

**For discussion on
19 March 2019**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Proposed Creation of Directorate Posts
in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao
Greater Bay Area Development Office
of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the role and functions of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) Development Office of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and seeks Members' support for the proposed directorate establishment at the Office.

Background

2. The development of the Greater Bay Area is a national strategy personally devised, personally planned and personally driven by President Xi Jinping. It is a key development strategy in the country's reform and opening up in the new era, as well as a further step in taking forward the implementation of 'one country, two systems'. Through further deepening cooperation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the objectives of the development of the Greater Bay Area are to promote coordinated economic development in the Greater Bay Area, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling.

3. Following the signing of the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the governments of Guangdong, the

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) on 1 July 2017, the HKSAR Government has kept in close contact with relevant central ministries and the governments of Guangdong and Macao to jointly draw up and introduce policy measures for the development of the Greater Bay Area.

4. To advance the development of the Greater Bay Area and strengthen coordination efforts, a top-tier body – the Leading Group for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (the Leading Group) – was set up by the Central Government. The first plenary meeting of the Leading Group was convened by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr HAN Zheng, on 15 August 2018 in Beijing. This is the first time the Chief Executives (CEs) of Hong Kong and Macao SARs have attended a meeting at central leadership level as members, highlighting the importance the Central Government attaches to the role of the two SARs in the Greater Bay Area and its continued support for their integration into the overall national development.

5. To strengthen internal coordination within the HKSAR Government, CE announced in her 2018 Policy Address that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be set up with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux. The Steering Committee is responsible for the overall coordination of matters relating to the HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. Furthermore, CMAB will set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work.

6. On 18 February 2019, the Central Government promulgated the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan). It is an important document guiding the development of the Greater Bay Area, covering the period from now to 2022 in the immediate term, extending to 2035 in the long term. It involves a wide range of areas, covering policy measures for developing an international innovation and technology hub, expediting infrastructural connectivity, building a globally competitive modern industrial system, taking forward ecological conservation, developing a quality living circle for living, working and travelling, strengthening cooperation and jointly participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, jointly developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation platforms, as well as the implementation of the Outline Development Plan.

7. Subsequently, the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao held a symposium on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan. Around 800 guests, representing relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong, attended the symposium. At the symposium, the CE of the Hong Kong SAR, Mrs Carrie Lam; the Deputy Chairman of the Office of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Mr Lin Nianxiu; the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Ma Xingrui; and the CE of the Macao SAR, Mr Chui Sai-on, delivered speeches respectively. The Director General of the Department of Regional Economy of the NDRC, Mr Guo Lanfeng, also gave a more detailed briefing on the contents of the Outline Development Plan.

8. On 1 March 2019, CE attended the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group in Beijing. After the meeting, CE announced that eight policy measures would be introduced by the Central Government for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, including the method for calculating “183 days” for paying individual income tax on the Mainland (that is, any stay of less than 24 hours on the Mainland will not be counted as a day of presence); providing tax relief by municipal governments to non-Mainland (including Hong Kong) high-end talents and talents in short supply by offsetting the tax differential between the two places; supporting the open recruitment of Hong Kong and Macao residents by public institutions in the Greater Bay Area; encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area by the youth of Hong Kong and Macao; supporting higher education institutions and scientific research institutes from Hong Kong and Macao to participate in projects under Guangdong technology programmes; introducing immigration facilitation reform pilot schemes in the Greater Bay Area, facilitating vehicles from Hong Kong and Macao entering and exiting Mainland boundary points; and expanding the implementation scope of the connection with the Speedy Customs Clearance between Customs administrations. These new measures, in addition to previous ones such as the Residence Permit introduced in September 2018, would further facilitate Hong Kong residents to develop, work and reside in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as strengthen the convenient flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area Development Office

9. The promulgation of the Outline Development Plan on

18 February 2019 signified the full-fledged implementation of the development of the Greater Bay Area. Pursuant to the Outline Development Plan, relevant central ministries, in the context of their own responsibilities, will concentrate on formulating concrete policies and measures supporting the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Government of Guangdong Province and the Governments of the HKSAR and the Macao SAR will proactively coordinate and cooperate amongst themselves on the basis of mutual respect, and jointly formulate and pursue specific plans or implementation plans in areas including innovation and technology, infrastructure, the development of industries, and ecological and environmental protection.

10. Currently, the work pertaining to the development of the Greater Bay Area is undertaken by Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (3) (DS(CMA)3 / AOSGB (D3)) and Team 6 of CMAB among their other duties. In light of the significance of the development of the Greater Bay Area and the substantial opportunities brought about by the initiative, there is an imminent need to set up a dedicated Greater Bay Area Development Office as soon as possible to strengthen liaison and collaboration with Mainland authorities, as well as spearhead efforts in the HKSAR Government and oversee the overall progress in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The role and functions of the Greater Bay Area Development Office are set out in paragraphs 11 to 15 below.

