

The Audit Commission ("Audit") conducted a review of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD")'s work in the protection of country parks and special areas (referred to as "country parks" hereafter).

2. The Committee noted the following findings from the Director of Audit's Report:

- the AFCD patrolled country parks and enclaves (i.e. private or government land surrounded by or adjacent to country parks which was left outside the country park boundaries). There was room for improvement in its patrolling practices (e.g. target patrol frequencies not met, and enclaves not inspected);
- there were 77 enclaves totalled 2 000 hectares ("ha"). In 2010, the Government decided that enclaves would either be incorporated into country parks or had their proper uses determined through statutory planning. At present, 28 enclaves were still not covered by any protective measures; and
- in 1991, the Government approved an encroachment of a landfill onto a site of 18 ha of land in the Clear Water Bay Country Park. There was no definite timeframe for the restoration and return of the 18 ha of land to the AFCD. The land might no longer be compatible with the country park objectives.

3. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, it asked for written responses regarding patrolling and law enforcement; regulating incompatible developments; and publicity and education activities. The replies from the **Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation** are in *Appendix 31*.

4. The Committee wishes to be kept informed of the progress made in implementing the various recommendations made by Audit.