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\$10m study planned for Aberdeen sewage system

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A multi-million dollar study has been commissioned to assess the problem of illegal and improper sewerage connections in the Aberdeen area.

It is one of the last investigations under phase one of the Sewerage Master Plan, but officials from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) admitted it would be a long time before there was any improvement in water quality in the area.

The \$10 million study will trace sewerage connections in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam to assess the "adequacy and performance" of the system.

Remedial work, ensuring all sewage is properly collected and diverted away from storm water drains and water courses to foul sewers, will be based on its findings, expected in about 21 months.

Phase one of the master

plan involves 16 such studies, three of which are still to be initiated. The work is part of the multi-billion dollar sewage scheme that Governor Chris Patten approved in his policy address.

Mr Patten pledged \$3 billion for the initial stage of the project, involving the collection and primary treatment of sewage from Kowloon.

The link-up of foul sewers from the south side of Hong-kong Island would complete the mammoth scheme, providing the post-1997 government puts up the cash.

Until then, sewage would continue to be pumped out into Aberdeen Harbour, the EPD's assistant director, Mike Stokoe, said.

He said the studies carried out had shown that about half of waste water goes into storm water drains and straight into the sea.

"Some interim measures will be taken when the sewerage system is sorted out."