Strengthening Liaison with Mainland Authorities

11. CMAB has been working closely with the NDRC, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO), the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Macao SAR Government, as well as municipal governments of Greater Bay Area cities such as Shenzhen and Guangzhou. A coordination mechanism will also be set up for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to ensure that the governments of the three places will be able to fully implement the tasks set out by the Leading Group together. The Greater Bay Area Development Office will act as the focal point of liaison with Mainland authorities at central, provincial and municipal levels, as well as the Macao SAR Government.

Supporting the HKSAR's Participation in the Leading Group

12. The Leading Group chaired by Vice Premier of the State Council Mr HAN Zheng will serve as a top-tier body to oversee and coordinate the development of the Greater Bay Area at the national level. Plenary

meetings and working meetings will be convened regularly, entailing significant paper, liaison and coordination work between the governments of HKSAR, Macao SAR as well as governments at central, provincial and municipal levels. The preparation, coordination and supporting work will be taken up by the Greater Bay Area Development Office.

Strengthening Coordination within the HKSAR Government

13. The Steering Committee is responsible for the overall coordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. Future work focuses of the HKSAR Government include: consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub; developing an international innovation and technology hub; expanding the scope of development for sectors in which Hong Kong's strengths lie; strengthening infrastructural connectivity; fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship; and fully utilising Hong Kong's international connections and networks to promote the Greater Bay Area overseas and attract capital and talents to the Greater Bay Area. We will also continue to explore with Mainland authorities for the introduction of more measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents to develop, work and reside in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as strengthen the convenient flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area. The Greater Bay Area Development Office will provide support for the Steering Committee, and will work closely with bureaux/departments concerned to ensure effective follow-up to the discussions of the Steering Committee.

Publicity and Engagement with Stakeholders

14. Since August 2018, the Hong Kong SAR Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to increase understanding and interest in the development of the Greater Bay Area amongst various sectors of society. Such efforts include setting up a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area (www.bayarea.gov.hk), as well as producing pamphlets, television promotional clips and radio promotional soundtracks. They also target communication channels that are widely used by young people, such as social media and online platforms. Following the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan, the Government will step up the publicity efforts and the Greater Bay Area Development Office will be responsible for formulating publicity strategies to enhance the awareness of development opportunities and to provide latest information about the development of the Greater Bay Area.

15. Furthermore, the Greater Bay Area Development Office will bolster its external relations efforts and enhance cooperation at both government and industry/sector levels. The Office will work together with relevant bureaux/departments and strategic partners, such as chambers of commerce, professional associations, and quasi-government/statutory bodies, to promote exchanges and understanding, as well as to gauge their views on the opportunities and the associated policy measures for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in order to ensure that relevant measures would better meet the needs of different sectors of society. The HKSAR Government will endeavour to play the role of “facilitator” to help secure the required policy breakthrough and innovation.

Proposed Directorate Establishment for the Greater Bay Area Development Office

16. The work of the Greater Bay Area Development Office cuts across many key areas and requires extensive policy coordination both within and outside the HKSAR Government. In this regard, there is an imminent need to beef up the establishment for handling GBA-related matters by creating two supernumerary directorate posts, namely the Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (CGBA) to head the Greater Bay Area Development Office, and an Assistant Commissioner for the Development of Greater Bay Area (1) (ACGBA(1)), for four years. With the establishment of a dedicated office, DS(CMA), Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)6 (PAS(CMA)6) and Team 6 will be redeployed to underpin CGBA in taking forward the Greater Bay Area Development. Their posts will be retitled as Deputy Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (DCGBA) and ACGBA(2).

CGBA

17. CGBA will formulate and coordinate overall Greater Bay Area policies and will advise the senior echelons on HKSAR’s strategies and priorities in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area by serving as a member of CE’s Steering Committee. He/she will liaise with senior officials from Mainland authorities, particularly the NDRC and HKMAO, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the relevant municipal governments/authorities, as well as the Macao SAR Government, and represent the HKSAR Government at meetings, visits, etc. under the coordination mechanism with relevant

ministries/departments of the central and provincial governments as appropriate. CGBA will also formulate the HKSAR Government's overall public relations strategy and oversee publicity efforts to promote the development of the Greater Bay Area, and in collaboration with relevant policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government, engage various sectors of the community (including business and professional bodies) to gauge their views on ways to effectively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area and measures needed to facilitate Hong Kong people to work, study and reside on the Mainland so that the measures introduced would better suit the needs of the community and the people of Hong Kong.

