

Legislative Council Panel on Development

Proposed creation of one permanent post of Chief Engineer in the Drainage Services Department for cavern development projects

Regarding the following questions about the captioned from Hon. Tony Tse to the Chairman of the Panel on Development on 29 October 2020:

- (i) Please clarify if the Chief Engineer to be created in the Drainage Services Department to lead the "Cavern Projects Division" is mainly to implement the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to cavern project? If yes, why is it proposed to be a permanent post? If no, please provide details of other projects that this division is responsible for, and whether this division is only responsible for drainage and sewerage works instead of all cavern projects?*
- (ii) There will be 26 non-directorate posts in that division. Please explain why two of them are time-limited posts?*

The response from the Administration is as follows:

2. On 27 October 2020, we consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Development on our previous proposal of creating a permanent Chief Engineer (CE) post in the Drainage Services Department (DSD) dedicated for cavern sewage treatment facility projects. Majority of Members who had spoken on this item did not oppose to the submission of the staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration, while some Members had concerns on the need for a permanent CE post. Having considered the comments of the Members and following the Chief Executive's commitment of reviewing staffing proposals as announced in the 2020 Policy Address, we have revised the original proposal to the creation of a supernumerary CE post for five years with immediate effect upon approval of the Finance Committee up to 31 March 2026. The supernumerary CE post will lead a new Cavern Projects Division to mainly implement the "Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STSTW) to caverns". We will review the continued need of the post beyond March 2026 nearer the time of substantial completion of the main caverns complex of this relocation project in 2026, taking into account the progress of different projects and tasks of DSD as well as the latest situation and development needs.

3. There will be 26 non-directorate posts for the Cavern Projects Division, including redeploying 14 existing permanent posts of professional grade and two existing time-limited posts of professional grade from the Sewerage Projects Division and Electrical and Mechanical Projects Division, as well as a total of ten permanent posts of technical and general grades created. The two time-limited posts of one Senior Geotechnical Engineer and one Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer with a duration up to 31 March 2025 were created for handling parts of the work related to geotechnical engineering and electrical and mechanical engineering of “Relocation of STSTW to caverns”. We will review continuously the arrangement of the two time-limited posts, taking into account the actual needs and workload of the duties.

**Development Bureau
Drainage Services Department
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