

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS**

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF GREENING MASTER PLANS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of various ways through which cost-effectiveness has been achieved in developing the Greening Master Plans (GMPs) and implementing the related planting works.

BACKGROUND

2. When we reported progress on development of GMPs for selected urban districts and implementation of related planting works at the meeting held on 13 July 2005, Members requested to know how cost-effectiveness could be ensued in the process.

GENERAL APPROACH

Master Planning

3. One key objective of GMPs is to establish an overall framework and planting theme based on thorough research of local characteristics with due consideration given to greening opportunities and site constraints. In addition, early input from stakeholder groups such as District Councils and the Town Planning Board will be solicited to obtain public acceptance.

Plant Species Selection

4. Most species recommended under GMPs will be those which are readily available locally or in the South China region since this not only helps to secure reliable supply of plants to meet the implementation programme, but also to lower the acquisition and delivery costs.

5. As some species may not adapt well to adverse urban conditions, those with proven record of successful establishment at a particular location will be accorded with priority. For example, *Aleurites moluccana* (*Candlenut Tree*) [石栗] and *Crateva unilocularis* (*Spider Tree*) [魚木] which have thrived along Chatham Road South in Tsim Sha Tsui will be chosen for additional planting in the same area. This strategy cuts down the likelihood of plant replacement as well as maintenance cost.

Planting Methods

6. In-ground tree planting will be done whenever possible to produce the largest greening mass by a relatively small space occupied by the tree trunk. More costly methods such as removable planters are only confined to places with congested underground utilities.

Works Coordination

7. Before actual planting works commence, part of the road pavement will have to be opened up to ascertain that no serious obstruction is posed by underground utilities. The opportunity will then be taken for other agencies to inspect or repair utilities thereat to avoid further road openings at the same location within a short period of time.

8. In order to minimize public inconvenience and to comply with administrative/statutory requirements, mitigation measures including temporary traffic diversion arrangements must be deployed when carrying out planting works in busy districts like Tsim Sha Tsui and Central. These measures will be avoided as far as possible in new development areas to save cost.

Maintenance

9. Some species such as turf, topiary and tender herbaceous plants and annuals require frequent tending to upkeep their outlook. We will strike a sensible balance between the desired visual effect and maintenance requirement in finalizing the design of greening works.

CONCLUSION

10. We will strive for an optimal outcome in developing GMPs and implementing related greening works taking into account cost-effectiveness and community aspirations.

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