

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)141

Question Serial No.

0926

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 : There is a substantial increase of 23% in the 2006-07 provision under this programme as compared with the revised estimate of last year. According to the Planning Department's explanation, it is due to increased expenditure on planning studies and increased operating expenses on cross-boundary related work. Can the Administration give the reasons in detail, and clarify whether all the studies and work start in 2006-07 and that they are not cross-year studies and work that already commenced before 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The increase in provision of about 23% for Programme (1) Territorial Planning is for the carrying out 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 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.

Among these studies, only the ones on the Frontier Closed Area and a possible new Eastern Boundary Crossing will start in 2006-07. The others have already commenced and will be carried forward to 2006-07. The Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2005 was not proceeded with because none of the tender proposals received was successful. We shall invite tender again this year. The Hong Kong 2030 Study is phased over four stages with the final stage reaching completion in 2006-07.

Signature

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

10 March 2006