

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)085

Question Serial No.

0701

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : (4) – Town Planning Information Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision for Programme (4) (Town Planning Information Services) of the Planning Department will increase by 10.9% in 2003-04, mainly due to the need to enhance public awareness of planning matters and to facilitate dissemination of planning information to the public. Please give an account of the differences between the work to be carried out in this regard and the work currently undertaken by the Planning Department, and provide the figure of the expenditure for each type of work involved.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

Maintaining a public enquiry unit, undertaking outreach programmes and briefing interested parties to enhance public awareness of town planning in Hong Kong have been regular services of the Planning Department for many years. More recently, our efforts have been extended to providing planning information to the public via the website in addition to published information pamphlets and booklets, and the running of a Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery.

In 2003/04, an addition of \$2.4M (i.e. 10.9% increase) would be allocated to enhance the planning information services. Part of the increase (about \$1.26M) arises from the additional cost of providing new internet services on the dissemination of information on planning applications, planning objections and requests for amendments to statutory plans, following an earlier successful launch of the e-statutory plan system. The remaining part of the increase (about \$1.12M) will cover the costs of operating the existing temporary Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery at Edinburgh Place and undertaking preparatory work for the proposed permanent "Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery" at Tamar.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003