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Panel on Development

Meeting on 18 December 2007

Background brief on Greening Master Plans

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans (GMPs) and summarizes the views and concerns expressed by Members during past discussions on the subject.

Background

2. Pursuant to the direction announced by the Chief Executive in his 2000 Policy Address to green up Hong Kong by planting more trees and flowers in the urban areas, the Administration established the Steering Committee on Greening in December 2002 to formulate related strategies and supervise implementation of major programmes. This committee is now chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), comprising members drawn from 15 bureaux and departments.

3. A GMP seeks to define the overall greening framework of an area by identifying suitable locations for planting together with desirable themes and species, thus serving as a guide to the planning, design and implementation of greening works for continuous and consistent results. A GMP embodies a full spectrum of short, medium and long-term measures as follows --

- (a) Short-term measures are those conforming to the district layout, posing no conflict with land use and/or traffic arrangements;
- (b) Greening opportunities associated with urban renewal or redevelopments are classified as medium-term measures; and
- (c) Long-term measures depict the ultimate greening vision setting

aside constraints such as land availability, congested underground installations and overhanging signboards, deploying ambitious and innovative methods or techniques like tree corridors alongside highways, roof/podium gardens and vertical greening. Realization of this vision will have implications on planning and land administration policies.

Development and implementation of Greening Master Plans

4. In July 2005, the Administration briefed the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (now renamed as "Panel on Development") (the Panel) on the initiative to develop GMPs for selected urban areas in order to bring about coordinated efforts and visible improvements in urban greenery. The Administration also reported on the development of two GMPs for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central bearing the themes of "Jade Necklace" and "Heart of Gold" respectively. The Administration highlighted that there was overwhelming support from District Councils, Area Committees, Town Planning Board as well as the local communities.

5. On 22 November 2005, the Administration presented to the Panel two funding proposals covering the implementation of greening works as recommended in the GMPs for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, as well as the engagement of consultancy services for the development of GMPs for selected areas in Kowloon West and on Hong Kong Island. When the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) examined the two funding applications, Members expressed a number of concerns on the design and visual effect of the illustrative greening works presented by the Administration, the solicitation of community input in the planning process and the scope of consultancy services etc. In view of the concerns, the Administration withdrew the funding applications.

6. Since the main thrust of concerns raised by Members at PWSC was directed at the development of GMPs, the Administration decided to seek funding approval for the implementation of short-term greening works recommended in the GMPs for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central in the first place and submit a separate funding proposal on the development of GMPs for other selected areas in Kowloon West and on Hong Kong Island at a later stage. The Administration thus consulted the Panel on the implementation of short-term greening works in Tsim Sha Tsui and Central on 28 February 2006. The relevant funding proposal was endorsed by PWSC and approved by the Finance Committee (FC) subsequently at a total estimated cost of \$38.4 million.

7. The Administration has since then adopted a phased approach in the development of GMPs for the remaining selected urban areas instead of applying for funding to cover the development of GMPs for all the remaining selected urban areas in one go.

8. On 25 July 2006, the Administration consulted the Panel on a funding proposal covering the development of GMPs for Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei and for Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay. The relevant funding proposal was subsequently endorsed by PWSC and approved by FC subsequently at a total estimated cost of \$18.1 million.

9. On 27 March 2007, the Administration consulted the Panel on a funding proposal covering the development of GMPs for all remaining urban areas in Kowloon West, Hong Kong Island, and Kowloon East. The relevant funding proposal was endorsed by PWSC and approved by FC subsequently at a total estimated cost of \$51.5 million.

