

**Replies to supplementary oral and written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Planning and Lands

Session No. : 9 File name : S-PLB-e.doc

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-PLB001

Question Serial No.

S016

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Programme : (3) – Ordinance Review

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Planning and Lands

Question : This is a further question to Q0978, PLB067 on the Town Planning Bill and the proposal to propose amendments to the Ordinance in stages in order to address the more urgent problem. The reply referred to complex policy issues that need to be resolved after further consultation. What are the complex policy issues? Will the phased amendments of the ordinance result in the public not being able to participate in the town planning process, thereby undermining the cardinal principle of transparency and accountability? Will the Administration consider submitting the Bill as a whole and not by phases?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The more complex issues include those related to compensation, the designation of Special Design Area, and planning control on building development. These issues may take more time to resolve in collaboration with the practitioners, developers and other interested groups. Whilst we will continue to consider these issues comprehensively and identify solutions acceptable to the various stakeholders, we see the urgent need to deal with the less controversial issues so as to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system. The first phase amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance would attempt to achieve a reasonable balance between public participation and efficiency of the planning system. For example, we are proposing amendments to streamline the objection processing procedures whilst allowing at the same time publication of objections for public comments; to promote a more open process by allowing applications for amendments to statutory plans; and to respect landowners' rights by requiring the applicant for planning permission to obtain owner's consent or to notify the affected owner. The first phase amendments will help to improve the transparency and enhance the public accountability of the present planning system. We see clear benefits in putting forward amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance in phases so as to address the more urgent problems immediately.

Signature

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

2 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-PLB002

Question Serial No.

S017

Head: 56- GS: Planning and Lands Bureau
and Works Bureau

Subhead
(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Planning and Lands

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the open competition on the development of the West Kowloon Reclamation into an integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district, and the next step which is to produce a detailed masterplan for the area, based on the winning conceptual proposals, will the administration bear in mind the costly lessons of the HKUST project?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

We are now considering the most suitable way of taking forward the development of the arts, cultural and entertainment district on the West Kowloon Reclamation. We shall bear in mind all relevant experiences, including the construction of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN C TSANG _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Planning and Lands _____

Date _____ 3.4.2002 _____