

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

Reply Serial No.

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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 this Programme, the Administration's estimate for 2006-07 is 23% higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to increased expenditure on planning studies. Will the Administration provide the details of the studies and confirm whether these studies are necessary or urgent? If they are, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in provision of about 23% for Programme (1) Territorial Planning is mainly due to an increase in non-recurrent provision for a number of planning studies which are carried forward from 2005-06 or due to commence in 2006-07. Details are as follows :

- The Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy 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 is scheduled to complete in 2006-07.
- 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. This is part of a series of studies to improve the local environment of various districts. The study commenced in February 2006.

- The Cross-boundary Travel Survey aims to examine 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. The Survey is conducted on a regular basis to detect changes of patterns over time. 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.
- The Study on Land Use Planning for the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) aims to formulate 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. Based on the findings of the Study, statutory plans will be prepared in a timely manner to control unauthorised developments and guide future land uses in the area released from the FCA. The study will commence in the first half of 2006 as pledged in the Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive in October 2005.
- 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; and secondly, a consultancy study to examine the broad environmental, ecological and nature conservation issues in relation to the development of a new control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai and the possible road alignments to connect with the new control point within Hong Kong. The idea of a new Eastern Boundary Crossing has been raised in the community for some time. The subject has also been discussed at our established liaison channels with Shenzhen. In the interest of the long-term development for Hong Kong, it is necessary to further examine the need for the new crossing and assess its implications on Hong Kong. It is also timely to start the Study in 2006-07 in time with the other study on the FCA.

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