10. By then, the Administration has obtained funding approval for the development of GMPs for all urban areas in the whole of Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island. The Administration informed the Panel of the following revised schedule to complete the implementation of GMPs for all urban areas by June 2009, which is 18 months ahead of the Administration's original target:

	Tasks	Tentative completion date
(i)	Development of GMPs for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central	August 2005 <i>(already completed)</i>
(ii)	Greening works for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central	March 2007 <i>(already completed)</i>
(iii)	Development of GMPs for Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei and Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/ Causeway Bay	December 2007
(iv)	Greening works for Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei and Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay	November 2009
(v)	Development of GMPs for the remaining urban areas for the whole of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island	June 2009
(vi)	Greening works for the remaining urban areas for the whole of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island	December 2011

Members' views on the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans

11. When the subject was discussed at various Panel meetings, members in general welcomed the development and implementation of GMPs. They urged the Administration to expedite the progress, and accord priority to districts which were least greened and hence had the greatest need for greening. In particular, they opined that all major roads should be greened and beautified as far as practicable and private developers should be encouraged to do more greening within their developments.

12. During the meetings held between January 2005 to February 2006, individual members made the following suggestions to enhance greening efforts --

To improve planning, implementation and monitoring

- (a) Conduct strategic overall planning so that different greening themes would be adopted for different districts to project the local characteristics of individual districts;
- (b) Decide as early as possible on the theme trees/flowers to be planted in different districts so as to avoid overlapping and ensure that the works projects undertaken by various Government departments could complement such greening efforts;
- (c) Liaise with the relevant District Planning Offices to identify greening opportunities in conjunction with the designation of pedestrian boulevards;
- (d) Invite District Councils to provide input at the early stage of development of GMPs;
- (e) Examine how to reduce greening cost, which presently stood at some \$3,000 per square metre, and ensure cost-effectiveness in developing the GMPs and implementing the related planting works;
- (f) Select plant species carefully taking into account the characteristics and constraints of individual districts and ensure good maintenance of plants;
- (g) Devise measurable performance indicators to facilitate monitoring of the progress of greening efforts;

To introduce or relax relevant statutory and non-statutory requirements to facilitate greening efforts

- (h) Liaise with the Buildings Department to work out the technical requirements of flower racks on buildings, so as to ensure flower racks could be safely erected on private buildings to facilitate greening efforts by individual households;
- (i) Consider amending the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) to relax provisions regarding site coverage to encourage developers to leave more space for road construction, so that roads would be wide enough to accommodate trees;
- (j) Encourage private developers to green the slopes in the boundaries of their developments;

To maximize planting space

- (k) Maximize planting space by better organization and maintaining proper records of underground installations; and
- (l) Identify opportunities to plant climbers on footbridges and slopes to enhance greening effect.

13. On the issue of cost-effectiveness of GMPs, the Administration provided a relevant information paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)299/05-06(01)) in November 2005, which is reproduced at **Appendix I**. When the Administration presented the funding proposal covering the development of GMPs for Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei and for Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay on 25 July 2006, it provided a summary of its responses to comments made by Panel members on previous occasions. The summary was annexed to LC Paper No. CB(1)2022/05-06(02) and is reproduced at **Appendix II**.

14. In response to Members' requests for more public participation in the development of GMPs, the Administration has adopted the Enhanced Partnering Approach whereby more views will be collected from stakeholders prior to working out the GMPs. The Administration considers that participation of District Councils and the general public would not only help the consultants to understand the characteristics of the district, identify suitable locations and local constraints, establish the greening theme more effectively, but would also help achieve consensus, partnership and public ownership in developing GMPs.

15. Taking note of the Administration's responses to their previous suggestions and the revised scope and schedule of implementation of GMPs, Panel members made further comments and suggestions during the meetings on 25 July 2006 and 27 March 2007 as follows --

To expedite the development and implementation of GMPs for areas in the New Territories

- (a) Advance the timeframe for developing and implementing GMPs for areas in the New Territories, in particular the built-up and densely populated areas in the New Territories;

To expedite and expand the scope of greening measures and enhance the landscaping designs

- (b) Expedite greening works because the Government should have sufficient financial resources to do so;
- (c) Partner up with other organizations, such as quasi-government organizations and private developers, to speed up and expand the scope of greening works;
- (d) Consider extending greening measures to walled villages and leisure grounds with little greening;
- (e) Implement greening measures for undeveloped sites, unsold sites and sites where planned construction works have not yet commenced;
- (f) Enhance the greening and landscaping designs, particularly on reducing the use of concrete to enhance the appearance of greening works as a whole;

To facilitate greening works through better coordination and adoption of innovative measures

- (g) Construct centralized ducts to house various types of underground utility installations to facilitate the planting of trees;
- (h) Plant climbers or use railing planters in side streets with insufficient space for planting trees.
- (i) Ensure good coordination in carrying out excavation works to minimize disturbance to the public;
- (j) Explore innovative greening measures by drawing reference from the greening measures in other places.