18. Having considered the scope and complexity of his/her work portfolio, the significance of the development of the Greater Bay Area into which strategic and high-level input is required, as well as the need for intensive and interaction with senior officials in central and provincial authorities, we propose that CGBA should be an Administrative Officer Staff Grade A (AOSGA (D6)) post in order to ensure that the incumbent has the necessary experience, authority and leadership to work effectively with the senior echelons of the HKSAR Government, as well as his/her Mainland and Macao counterparts to press ahead long-term strategies and initiatives. The proposed job description of CGBA is at **Annex 1**.

19. The post-holder of the CGBA post will report to the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (PSCMA), and through him to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA).

ACGBA (1)

20. The newly created Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC (D2)) post, designated as ACGBA (1), will serve as the secretary to the CE's Steering Committee and assist in formulating and overseeing the implementation of the Government's publicity efforts to promote the Greater Bay Area Development. He/she will assist in engaging stakeholders (including business chambers, professional bodies, etc.) to promote the Greater Bay Area Development. He/she will also assist in coordinating with bureaux and departments within HKSAR Government in preparing reports and proposals to the Leading Group, and liaise with his/her counterparts in the central, provincial and municipal governments/authorities.

21. In addition to the two supernumerary directorate posts of CGBA

and ACGBA, 17 additional non-directorate time-limited posts will be created in 2019-20 for four years to implement the relevant work. As such, the proposed ACGBA(1) will oversee the administration of the Greater Bay Area Development Office, including matters concerning financial and human resources. The proposed job description of ACGBA(1) is at **Annex 2**.

DCGBA and ACGBA(2)

22. As set out in paragraph 16 above, DS(CMA)3, PAS(CMA)6 and Team 6 will be put under the Greater Bay Area Office upon its establishment. These two existing directorate posts will consequentially be retitled as DCGBA and ACGBA(2). DCGBA will deputise and assist CGBA in the discharge of his/her duties as set out in paragraph 17, whereas ACGBA(2) will assist CGBA and DCGBA in formulating and coordinating the overall policies and strategies in relation to HKSAR's participation in Greater Bay Area Development, and provide logistical support in respect of HKSAR's participation to the Leading Group as well as the coordination mechanism with Guangdong and its relevant cities, and Macao SAR. He/she will also liaise with his/her counterparts in the central, provincial and municipal governments/authorities. The revised duty lists of DCGBA and ACGBA(2), as well as the proposed organisation chart of the Greater Bay Area Development Office are at **Annex 3**.

Alternatives Considered

23. As set out at paragraph 16 above, the work concerning the development of the Greater Bay Area is currently undertaken by DS(CMA)3 and Team 6 of CMAB in addition to their own duties. It would not be feasible for the team to continue to absorb or share the duties on a long-term basis if the supernumerary directorate CGBA and ACGBA(1) posts are not created. We have also critically examined whether the duties of the proposed posts can be absorbed by other directorate officers at D2 level and above at CMAB, but considered it not feasible without compromising the delivery of their existing duties.

Financial Implications

24. The proposed creation of one supernumerary AOSGA (D6) post as well as one supernumerary AOSGC (D2) post will incur an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$5.3 million. As for the non-

directorates posts to be created in 2019-20 to provide support to the abovementioned directorate posts, the total annual salary cost at mid-point is \$12.4 million. Sufficient provision has been earmarked to meet the funding requirements of this proposal.

Advice Sought

25. Members are invited to support the proposed directorate establishment. Subject to Members' views, we plan to submit the proposal to the Establishment Sub-committee of the Finance Committee at its meeting in April 2019.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
March 2019**

Proposed Job Description

Post Title : Commissioner for the Development of Greater Bay Area (CGBA)

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade A (D6)

Responsible to : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (PSCMA)

Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To head the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) Development Office and to represent Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on matters relating to Greater Bay Area Development;
2. To formulate and coordinate the overall policies in relation to HKSAR's participation in the Greater Bay Area Development, and to provide strategic advice on the work priorities to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs;
3. To provide dedicated overview of the implementation of HKSAR Government's strategies and initiatives in the pursuit of the Greater Bay Area Development, and to coordinate at a key position within the HKSAR Government;
4. To act as the HKSAR Government's focal point of contact with senior officials of Mainland authorities, particularly the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Guangdong Provincial Government and the relevant municipal governments/authorities, as well as the Macao SAR Government in respect of the Greater Bay Area Development;
5. To lead the Greater Bay Area Development Office to formulate overall Public Relations (PR) strategy locally and overseas in support of HKSAR's participation in the Greater Bay Area Development;
6. To promote and enhance connections with the relevant stakeholders, including leadership of business and professional bodies.

