

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)925/13-14(09)

Ref: CB1/PL/DEV

Panel on Development

Meeting on 25 February 2014

Updated 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 at the meetings of the Panel on Development ("DEV Panel") and the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC").

Background

2. Pursuant to the direction announced by the then Chief Executive in his 2000 Policy Address to green up Hong Kong by planting more trees and flowers in the urban areas, the Administration has established a Steering Committee on Greening¹ to set the strategic direction and oversee the implementation of major greening programmes. The Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) with members drawn from various departments, and under it are three sub-committees, namely, Works and Maintenance Committee on Greening; Community Involvement Committee on Greening; and Greening Master Plan Committee.

Development and implementation of Greening Master Plans

3. One key component in the pursuit of greening is the development and implementation of GMPs. GMPs seek to define comprehensively the greening framework of selected areas with coherent themes and plant species

¹ Renamed as "Steering Committee on Greening, Landscape and Tree Management" in 2010

to promote a clear district identity. As greening opportunities arise under different timeframes, GMPs embody a full spectrum of short-, medium- and long-term measures. Short-term measures are those conforming to the district layout and posing no direct conflict with land use or traffic arrangements and can be implemented within one to two years. Greening measures which have to be implemented in association with other projects or which require private sector participation are classified as medium-term measures. As for long-term measures, they depict the ultimate greening vision and include proposals such as tree corridors along major roads which can only be achieved in conjunction with urban renewal, etc.

4. Since July 2005, the Administration has consulted the former Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (now renamed as "Panel on Development") regularly on funding proposals about the development of GMPs for urban areas and the New Territories ("NT") as well as their implementation.

Greening Master Plans for the urban areas

5. Since 2006, the Finance Committee has approved the following five funding proposals, involving a total of \$700 million, on consultancies studies for GMPs for the urban areas covering nine districts and the related planting works --

Date	Project title	\$ million
28 April 2006	Greening master plans for Kowloon West and Hong Kong Island – works for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central	38.4
1 December 2006	Greening master plans for Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei and Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay -- consultancy studies and site investigation	18.1
22 June 2007	Greening master plans for the remaining urban areas in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island -- consultancy study and site investigation	51.5
9 May 2008	Greening master plans for Kowloon West and Hong Kong Island -- works for Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay	126

Date	Project title	\$ million
8 May 2009	Greening master plans for Kowloon West, Kowloon East and Hong Kong Island -- works for the remaining urban areas	466
Total		700

The planting works under the short-term measures for the urban areas were completed in June 2011.

6. When the subject was discussed at various meetings of the DEV Panel and PWSC, members in general welcomed the development and implementation of GMPs. They have urged the Administration to expedite the implementation, and accord priority to districts which were least greened and hence had the greatest need for greening. In particular, they have 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.

Greening Master Plans for the New Territories

7. With the anticipated completion of the greening works under the urban GMPs in mid-2011, the Administration embarked on the preparation for the development of GMPs for the NT in 2009. It briefed DEV Panel on 24 May 2011 on the consultation with the nine District Councils ("DCs") in the NT on GMPs, the consultancy studies to be commenced for developing the GMPs, the tentative coverage of the study areas, and the greening enhancement works already started in the NT, etc. The Administration has advised that the situation in regard to greening is generally better in the NT than the urban areas due to good planning in new town development. The emphasis of greening works will be on the development of large-scale greening to optimize cost-effectiveness and the benefits to the environment.

Implementation of greening works

8. Some members considered that the Administration should promote and expand greening works to areas such as the riversides, slopes besides road and highways, noise barriers along highways, central dividers of road and highways, cycling tracks and footbridges. It was necessary to take into account cost-effectiveness when implementing greening works and prudent control should be exercised over the costs, in particular the fees charged by the consultants and/or architects in developing and implementing GMPs. Some

other members have pointed out that it is the trend in major overseas cities to integrate the design of parks or greening works with the special features of the local environment and to make use of local natural materials with a view to bringing out the history and characteristics of the district. Integrated hard landscape should be implemented by improving the paving of pedestrian walks in the greening areas. Innovative strategies in implementing garden landscape should be adopted and a simple design rather than combinations of flower species and sophisticated design are preferred.

9. The Administration has advised that cost-effectiveness and maintenance are two essential factors to be considered in implementing greening projects. Under the proposed GMPs, greening works will be implemented underneath flyovers and at the central dividers where appropriate. Vertical greening will be provided for areas underneath flyovers where possible. In the NT, more greening will be provided in the form of tree planting instead of plant pots or soil corridors due to the availability of more underground space.

Selection of plant species and themes

10. Some DEV Panel members have urged the Administration to develop a unique theme with representative plant or flower species for each district or area. Local species should be selected in implementing GMP for each district as far as practicable. Imported plant species that may adversely affect the growth of local species, such as Wedelia, should not be used. As acacia confusa is not a suitable species for growing in Hong Kong along the roadsides in some NT areas, a member has called on the Administration to consider replacing the species in developing GMPs for the NT.

