

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)120

Question Serial No.

1233

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 the above programme, the estimate for 2006-07 has increased by \$16.3 million compared to the revised estimate for 2005-06. Could the Government inform this Council:

- (a) what part of the increased provision will be spent on planning studies? Please list the relevant studies and the resources involved;
- (b) please list in detail for what purposes will the rest of the increased provision be spent apart from (a);
- (c) while the provision is increased, why does the number of reports prepared on surveys and studies for territorial planning strategies reduce from 426 in 2005 to an estimated 360 in 2006? and
- (d) with regard to the three planning and development studies on Area Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok, Review of the Harbour Plan and Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui, what are the respective expenditure and manpower of the individual studies for 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) Out of the increase in provision of \$16.3 million in 2006-07, \$13.6 million is to fund the following consultancy studies:

Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy	\$5.964 million
Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui	\$1.560 million
Area Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok	\$1.898 million
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2005 *	\$2.629 million
A new planning study on the Frontier Closed Area	\$3.500 million
A new planning study on a possible new Eastern Boundary Crossing	\$1.100 million
<u>Less</u> Reduced cash flow requirements in 2006-07 from other existing studies	- \$3.090 million

Total: \$13.561 million

Say \$13.6 million

* The Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2005 has not been proceeded with because none of the tender proposals received was successful. We will invite tender again this year.

(b) Apart from (a), the remaining \$2.7 million will be used to strengthen staffing support for cross-boundary planning work and for departmental operating expenses.

(c) The reduction in the number of surveys, reports, papers produced is mainly due to the completion of the major parts of the on-going planning studies.

(d) The Review of the Harbour Plan is mainly carried out by in-house staff of the Planning Department. The Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui and the Area Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok are consultancy studies. A breakdown of the expenditure for these two studies in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given below:

	2005-06 (\$million)	2006-07 (\$million)
Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui	0.492#	2.052 #
Area Improvement Plan for the Shopping Areas of Mong Kok	0.513#	2.411 #

These are the cash flow requirements for the studies in 2005-06 and 2006-07, whereas the figures at (a) are the increased amount of provision for the studies for 2006-07 against the 2005-06 revised estimate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

11 March 2006

[TOP](#)