

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)106

Question Serial No.

0236

Head : 118 Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands announced in mid-March that the public consultation exercise for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project would be extended to end of June.

- (a) What are the financial implications of the extension of the public consultation exercise?
- (b) What is the latest estimate of the government's financial involvement in the WKCD project?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) The major role of Planning Department in the WKCD project is to provide planning inputs/advice on the project. We are not directly involved in the public consultation exercise for the WKCD project. I understand that the extension of the public consultation exercise would incur an estimated expenditure of about \$1.6 million. There are no financial implications on Planning Department's vote as a result of the extension of the public consultation exercise.
- (b) The Government is conducting assessment of the screened-in proposals. The assessment is being conducted and supported by various bureaux/departments with staff deployed from their existing establishment as part of their normal duties. The Government will decide the way forward for the WKCD project after taking into account assessment findings and the public opinions received during the public consultation which is currently underway. At this stage, we are not in a position to provide an estimated budget for the whole project.

Signature

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

6 April 2005

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