

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)262/2023

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 31 March 2023

Chief Executive leading Legislative Council Members to visit Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee (“HC”) to endorse the proposal for Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Members, at the invitation of the Chief Executive (“CE”), to conduct a duty visit to the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”).

Background

2. GBA is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in the country. In the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the 14th Five-Year Plan promulgated in February 2019 and March 2021 respectively, the country has expressed clear support for deepening the cooperation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in relation to GBA development, with a view to taking forward the synergistic economic development of GBA, leveraging the complementary advantages, and developing an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, CE will lead LegCo Members and relevant officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) to visit GBA for observing first-hand the latest developments and opportunities in GBA, as well as enhancing communication and understanding with Mainland officials and sharing experiences with them, so as to join forces in promoting the high quality development of GBA and enabling Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country.

Tentative arrangements

Dates of visit

4. The visit is to be conducted in the third week of April. Members will be notified separately when the exact dates have been confirmed.

Visit programme

5. The delegation will visit GBA Mainland cities, meet with relevant leaders of provinces and cities, and visit local key facilities and projects relating to the areas of innovation, technology and smart city; environmental protection; youth development; as well as culture, arts and sports, etc. Details of the programme are being arranged by the HKSAR Government.

Financial arrangements

6. Under rule 29A of the House Rules, approval of HC is required for any visit proposed in response to an invitation, and any visit which is to be conducted under the name of the Council or any of its committee(s), for which the funding is to be charged to individual Members' Overseas Duty Visit ("ODV") accounts.¹

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to endorse: (a) the aforesaid duty visit proposal; and (b) the charging of the expenditure of the duty visit of Members to individual Members' ODV accounts.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 March 2023

¹ Under rule 29A of the House Rules, subject to the endorsement of HC, the expenditure of Members' visits outside Hong Kong may be charged to Members' ODV accounts. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an ODV account of \$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong. The fund in the account is for use by the Member in a four-year term. Any expenditure over the standard or the available balance in the ODV account has to be borne by the Members concerned.