16. On Members' concern about the development and implementation of GMPs for areas in the New Territories, the Administration provided a relevant

information paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1703/06-07(01)) in May 2007, which is reproduced at **Appendix III**. The Administration explains that greening space in the New Territories 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. However, despite the existing greening conditions of New Territories districts, the Administration considers that the development of GMPs for areas in the New Territories should be carried out as soon as practicable, taking account of resources and the development programmes committed for the urban areas.

17. At the PWSC meeting on 6 June 2007, the Administration advised that after reviewing the latest position in the implementation of greening works for urban areas, it anticipated that these works could be completed smoothly ahead of schedule and the development of GMPs for the New Territories could commence earlier, hopefully around mid-2009. Greening measures would be implemented in some focal areas in the New Territories in advance of the implementation of GMPs, and the design of the proposed greening measures for those areas was underway.

18. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks in the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix IV**.

**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.

**List of Comments Put Forward by
Members at Previous Meetings
and the Administration's Response**

- (1) Drawing up of Greening Master Plans in General
- (2) Design and Choice of Plant Types
- (3) Interface with Other Departments
- (4) Maintenance
- (5) Community Participation
- (6) Issues Pertaining to Tsim Sha Tsui and Central

(1) Drawing Up of Greening Master Plans in General

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
1. Measurable performance indicators to be devised to facilitate monitoring of progress.	We have established anticipated quantities of planting to be implemented under the Greening Master Plan for each area. These planting targets can serve as indicators of performance to facilitate monitoring of progress. Furthermore, CEDD will monitor the work of the consultants closely to ensure quality and value for money.
2. The Administration to expedite progress, and to accord priority to districts which were least greened and hence had the greatest need for greening.	The Administration intends to develop GMPs as soon as practicable, and would target at densely populated areas (in particular those which are least green) in phases.
3. Parking spaces should give way to greening where necessary.	Will be pursued, e.g. proposed conversion of roadside parking spaces on Carnarvon Road into planting areas has been included in the GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui.
4. To maximize planting space, efforts should be made to better organize underground installations with proper records.	The Administration and utility companies have been making effort to improve the organization of underground installations and utility services records including the use of the Electronic Mark Plant Circulation system to improve the efficiency of exchanging utility records by electronic means. A communication mechanism has been also set up for utility undertakers to update their records as exposed on site

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
	<p>during road excavation by others. Through such concerted efforts, the accuracy of utility records has gradually improved. As an indication, the number of utility damage cases has reduced by 68% in the past 5 years.</p> <p>Records maintained by utility undertakers will be provided to Government departments, developers or relevant organizations if necessary. This will assist in the pursuit of greening.</p>
<p>5. To consider planting climbers on footbridges and slopes because they would not take up much space but could produce very good greening effect.</p>	<p>Will be pursued. Regarding the greening of <u>footbridges</u>, we have already issued internal technical guidelines mandating the inclusion of greening elements in all new flyovers and footbridges unless exemption is permitted. Constrained by space and loading capacity, it may not be possible to carry out comprehensive greening works on all existing bridges. In such cases, movable planters can be provided.</p> <p>We have also established a policy to make <u>man-made slopes</u> look as natural as possible so as to improve the environment. The Geotechnical Engineering Office of Civil Engineering and Development Department will landscape all slopes strengthened under the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme, wherever practicable.</p>
<p>6. Whether the greening initiative would be extended to the New Territories so that residents could also benefit</p>	<p>Due to resource constraints of both the Government and the market, priority is given to implementing GMPs in urban districts because urban districts generally have a higher population density and a lower degree of greening than districts in the New Territories. Greening is however a long-term measure and GMPs would be extended to the New</p>