Proposed Job Description

Post Title: Assistant Commissioner for the Development of Greater Bay Area (1) (ACGBA (1))

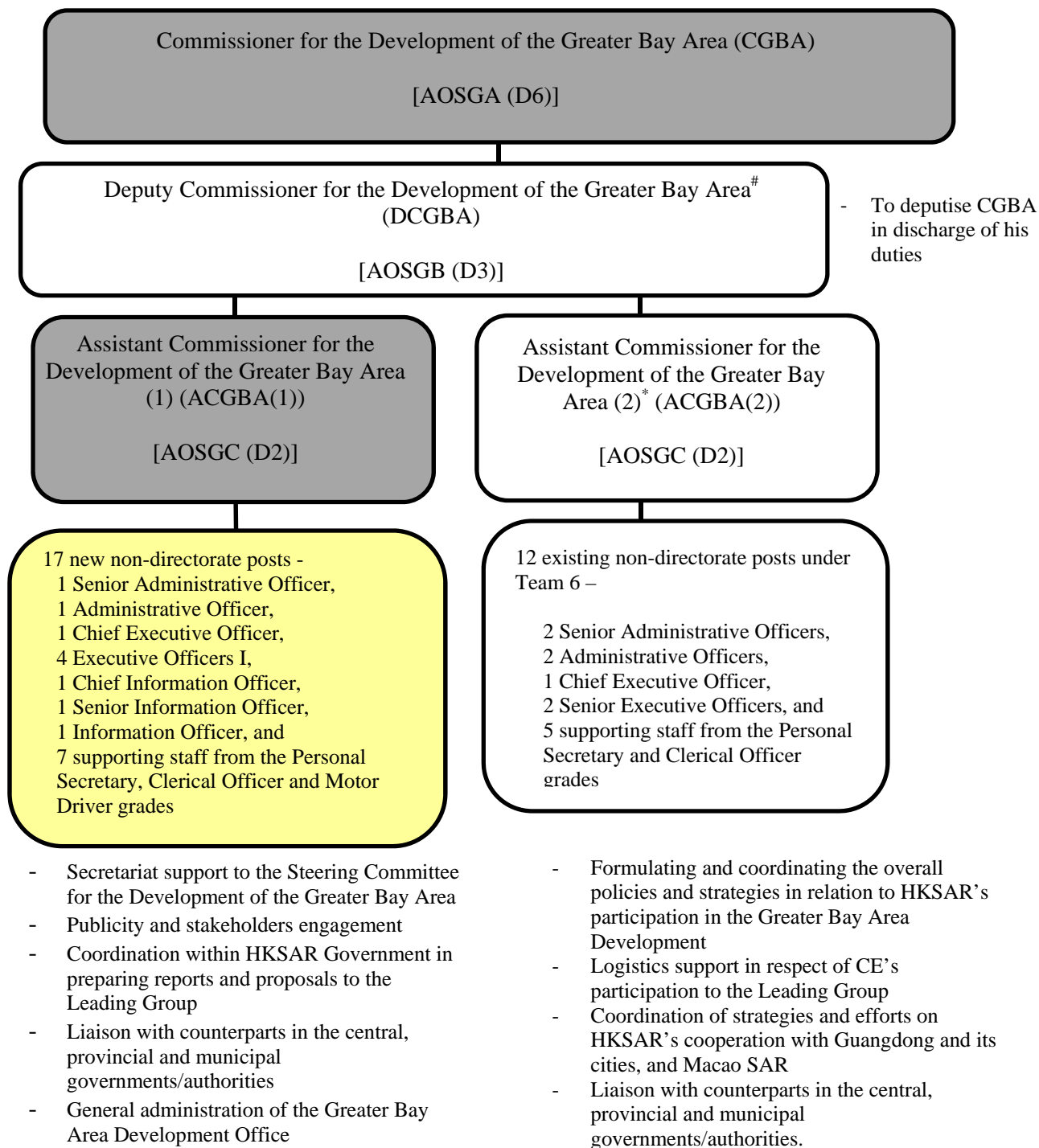
Rank: Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)



Responsible to: Deputy Commissioner for the Development of Greater Bay Area (DCGBA)

Duties and Responsibilities –

1. To serve as the Secretary to the Steering Committee for the Development of Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee), and lead the Greater Bay Area Office in providing secretariat support to the Steering Committee as well as HKSAR's participation in the Leading Group for the Development of the Greater Bay Area;
2. To assist in the liaison with Mainland authorities as well as Macao SAR Government in the pursuit of Greater Bay Area Development;
3. To assist in the formulation of overall PR strategy to promote the Greater Bay Area Development and overseeing the implementation of PR efforts;
4. To oversee the operation of the Greater Bay Area Development Office, including matters concerning financial and human resources;
5. To assist in providing support and coordinating cross-bureaux efforts in taking forward the Greater Bay Area Development.

Proposed Organisation Chart of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) Development Office



 Proposed directorate posts to be created
 17 non-directorate posts to be created

Post retitled from DS(CMA)3
 * Post retitled from PAS(CMA)6