

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)142

Question Serial No.

0929

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

Programme : (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : There is an increase of \$3.7 million (1.5%) in the 2006-07 provision under this programme as compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06, which is mainly due to increased operating expenses on development of the West Kowloon Cultural District. Since the Government has earlier announced that the plans for the West Kowloon Cultural District had been scrapped and would be redrawn again, will this have any effect on the estimate?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The Estimates were prepared before the Government's decision on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development was announced on 21 February 2006. Of the increased provision of \$3.7 million, only a small part was earmarked to provide staffing support to WKCD.

Following the Government's announcement on 21 February 2006 to discontinue the "Invitation for Proposals" process and to set up a Consultative Committee to re-examine with a view to re-confirming the need for the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in the WKCD, the Department will support the coming consultation exercise for the WKCD. The original estimated provision in 2006-07 Estimates for the work of the WKCD will be adjusted accordingly. Details have yet to be worked out at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

11 March 2006