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
from it.	Territories in future where appropriate.
7. Greening measures in many Mainland cities were well-planned with satisfactory results. Hong Kong should make reference to this.	Greening in urban area particularly in Hong Kong is not an easy task. Its population density is among the highest in the world. In old urban districts, there is an extreme shortage of space. There are a lot of utility services and ducting laid underneath the pavement. Moreover, the high rise buildings along the narrow streets will deprive plants of direct sun-light. All these factors have created difficulties in greening works. We would, however, try our best to deliver within constraints and new initiatives will be examined making reference to experience overseas.
8. To engage one single consultant to take charge of the planning and design of GMPs on a territory-wide basis so as to speed up the projects.	We wish to conduct work in phases so that lessons learnt in one exercise can be suitably applied in future exercises. In doing so, smaller consultant firms can also have the chance of being selected to undertake some of the study works. In addition, using more than one consultant firm may help to promote variety in the greening proposals.
9. To speed up the greening projects in Kowloon West in view of the rapid development.	Will be pursued.

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
10. The Administration should state clearly the concept and requirements in the consultancy brief.	Will be pursued.
11. The consultants' fees for developing GMPs appeared to be on the high side.	We have already tried to reduce the cost where possible. Please see text of the paper. However, the cost estimate cannot be lowered further because of the large extent/variety of works to be carried out as well as the professional expertise required. We would like to point out that the consultancies will be awarded vide open tendering and so Government will procure the service at the market price.

(2) Design and Choice of Plant Types

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
1. There should be strategic overall planning to ensure different districts be greened with different species of plants to project local characteristics. Overlapping should be avoided.	It is the intention to develop representative greening themes according to the local characteristics. For example, the themes of “Jade Necklace” and “Heart of Gold” were recommended in the GMPs for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central respectively. In doing so, the views of the local community will be sought and overlapping will be avoided as far as possible. Furthermore, the selection would take into account various factors including the area’s environment, existing greening conditions, ecological factors, etc.
2. Whether priority would be given to local species.	Will be pursued. When selecting trees for a particular district, consideration would be given to whether trees can survive in the area, match with the neighbourhood and complement the ecological environment there. Trees selected will be native species where appropriate. If exotic species are selected, they are generally species which have long been transplanted to Hong Kong.
3. Why small plants in containers mounted on railings instead of trees were selected for certain wide roads.	Trees will be planted wherever practicable whilst portable planters mounted on railings will only be used where planting of trees is not practical due to extremely high pedestrian traffic flow, etc. For instance, in the case of Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, no portable planters mounted on railings are proposed.

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
4. Why some fast-growing species such as Chinese Banyan (with well-developed root systems which might lead to bulging of pavements) and Candlenut Trees (with nuts with hard shells which might injure pedestrians passing by) were used.	Some plants are suitable for certain locations and settings but not others. In choosing the appropriate species, consideration should be given to factors such as setting and environment, ecological conditions, soil type, etc. Views of the local community will be sought. For example, Chinese Banyan trees should be planted in parks and not on narrow footpaths to avoid bulging of pavements. Likewise, Candlenut trees should be planted on amenity areas instead of pavements in order to minimize injury to passers-by.
5. Why Hong Kong Orchid was mostly found in parks and seldom along roads.	Hong Kong Orchid is planted where appropriate e.g. near the LegCo Building to symbolize its important position. It is however not wind-resistant and is not suitable for areas exposed to strong winds.
6. Certain works designs have failed to deliver the desired visual impact and greening effect. Over-use of concrete has featured, rendering the planting works dull and dry.	Views would be followed up and be conveyed to consultants. In-ground planting will be used and concrete planters will be avoided as far as possible. Where there are insurmountable difficulties in planting trees and concrete planters have to be used, we will plant climbers dangling around the edges of the planters to enhance the visual impact and mitigate the concrete feeling.
7. Greening does not only mean planting trees and shrubs but	Will be pursued.