11. The Administration has advised that it aims to develop a theme for GMP in each district. The approach of district-based GMPs with distinct greening themes will be applied in the NT. Unlike the urban areas in which the themes are worked out first for individual districts followed by the selection of suitable plant or flower species, greening in the NT could start with the selection of a representative plant or flower species reflecting the characteristics of the district, followed by the development of the right themes. As regards the selection of plant species, the "right-species-at-the-right-place" principle will be adopted. Landscape design will take into account factors like concept of the design, overall theme, functional needs, environmental factors and so on to achieve the desired greening and design effect. The characteristics and growing condition for a particular plant also need to be considered.

12. Responding to members' concerns on the involvement of local DCs and communities in the selection of plant species, the Administration has advised that the views from the DCs and the local communities have been taken into account in developing GMPs. The Administration has followed the Enhanced Partnering Approach whereby the DCs and the local communities are closely involved from the inception to the finalization stage, and also taken into account suggestions from the public and major stakeholders.

Maintenance of greening works

13. Some members consider that the Administration should extend the period of greening works maintenance by the contractors to two years for better monitoring of the adaptability of the plants to the new environment. The Administration should sort out the responsibilities for the long-term maintenance of greening works. If the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") is to be responsible for the maintenance of greening works, the Administration should be cautious in selecting plant species to avoid overloading the Department. Due care should be exercised in implementing the greening works in areas with busy pedestrian and traffic flows.

14. The Administration has advised that the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD") will provide one-year establishment work for the proposed greening works under GMPs and then maintain the works for at least one more year. Before the end of the above maintenance period, CEDD will review the outcome and discuss with LCSD with a view to developing a long-term maintenance strategy for GMPs-related greening works. For tree maintenance over the entire territory, different Departments take responsibilities under their respective jurisdictions. In designing GMPs and selecting species, the impact on traffic and pedestrian flows has been taken into account.

Progress in the formulation of Greening Master Plans for the New Territories

15. According to the Administration's reply to initial written questions raised by members of the Finance Committee in the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-2014, the consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for South East NT (covering Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and North West NT (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) have commenced in May 2011 for completion by end-2013. The relevant DCs have been consulted on the proposed GMPs and indicated support to the proposals. The consultancy studies for the formulation of GMPs for North East NT (covering Tai Po and North District) and South West NT (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai

Tsing and Islands District) have commenced in February 2012 for completion by mid-2014. The total estimated expenditure for the formulation of GMPs for the NT is about \$70 million.

Recent development

16. The Administration will seek the Panel's support for upgrading part of PWP Item No. 43CG (the GMPs for the NT project) to Category A for carrying out priority greening works in South East and North West NT.

Relevant papers

17. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks in the LegCo website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 February 2014

Appendix

Greening Master Plans

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works ("PLW Panel")	13 July 2005	<p>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</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2362/04-05) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl050713.pdf</p>
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>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
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>
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>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		<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 and implementation 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)1641/06-07) 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>
Panel on Development	18 December 2007	<p>Information paper on "Greening -- Review and Way Forward" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)428/07-08(04)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/papers/dev1218cb1-428-4-e.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)775/07-08) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/minutes/de071218.pdf</p>
Panel on Development	25 March 2008	<p>Information paper on "Implementation of Greening Works of Greening Master Plans for Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1069/07-08(03)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/papers/dev0325cb1-1069-3-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1603/07-08) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/minutes/de080325.pdf</p> <p>Supplementary information paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1288/07-08(01)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/papers/dev0325cb1-1288-1-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Development	31 March 2009	<p>Information Paper on "Implementation of Greening Works of Greening Master Plans for Remaining Urban Areas" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1125/08-09(05)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0331cb1-1125-5-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1964/08-09) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20090331.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
PWSC	22 April 2009	<p>Information paper on "35CG Greening master plan for Kowloon West; 36CG Greening master plan for Hong Kong Island; 40CG Greening master plan for Kowloon East" provided by the Administration (PWSC(2009-10)15) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p09-15e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC86/08-09) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20090422.pdf</p>
Council meeting	10 June 2009	<p>Hansard -- written question (No. 20) on "Implementation of Greening Works in Various Districts" (p. 8838 - p. 8844) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/co/unmtg/hansard/cm0610-translate-e.pdf</p>
Council meeting	9 June 2010	<p>Hansard -- written question (No. 12) on "Greening Works" (p. 9379 - p. 9387) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/co/unmtg/hansard/cm0609-translate-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Development	24 May 2011	<p>Information paper on "Development of Greening Master Plans for the New Territories" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)1308/10-11(07)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0222cb1-1308-7-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)265/11-12) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20110524.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Council meeting	11 July 2012	Hansard -- written question (No. 9) on "Greening Works in Hong Kong" (p. 18512 - p. 18516) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/co_unmtg/hansard/cm0711-translate-e.pdf
Finance Committee	April 2013	Controlling Officer's Reply to Initial Written Questions in the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14 (Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)084) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/fc/w_q/devb-w-e.pdf