

**Panel on Planning, Lands and Works****Meeting between Members of Legislative Council and  
Members of Yuen Long District Council on 10 May 2007****(a) Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for the New Territories**

We have provided with LegCo PLW Panel an information paper (**Annex 1**) on the subject at the earlier Panel meeting on 22 May 2007. We are fully aware of the aspiration of the public about the programme for the development and implementation of GMPs for areas in the New Territories. After reviewing the latest position in the implementation of greening works for urban area, we anticipate that the development of GMPs for the New Territories could be advanced to commence in around mid-2009.

**(b) Providing better greening measures for Tin Shui Wai Nullah and Yuen Long Nullah**

Drainage Services Department (DSD) is studying the feasibility of rehabilitating the existing concrete-lined Yuen Long Nullah running through the town area. Upon completion of the study in late-2008, DSD plans to implement the recommended measures with greening and landscaping as a major subject of the rehabilitation proposal. Based on the experience to be learnt from this pilot scheme, other nullahs may be considered for rehabilitation following a similar greening approach wherever practicable.

**(c) Implementing enhanced greening measures for vacant government land**

Beautification of vacant government land is an on-going initiative in our annual greening programme. Over the past three years, Leisure and Cultural Services Department has provided planting to some 24 vacant government sites occupying a total area of about 9 hectares, including two sites located at Area 107 and Area 117, Tin Shui Wai. In addition, Civil Engineering and Development Department has planted trees along the boundary of the two vacant government sites at Area 112 and Area 115, Tin Shui Wai. We would review the situation in Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long and provide further enhanced greening measures when necessary.

(d) Implementing green roof projects for existing and new Government buildings

Since 2001, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has incorporated rooftop or podium landscape designs in new government building projects (including schools, office buildings, hospitals, etc.) wherever practicable. Up to now, about 50 building projects with such green features have been completed, while other 30 projects are under construction and/or planning. A list of building projects provided with green roof facilities in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai is enclosed at **Annex 2**. ArchSD has also identified 20 existing government buildings, including Yuen Long Government Primary School, for retrofitting green roof in 2007/08.

Information Paper

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

**GREENING MASTER PLANS  
FOR AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members on the plan of the Administration to develop and implement greening master plans (GMPs) for areas in the New Territories (NT).

**BACKGROUND**

2. A GMP seeks to define comprehensively the greening framework of an area by studying into its characteristics and particular needs as well as providing a guide to the planning, design and implementation of works so as to achieve comprehensive, consistent and sustainable greening results.

3. The Administration embarked on the development of GMPs in September 2004 and selected the two areas of Tsim Sha Tsui and Central as a pilot scheme to try out the new greening initiative. Upon the successful development of the above two GMPs in mid-2005, we decided to extend the scope of the scheme to cover other urban areas in Hong Kong and to roll out the development of the GMPs in stages. With the support of this Panel and the funding approval of the FC, we started the development of GMPs for another five areas, viz. Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay in January 2007.

4. We consulted this Panel on 27 March 2007 to seek Members' view on our proposal to develop GMPs for all remaining urban areas in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island. While the proposal was generally supported, some Members requested us to review the timetable for the development and implementation of GMPs for the NT.

## **GMP FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES**

5. Regarding GMPs for the NT districts, we are aware of the aspiration of the general public. Greening provisions in large areas in the NT are better than the urban areas due to the well-planned new town developments. For instance, more advanced and comprehensive planning standards have been adopted in Sha Tin and Tai Po. In addition, Landscape Master Plans were prepared for some new towns to facilitate provision of greening facilities. More open spaces are reserved for greening and landscaping purposes.

6. As a result, greened space in the NT districts, both by way of natural greenery of virgin landscape in rural/under-developed areas or cultivated greenery of planned provisions in new towns, is generally more abundant than urban areas in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island. Our preliminary investigation indicates that the existing green coverage ratio of NT is about 74% (i.e. green coverage area/total area of NT districts) while that of the urban districts is about 46% only.

7. Despite the existing greening conditions of NT districts, we consider that the development of these GMPs should be carried out as soon as practicable, taking account of resources and the development programmes committed for the urban areas. We shall start drawing up a programme for the GMPs for NT districts after we have seen the response to our proposed tender for the GMPs for the urban areas. We will by then be able to determine whether the market have sufficient resources to cope with the substantial undertaking and will prepare a practical timetable for rolling out the GMPs for the NT districts.

8. As the total area of NT districts is over 97,000 hectare, which is seven times more than urban areas, we intend to focus on those areas of NT with higher population density for resources and cost effectiveness considerations. For built-up areas in NT, greening measures would be implemented in some focal areas without awaiting the development of GMPs for these areas so as to expedite greening. We have already identified focal points for some NT districts in consultation with relevant District Officers of the Home Affairs Department. Design of the proposed greening measures for these areas including Sha Tin, Tai Po, North District, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan and Tung Chung are underway.

**Environment, Transport and Works Bureau**  
**Civil Engineering and Development Department**  
**May 2007**

**ArchSD Projects in Yuen Long / Tin Shui Wai with Green Roof Provision**

(I) Completed (up to end 2006)

1. Primary School in Area 12, Yuen Long
2. Primary School in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai
3. International Wetland Park & Visitors Centre in Tin Shui Wai

(II) Under planning or construction

1. Tin Shui Wai Public Library
2. District Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai
3. Special School for Severely Mentally Handicapped Children at Area 32, Tin Shui Wai
4. Local Open Space at Area 25, 25A & 25B Tin Shui Wai
5. Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre Area 3, Yuen Long
6. General Outpatient Clinic & Integrated Community Support Services Centre cum Long Stay Care Home for Ex-mentally Ill Persons at Tin Shui Wai Area 109