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
need to add to the aesthetic value of the environment.	

(3) Interface with Other Departments

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
<p>1. To liaise with the Buildings Department (BD) to work out the technical requirements of flower racks on buildings, so that they could be safely erected on private buildings to facilitate greening efforts by individual households.</p>	<p>We support planting in window bays. <u>For new buildings</u>, Buildings Department's Practice Note No. 68 already exempts window flower boxes not exceeding 500mm in width projecting from the face of a building from site coverage and plot ratio calculation. The guideline can encourage developers to provide window flower boxes so as to facilitate greening of the environment.</p> <p><u>For existing buildings</u>, given the wide variation of structural integrity, a standard flower rack design would not be practical.</p>
<p>2. The Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) should be amended to relax provisions regarding site coverage to encourage developers to leave more space for road construction, so that roads would be wide enough to accommodate trees.</p>	<p>Greening master plans comprise short, medium and long-term measures. The long-term measures will cover the provision of tree corridors that require more space to be reserved for planting. Since these proposals are likely to have impact on planning and land policies, detailed examination would be carried out.</p>
<p>3. To liaise with relevant District Planning Office in identifying greening opportunities</p>	<p>There is frequent communication between the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), responsible for the development of greening master plans, and Planning Department. CEDD is fully aware of PlanD's pedestrianization schemes</p>

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
including the designation of pedestrian boulevards.	and will take advantage of such schemes to enhance greening of the area concerned.
4. HAD should offer advice and suggestions on greening works in individual districts. AFCD/LCSD's capacity should also be more fully utilized in the development of GMPs.	Under the Enhanced Partnering Approach, views of all stakeholders will be sought and HAD will play a key role in facilitating this. AFCD/LCSD's assistance will also be sought during the course of developing GMPs.

(4) Maintenance

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
1. To ensure good maintenance of plants	Greening works completed under GMP projects will be handed over to LCSD for maintenance after a 12 months establishment period. LCSD has a well-experienced team to undertake such responsibility.
2. Whether the Administration had any improved maintenance and watering systems.	Inter-departmental guidelines have been issued on maintenance and watering of the plants. Facilities such as watering systems which can save manual labour have been included in the detailed design of greening works in Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, where appropriate.
3. Whether records on the numbers and species of trees planted in urban areas were available. Such records could facilitate maintenance and replacement of trees.	Records on numbers and species of trees planted are kept by the departments responsible for maintenance purpose.

(5) Community Participation

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
<p>1. Developers of new developments should be required to do more greening within their developments.</p>	<p>Will be pursued. Whenever there are development or redevelopment projects, the Administration would negotiate with the concerned parties for more greening opportunities.</p>
<p>2. Private developers should be encouraged to green the slopes in the boundaries of their developments.</p>	<p>We have taken the following measures to encourage developers to green the slopes within their developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile the Layman's Guide to Landscape Treatment of Slopes and Retaining Walls and Technical Guidelines on Landscape Treatment and Bio-engineering for Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls to facilitate professionals to implement beautification/ greening works during the repairing or upgrading of slopes and retaining walls. • Frequently organize talks and seminars for owners' corporations to promote greening for slopes and retaining walls. • Jointly organize the Best Landscaped Slope Awards with the Professional Green Building Council, the Hong Kong Association of Property Management and the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects. • In Buildings Department's Practice Note for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers 270, Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers are strongly recommended to take due consideration to incorporate landscape

Comments by LegCo Members	Response by Administration
	measures to improve the visual appearance of slopes and retaining walls when preparing their development plans.
3. Whether the Administration had sought local residents' views on the GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui.	The Administration has briefed the Yau Tsim Mong District Council on the GMP and the related greening themes. The Administration would continue to solicit input from stakeholder groups.
4. Excessive and cumbersome consultations might be counter-productive in achieving the best greening results.	A suitable balance will be struck – while obtaining useful comments from the local community, care will be taken to prevent consultation from becoming excessive and cumbersome.
5. The Administration should invite District Councils to provide input at an early stage in the implementation of GMPs.	Suggestion being taken up. Please see text of the paper.

