

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

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

Programme : (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Programme (1), the estimate for the Territorial Planning for 2006-07 has increased by 23% as compared with that of 2005-06. The main expenditure of which will be on the planning studies. Please provide in detail the direction and contents of the studies. Besides, is the Territorial Planning by the Planning Department in line with the planning in the Mainland, such as the 11th Five Year Plan? If it is, what are the details? If it is not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The increase in provision of about 23% for Programme (1) Territorial Planning is for the carrying out of a number of planning studies. They include the Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy (HK2030 Study), the Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui, the Area Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok, the Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2005 as well as new planning studies on the Frontier Closed Area and a possible new Eastern Boundary Crossing.

The HK2030 Study is a strategic planning study that aims to provide a long-term land-use, environment and transport planning framework for the future development of Hong Kong. It has now proceeded to Stage 4, the final stage, which involves the formulation of the planning strategy, technical assessments of the strategy and preparation of the final report.

The Study on Land Use Planning for the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) aims at formulating a planning framework to guide the future use of the area to be released from the FCA, based on the principle of sustainable development. It would examine the development potential and constraints of the area, taking account of its environmental, ecological and socio-economic characteristics. Statutory plans will be drawn up for the area to guide future uses and control unauthorised developments. The study process will include technical assessments on traffic and infrastructure as well as a strategic environmental assessment. The study will commence in the first half of 2006.

The Study on a possible new Eastern Boundary Crossing comprises two parts: firstly, a joint study with Shenzhen to assess the need for a new control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai by studying the projected future cross-boundary traffic flows and the various implications of developing a new control point; secondly, a consultancy study to examine the broad environmental, ecological and nature conservation issues on the Hong Kong side in relation to the development of a new control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai and the possible road alignments within Hong Kong to connect with the new control point.

The Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui aims to formulate a comprehensive plan for improvements to the pedestrian environment, urban design, streetscape and landscape of the district. The study commenced in January 2004. It has now proceeded to an advanced stage and is scheduled for completion in mid-2006.

The Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok aims to formulate an integrated plan which covers land use, traffic, pedestrian circulation, streetscape and landscaping with a view to improving the overall environment of the area. The study commenced in February 2006.

The Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2005 aims at examining the patterns of cross-boundary travel, the socio-economic characteristics of the trip-makers and the movement patterns of different types of cross-boundary vehicles. Data collected will be used to update the projections on cross-boundary passenger and vehicle flows, for use in the planning of cross-boundary infrastructure development.

We have taken account of the development plans of our neighbouring cities in our territorial planning. An "Expert Group on Hong Kong/Guangdong Town Planning and Development" has been set up under the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference to facilitate discussion and exchange of strategic planning studies and planning information, including the 11th Five-year Plan. Through the Expert Group, Hong Kong and Guangdong have embarked on a Planning Study on the Co-ordinated Development of the Greater Pearl River Delta Township, with the objective of formulating a co-ordinated development strategy for the cities in the Greater Pearl River Delta Region.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
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