

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)104**

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**0824**

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 : In 2007-08, a series of planning studies on frontier areas and cross-boundary issues will be carried out. Please set out the details, objectives, estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement of these studies.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Details of the four planning studies relating to frontier areas and cross-boundary issues conducted/to be conducted in 2007-08 are as follows:

(i) Feasibility Study on Land Use Planning for the Closed Area

The study aims to formulate a planning framework to guide the future use of the area (about 2 000 ha) to be excluded from the frontier closed area (FCA). The study includes an analysis of constraints and opportunities of the area taking account of its environmental, ecological, heritage and socio-economic characteristics; formulation of planning concepts and development proposals; and technical assessments on the impact of the proposals. The findings of the study will provide necessary input to the preparation of statutory town plans for the area to be excluded from the FCA. The total estimated expenditure of the study is around \$9.8 million.

(ii) Planning Study on a New Cross-boundary Control Point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai

The study, with a total estimated expenditure of \$6.5 million, comprises two parts :

- (a) a joint study with the Shenzhen authorities to assess the need for and the functions of developing a new control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai from a strategic planning perspective, the projected future cross-boundary traffic flow and the various implications of developing a new control point. It commenced in December 2006 and is planned to be completed by end 2007; and

(b) a consultancy study entitled “Planning Study on a New Cross-boundary Control Point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai and the Associated Connecting Roads in Hong Kong to the New Cross-boundary Control Point” to examine the land and infrastructural requirements, and the associated road connection of the proposed new control point within Hong Kong’s territory. It will also assess the ecological, traffic and environmental impacts of the proposals. The study commenced in January 2007 and is scheduled for completion in early 2008.

(iii) Planning Study on the Co-ordinated Development of the Greater Pearl River Delta Townships

This is a joint study with the Guangdong authorities which aims to formulate a city and regional planning framework under the sustainable development principle with a view to improving the regional environment, facilitating regional infrastructure development and enhancing economic competitiveness. The study commenced in March 2006 and is scheduled for completion in 2008. The total estimated expenditure of the study is \$7.7 million.

(iv) Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2007

The 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. 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 total estimated expenditure of the survey is \$4.96 million.

As all the above studies require multi-disciplinary expertise, we have engaged/will engage consultants to undertake and assist in the required work. The work relating to the above studies is/will be absorbed by existing staff as part of their normal duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Ava S. Y. NG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	15 March 2007