(6) Issues Pertaining to Tsim Sha Tsui and Central

Comments by LegCo Members	Responses by Administration
1. Why trees would not be planted in the middle of Salisbury Road.	Trees could not be planted because of various reasons including underground utilities, narrow width of the central reserve, etc. We will however explore greening this major road wherever opportunities arise.
2. Why large trees were not included in the short-term greening plan for Nathan Road.	Should there be space underground, large trees would be planted.
3. More trees should be planted outside the Hong Kong Science Museum.	Will incorporate as far as possible. But it should be noted that space has to be reserved for spectators during festival/carnival activities.

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**

Greening Master Plans

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Council meeting	17 November 2004	Hansard (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1117ti-translate-e.pdf)
Planning, Lands and Works (PLW) Panel	21 January 2005	Information paper on "Policy Initiatives of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)707/04-05(01)) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0121cb1-707-1e.pdf) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1566/04-05) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl050121.pdf)
Environmental Affairs Panel	21 January 2005	Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)958/04-05) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ea/minutes/ea050121.pdf)
PLW Panel	13 July 2005	Information paper on "Development of Greening Master Plans" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/04-05(03)) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0713cb1-1996-3e.pdf) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2362/04-05) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl050713.pdf)

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
PLW Panel	22 November 2005	<p>Information paper on "Development and Implementation of Greening Master Plans" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)289/05-06(07)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/papers/plw1122cb1-289-7e.pdf</p> <p>Information paper on "Cost-effectiveness of Greening Master Plans" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)299/05-06(01)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0713cb1-299-1e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)654/05-06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl051122.pdf</p>
Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC)	21 December 2005	<p>Information paper on "35CG – Greening Master Plan for Kowloon West – Studies and Works" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2005-06)34) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p05-34e.pdf</p> <p>Information paper on "36CG – Greening Master Plan for Hong Kong Island – Studies and Works" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2005-06)35) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p05-35e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC28/05-06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pw051221.pdf</p>
PLW Panel	28 February 2006	<p>Information paper on "Greening Master Plans for Kowloon West and Hong Kong Island – Greening Works for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)951/05-06(04)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0228cb1-951-4e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1324/05-06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl060228.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
PWSC	6 April 2006	<p>Information paper on "35CG – Greening Master Plan for Kowloon West – Studies and Works; 36CG – Greening Master Plan for Hong Kong Island – Studies and Works" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2006-07)2) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p06-02e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC55/05-06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pw060406.pdf</p>
PLW Panel	25 July 2006	<p>Information paper on "Development and implementation of Greening Master Plans -- progress report" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)2022/05-06(02)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0725cb1-2022-2e.pdf</p> <p>Background brief on "Greening Master Plans" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)2022/05-06(03)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0725cb1-2022-3e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)62/06-07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl060725.pdf</p>
PWSC	25 October 2006	<p>Information paper on "35CG Greening master plan for Kowloon West - studies and works; 36CG Greening master plan for Hong Kong Island - studies and works" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2006-07)38) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p06-38e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC12/06-07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pw061025.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
PLW Panel	27 March 2007	<p>Information paper on "Development of Greening Master Plans -- progress report" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1184/06-07(03)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0327cb1-1184-3-e.pdf</p> <p>Supplementary information paper on "Greening master plans for areas in the New Territories" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1703/06-07(01)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0327cb1-1703-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)62/06-07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl070327.pdf</p>
PWSC	6 June 2007	<p>Information paper on "35CG Greening master plan for Kowloon West - studies and works; 36CG Greening master plan for Hong Kong Island - studies and works; 40CG Greening master plan for Kowloon East - studies and works" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2006-07)21) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p07-21e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC93/06-07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pw070606.pdf</p>