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Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

**Background Brief on
Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy**

Purpose

This paper provides some background information on the “Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy” and a summary of past discussions at the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (the Panel) and the Finance Committee.

Background

Briefing for the Panel on the study approach

2. On 18 May 2000, the Administration briefed the Panel on a new approach to update the Territorial Development Strategy (TDS). TDS was started in 1991 and the then latest review of TDS was completed in 1996 and thus was outdated. To enable the Government to respond adequately and in good time to future demands for housing, employment, recreation and other facilities, the Administration considered it appropriate to start a new round of review to assess Hong Kong's future development needs in a wider regional perspective and for a longer time horizon, to be called "Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy" (Strategy 2030).

3. The preparation of Strategy 2030 involves four key stages of work which include –

- (a) agenda setting, baseline review and identification of key issues (Stage One);
- (b) examination of key issues (Stage Two);
- (c) formulation and evaluation of scenarios and options (Stage Three);
and
- (d) formulation of development strategies and response plans (Stage Four).

4. The Administration undertook to launch public consultations throughout the four stages of work. Upon completion, Strategy 2030 would recommend planning measures and development options to cope with future changes. The Administration expected that the whole study would take about 18 months to complete, not including the time required for public consultation.

5. At the Panel briefing, members urged that the Strategy 2030 study should give special attention to cross-border developments, such as opening up more control points for travellers' convenience and promoting land development in regions near the border. There was also a suggestion of developing industries near the border so as to absorb the labour force of the two places.

Approval of funding for engaging specialist consultants

6. While the Administration would utilise in-house resources to undertake the preparation of Strategy 2030 in respect of the land use planning, transport planning and engineering feasibility, statistical and landscape planning aspects, Strategy 2030 would however require various specialist consultants to carry out various special sectoral studies. On 9 June 2000, the Finance Committee approved a financial commitment of \$15 million for engaging specialist consultants, including economists, environmental specialists, transport model analysts and publicity and public relations specialists.

7. In response to members' concerns raised at the Finance Committee meeting, the Administration advised that Strategy 2030 would be a study on land resource utilization, underpinned by the sustainable development concept as a basic planning principle. Definitive proposals up to 2010 would be formulated while options would be put up for years beyond 2010. Whilst increasing interaction, in particular greater socio-economic integration, with the Mainland had become an inevitable trend, the Administration had no intention to interfere with this trend but would ensure that the future development strategy would be able to cater for the needs of the community. Strategy 2030 would not seek to blur the jurisdictional boundary of the two places.

Stage One Public Consultation

8. On 5 March 2001, the Administration briefed the Panel on the proposed planning objectives and key study areas put forward in Stage One Public Consultation of the Strategy 2030 Study. The following seven key **planning objectives** were proposed-

- (a) Adhering to the principle of sustainable development;
- (b) Enhancing Hong Kong's hub functions;
- (c) Providing a good quality living environment;
- (d) Meeting housing and community needs;
- (e) Providing a framework to develop a safe, efficient, economically viable and environmentally friendly transport system;

- (f) Promoting tourism; and
- (g) Strengthening links with the Mainland.

The following key **areas of study** were also proposed-

- (a) International town planning experiences;
- (b) Population forecasts and the implications for housing and employment;
- (c) New development opportunities;
- (d) Requirements of port and other major infrastructure facilities;
- (e) Environmental Considerations and Conservation;
- (f) Improving links with the Mainland;
- (g) Potential for tourism, recreation and cultural development; and
- (h) Implications for information technology development.

9. The major issues raised during the Panel discussion include-

- (a) the need to set quantifiable planning indicators for individual policy areas which had direct impact on the livelihood of the public, such as housing policy and transport policy;
- (b) the need for more specific planning objectives;
- (c) the need for comprehensive planning strategy for major transport and infrastructure facilities;
- (d) enhancing coordination and communication between the Mainland and Hong Kong authorities on planning matters; and
- (e) ensuring effective implementation of planning policies.

10. The Stage One consultation was completed in April 2001. A Public Consultation Report was released in November 2001.

Stage Two Public Consultation

11. On 1 February 2002, the Administration briefed the Panel on the strategic planning issues for the formulation of long-term development options for Hong Kong, and the assumptions and criteria to be used to construct and evaluate the development options proposed under the Stage Two Public Consultation of the study.

12. The proposed nine **strategic planning issues** were:

- (a) Closer links with the Mainland;
- (b) More responsiveness to special land needs;
- (c) More sustainable use of our land resource;
- (d) New development opportunities, better quality;

- (e) More jobs closer to homes;
- (f) Facilitating businesses of tomorrow;
- (g) Essential but unwelcome facilities;
- (h) Better planning for waterfront uses; and
- (i) More choices for recreation and sports.

13. The Administration also proposed that the evaluation of development options to be formulated at the third stage of the Study should be undertaken on five main streams of assessment, i.e. economic, environmental, land use planning, social and transport.

14. The major issues raised during the Panel discussion include-

- (a) channels for enhancing communications with the Mainland authorities on issues of common concern such as environmental protection and sustainable development;
- (b) development of the Frontier Closed Area;
- (c) conversion of obsolete industrial buildings for other uses versus redevelopment;
- (d) re-zoning of land uses in commercial districts and decentralization of jobs to the New Territories; and
- (e) review on land uses in rural areas.

15. A list of relevant papers issued previously on the subject is at **Appendix**.

Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy

List of relevant papers issued previously on the subject

Papers for Panel on Planning, Lands and Works meeting on 18 May 2000

- LC Paper No. CB(1)1562/99-00(05) -- Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy Brief Notes on Study Approach
(issued on 16 May 2000)
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1978/99-00 -- Minutes of Panel on Planning, Lands and Works meeting held on 18 May 2000
(issued on 24 July 2000)

Papers for Finance Committee meeting on 9 June 2000

- FCR(2000-01)25 -- Head 118 — Planning Department
(issued on 2 June 2000) Subhead 700 General other non-recurrent
New Item "Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy"
- LC Paper No. FC159/99-00 -- Minutes of Finance Committee meeting
(issued in August 2000) held on 9 June 2000

Stage One Public Consultation

- LC Paper No. CB(1)693/00-01(05) -- Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy Stage One Public Consultation - Planning Objectives and Key Study Areas
(issued on 28 February 2001) (with Annex A: Study Approach and Annex B: Consultation Digest)
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1300/00-01 -- Minutes of Panel on Planning, Lands and Works meeting held on 5 March 2001
(issued on 22 May 2001)
- <http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030> -- The Stage One Public Consultation Report
(issued by the Administration in November 2001)

Stage Two Public Consultation

- LC Paper No. CB(1)907/01-02(05) -- Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and
(issued on 24 January 2002) Strategy Stage Two Public Consultation
- Key Planning Issues and Evaluation
Criteria
(with attachments: (a) Stage Two Public
Consultation Digest; and (b) Stage Two
Public Consultation Supplementary
Note)
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1372/01-02 -- Minutes of Panel on Planning, Lands
(issued on 25 March 2002) and Works meeting held on 1 February
2001
- <http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030> -- The Stage Two Public Consultation
(issued by the Administration in Report
November 2002)