

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)102

Question Serial No.

0822

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 : It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Administration will review the planning framework and infrastructural requirements for Wan Chai Development Phase II (WDII) and refine the urban design framework for Central Reclamation. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will public consultation and public-engagement activities be held for these two projects? If yes, what are the scheduled activities and estimated expenditure?
2. The planning of the Central Reclamation Area and the Wan Chai Development has given rise to a lot of arguments in the community, and the public, being deeply dissatisfied with the projects, have requested for a new round of more comprehensive planning and consultation exercise. Will the Administration accede to the public's request? Will the estimated expenditure be sufficient for the re-launching of a more comprehensive planning and consultation exercise?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Government commenced the WDII Review in early 2004 in light of the Court of Final Appeal Judgement on reclamation within the harbour. Together with the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC), extensive public consultation and engagement activities have been carried out. They included a series of public forums, focus group discussion and the undertaking of road-side and telephone surveys, etc. The four District Councils were fully consulted and intensive discussions were held with professional institutions and all stakeholders. Having conducted extensive public consultation and engagement, we are working on the preparation of Recommended Outline Development Plan with a view to submitting amendments of the Outline Zoning Plans to the Town Planning Board for consideration. The estimated expenditure for further public engagement and related planning work is \$516,000 in 2007-08.

Extensive public consultation and engagement will be undertaken in the Central Reclamation Urban Design Study (CRUDS). A provision of \$1.25 million has been earmarked for this purpose.

No additional staffing resources are required as the work relating to the studies will be absorbed by existing staff.

A provision of \$4.45 million has been earmarked for the CRUDS.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Ava S. Y. NG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	16 March 2007

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