the agenda item relating to the “Spring Reception in Celebration of the Year of the Horse ” (Spring Reception).

33. Ms CHAN Grace briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) In celebration of the Lunar New Year, the Spring Reception was held by SDO on an annual basis with the aim of strengthening the bonds between district personalities, district organisations and Government Departments;
- (ii) The Spring Reception was tentatively scheduled for 26 February 2026 (the 10th day of the first month of the lunar calendar) in a hall managed by a non-governmental organisation in the Southern District; and
- (iii) She invited SDC to co-organise the Spring Reception and sought SDC’s consent for the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

34. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

35. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.
36. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would co-organise the Spring Reception with SDO and gave consent to SDO to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.
37. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had any other items to raise.
38. No other business was raised at the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Meeting Schedule of SDC and its Committees in 2026
(SDC Paper No. 30/2025)

39. The Chairman invited SDC members to note the meeting schedule of SDC and its Committees in 2026, which was set out in SDC Paper No. 30/2025.

Agenda Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

40. The Chairman advised that the 13th SDC meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 5 January 2026 (Monday).
41. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:59 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council
December 2025