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11 May 2018

Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Rita YUNG)

Dear Miss Yung,

**Legislative Council Panel on Development
Meeting on 27 February 2018**

**Proposed Creation of Permanent Posts of Chief Landscape Architect
in the Civil Engineering and Development Department
and Highways Department**

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 February 2018.

At Panel meeting on 27 February 2018, during discussion on the proposed creation of permanent posts of Chief Landscape Architect in the Civil Engineering and Development Department and Highways Department, Member requested information on the mechanism in place for seeking and incorporating expert views in the landscape design for individual development projects, and details of the Administration's work in the development and uplifting of the urban landscapes of Hong Kong in the past five years.

Incorporating expert views on the landscape design for individual projects

The implementation of a project requires multi-disciplinary collaboration, and seeking views from other professional disciplines is a common practice in designing and implementing landscape works in public projects. For instance, for capital works projects such as parks, promenades and Government facilities, the Architectural Services Department being the works agent, has established a Project Quality and Design Vetting Committee, which comprises architects, structural engineers, building services engineers, maintenance surveyors and quantity surveyors, to ensure a consistent and high standard of design and quality including landscape design at each work stage.

For works requiring special horticultural or arboricultural designs or treatments, consultants with expertise in horticulture or arboriculture will be engaged as appropriate.

The Government has established mechanisms for seeking and incorporating advice from professional bodies, academia and green groups as part of the landscape design process. For example, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has engaged academia on research and development study aiming to enhance DSD's facilities on urban biodiversity to link up urban parks and rural areas. Housing Department had worked with experts and academia on various initiatives, including bioswale application, study on roof landscape, water saving irrigation system, and use of turf or ornamental grasses.

We have also established advisory bodies to provide advice on landscape and tree management policies and practices. For example, advice may be sought from the Urban Forestry Advisory Panel (UFAP) on urban forestry and tree-related matters. The UFAP comprises local and overseas experts on urban forestry management, urban arboriculture, tree risk assessment and management, forest pathology, urban ecology, soil science, landscape architecture, horticulture and geotechnical engineering.

For landscape proposals for bridges and associated structures over, under, on or adjacent to public roads across the territory, the Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures, which comprises members from professional bodies and tertiary institutions, scrutinises design proposals and provides advice on the visual merit, general landscape and related environmental considerations.

Uplifting the urban landscape of Hong Kong in the past five years

The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) under the Development Bureau (DEVB) and major works departments have been making continuous efforts to incorporate quality landscape design in their projects. The aim is to enhance sustainability and liveability by promoting resilient and adaptive landscapes, enriching vegetation diversity and developing blue and green eco-services networks. Examples to demonstrate our works with vision into the future of landscape development are set out as follows —

- (a) ***Promoting resilient and adaptive landscapes*** — We are exploring “Rain Garden” as a water sensitive design approach to make our city’s landscape more resilient to severe weather by absorbing more rainwater, with less runoff onto our streets and into the drains. A rain garden is currently being piloted at the junction of Wylie Road and Princess Margaret Road. We will promote the concept of permeable and functional urban landscape, and explore adopting water sensitive design into infrastructure works in new development and upgrading projects.
- (b) ***Enriching vegetation diversity of highway landscape*** — By applying urban forestry principles for long-term sustainability of tree management to better safeguard public safety, the “Enhancement Programme of Vegetated Slopes of Highways Department (Phased Replacement of Senescent *Acacia*)” presents a good opportunity to replace them with mostly native species. The project was commenced in 2015 and scheduled for completion in 2028. The scope of the programme may be further extended to cover other exotic pioneer species.
- (c) ***Enhancing blue and green eco-services networks in delivering sustainable drainage and sewerage services*** — While revitalising the river, the Kai Tak River Improvement Projects (Wong Tai Sin Section) has introduced various elements to transform the waterway into a landscape river corridor in the urban area. Plant species with seasonal interests are proposed at strategic locations to enhance the visual amenity value of the river, along with

riverine species to improve the water ecology. The project is implemented by the DSD and will be completed around end 2018.

- (d) ***Integrating landscape design into infrastructure development*** — The smart and green water management initiatives of the Anderson Road Quarry Site include the artificial flood attenuation lake serving recreational and irrigation uses while managing stormwater, which will become a key landscape feature of the proposed Quarry Park. The designed natural rock channel and berms will provide habitat for plants and wildlife. Roof landscape on water service reservoirs and pumping stations is a green feature to reduce heat island effect. The project, which is being implemented by the Civil Engineering and Development Department with the site formation works, commenced in 2016 for completion in 2022.
- (e) ***Developing a quality people-oriented community*** — The Kai Tak Development offers opportunities in the urban areas to develop one third of the site into open spaces, forming a hierarchical landscape network with distinctive landscape characters for public enjoyment. Latest development on the various open spaces includes the Kai Tak Sports Parks which is now at its tender stage, and both the Avenue Park and Station Square are planned for submission to the Finance Committee. Besides open space design, enhancing walkability with landscape measure such as canopy trees for shading, distinctive paving design and adoption of rail-free along the roadside all aim to create a pedestrian friendly streetscape for comfortable walking environment.

Please let me know if you require further information. I can be reached by phone on 3509-8271 or by e-mail at deborahkuh@devb.gov.hk.

Yours sincerely,



(Deborah KUH)
for Secretary for Development