

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Meeting of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on 22 November 2005

Background brief on greening master plans

Introduction

At the meeting of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (the Panel) on 13 July 2005, the Administration briefed members on the progress of preparation of Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for selected districts in the urban areas and implementation of related planting schemes. The Administration proposes to report to the Panel the development of the GMP for Central and provide supplementary information on other GMP studies at the coming meeting on 22 November 2005.

Background

2. In pursuance of a general 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 Environment, Transport and Works Bureau established the Steering Committee on Greening (SCG) in December 2002 to formulate related strategies and supervise implementation of major programmes. This committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works), comprising members drawn from 16 bureaux and departments.

3. In order to provide a better focus of efforts, the Greening Master Plan Committee (GMPC) was set up in August 2004 under the auspices of SCG to develop blueprints of greening work in selected urban districts. The GMPC is led by the Director of Civil Engineering and Development and supported by representatives of 16 bureaux/departments as well as advisers from professional bodies and academia.

Greening Master Plans

4. 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 embody 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 studies/plans on upgrading, renewal and redevelopment of urban areas are classified as medium-term measures for monitoring and follow-up; 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.

Schedule for development and implementation of Greening Master Plans

5. At the Panel meeting on 13 July 2005, the Administration briefed members on the GMP for Tsim Sha Tsui, the details of which are set out in LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/04-05(03). As regards implementation, the Administration planned to commence six pilot greening schemes at Middle Road, Austin Road, Hillwood Road, Science Museum Path, Chatham Road South and Kowloon Park Drive in mid-2005 for completion by end of 2005. Other short-term greening measures in Tsim Sha Tsui were scheduled to start in early-2006 for completion within the same year. The Administration would monitor on-going studies and planned re-developments with a view to bringing up the medium-term measures for implementation. Issues associated with the long-term measures would be tackled by SCG.

6. The Administration also advised that the work to develop a GMP for Central was at an advance stage and the Central and Western District Council would be presented with a draft recommended GMP on 21 July 2005. Pilot schemes and short-term greening measures for Central would be implemented by the Civil Engineering and Development Department by end-2005 and in 2006 respectively. Development of GMPs would be rolled out to Sheung Wan, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and Mongkok in 2006.

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

7. When the subject was discussed at the meeting on 13 July 2005, 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. To enhance greening efforts, members also made various suggestions as follows –

To improve planning, implementation and monitoring

- (a) Strategic overall planning should be conducted so that different greening themes would be adopted for different districts to project the local characteristics of individual districts;
- (b) SCG should as early as possible decide on the species of trees and flowers to be planted in different districts so as to avoid overlapping and ensure the policies of other Government departments could complement such greening efforts;
- (c) The medium-term measure to co-operate with the relevant District Planning Office in identifying greening opportunities in conjunction with the designation of pedestrian boulevards should be adopted for short-term measures as well;
- (d) Efforts should be made to examine how to minimize greening cost, which presently stood at \$3,000 per square metre, was too high. The selection of cheaper tree species might help;
- (e) There should be good maintenance of plants;
- (f) Measurable performance indicators should be devised to facilitate monitoring of progress;

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

- (g) Liaison should be made 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;
- (h) 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;

- (i) Private developers should be encouraged to green the slopes in the boundaries of their developments;

To maximize planting space

- (j) Efforts should be made to better organize underground installations, such as by keeping proper records of them; and
- (k) Consideration should be given to planting climbers on footbridges and slopes because climbers would not take up much space but could produce very good greening effect.

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

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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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	LC Paper No. CB(1)707/04-05(01) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0121cb1-707-1e.pdf) 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	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	LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/04-05(03) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0713cb1-1996-3e.pdf) LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/04-05(04) (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0713cb1-1996-4e.pdf) LC Paper No. CB(1)2362/04-05 (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl050713.pdf)