

For information on
19 January 2006

LegCo Panel on Manpower

Extension of Temporary Jobs in the Public Sector

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Administration's proposal to retain the existing 11 600 temporary jobs in the public sector.

Background

2. Since 2000, the Administration created a number of temporary jobs in the public sector to meet operational needs and help the unemployed enter/re-enter the labour market. In 2005, some 11 600 of these jobs were extended. Most of these jobs will expire by end-March 2006.

Proposal

3. In his 2005-06 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Administration would extend some temporary jobs in the public sector to meet operational needs.

4. Having carefully considered the situation, the Administration proposes to retain all the 11 600 temporary jobs for another year. The following table sets out the breakdown of the temporary jobs involved by departments/agency.

| Department/ agency | Type of jobs | Number of jobs ¹ |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) | Jobs to provide cleansing and maintenance services to country parks as well as to maintain hygiene standards and animal welfare in animal management centres and other AFCD venues | 322 |

¹ The number and duration of jobs to be extended might vary having regard to operational needs of departments/agencies concerned.

| Department/ agency | Type of jobs | Number of jobs¹ |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | Jobs mainly engaged through private contractors to provide cleansing and cleansing-related services to streets and public venues/places | 3 291 |
| Hospital Authority (HA) | Care assistants and general workers to provide support to clinicians, nurses and other health professionals; construction workers and other staff to carry out minor repair and maintenance works in hospitals and clinics | 2 286 |
| Home Affairs Department | Jobs for community building, local community economy, village representative election and environmental improvement | 280 |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department | Training opportunities for youth in gaining working skills and experience in public libraries, sports and cultural venues; and job opportunities through private contractors to cleansing workers to continue the cleansing services of the public leisure venues | 1 399 |
| Social Welfare Department | Community work organizers to reinforce the Support for Self-reliance Scheme; youth ambassadors to primarily assist in the organization of promotional activities on personal/environmental hygiene among the elderly and other community members; peer counsellors to help social workers in providing assistance to Form 3 school leavers; programme assistants to help social workers in the organization of activities for the disabled, elderly, family and youth; care assistants to enhance the personal care services for frail elders | 3 836 |
| Tourism Commission | Tourism Development Assistants (TDAs) to help ease the passenger flow at the immigration counters by assisting visitors to use the Expedious Immigration Clearance System, and distribute tourism-related information leaflets to visitors (including 10 Supervisors and two batches of a total of 184 TDAs) | 194 |
| <i>Overall Total</i> | | 11 608 |

5. Of the 11 600 temporary jobs in this job extension exercise, around 3 400 are training places for youths and the remainder for other age groups, primarily the middle-aged, including some 3 600 cleansing related jobs outsourced to private sector, 3 400 posts created by the HA or non-governmental organisations plus 1 200 NCSC posts.

Way Forward

6. Concerned departments/agencies will make the necessary arrangement to retain the temporary jobs in 2006-07. The future of these temporary posts will be considered by the concerned department/agencies in the light of operational needs.

Economic Development and Labour Bureau
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Home Affairs Department
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Social Welfare Department

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