

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)140

Question Serial No.

2343

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

Programme : (5) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Compared to the revised estimate for 2005-06, there is an increase in the estimated provision for 2006-07 approaching 10% more, mainly due to expenditure on studies. Please provide details of such studies. Is it essential to conduct such studies, and if yes, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in provision for planning studies in 2006-07 is mainly to cater for the Urban Climatic Map and Standards for Wind Environment – Feasibility Study. The Study is to carry out further investigation following the completion of the “Feasibility Study for Establishment of Air Ventilation Assessment System” in 2005 which established an initial air ventilation assessment system for Hong Kong. The further investigation would refine the assessment system by providing a more scientific and objective basis for identifying climatically sensitive areas, particularly areas with low winds and heat island effects, and establishing benchmarking standards in assessing the impacts of major planning and development proposals on the macro wind environment.

The Study would be another proactive step to take forward the Team Clean’s recommendations in 2003 to examine measures to improve the urban environment. It is also in line with the recent initiatives promulgated in the “First Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong” by the Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration in 2005, to promote sustainable development and improve urban living space, particularly on outdoor airflow. Based on the findings of the Study, we would be able to more accurately assess the possible impacts brought about by large-scale developments on the macro wind environment, which is essential to improving our urban living environment.

The Study would require expertise in various fields, from thermal comfort studies, meteorological and urban climatic studies to wind engineering, to derive the urban climatic map and the benchmarking standards. Since such expertise is not readily available within the Government, employment of consultants is necessary to carry out the Study.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	11 March 2006

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