

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

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## **Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Meeting on 12 May 2025**

### **Background brief on digital government and smart city development**

#### **Purpose**

This paper summarizes Members' past discussions on the Government's efforts in promoting digital government and smart city development since the Seventh Legislative Council ("LegCo").

#### **Background**

2. The Administration published in December 2017 the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong, setting out 76 initiatives under the six areas of **"Smart Government"**, **"Smart Mobility"**, **"Smart Living"**, **"Smart Environment"**, **"Smart People"** and **"Smart Economy"**, with a view to addressing the challenges of city management and improving people's livelihood through innovation and technology ("I&T"). Subsequently, [the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0](#) ("Blueprint 2.0") was released in December 2020, in which more than 130 smart city initiatives were further proposed. On the other hand, [the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint](#) ("I&T Blueprint") was promulgated in December 2022 to establish a development path and a systematic strategic planning for Hong Kong's I&T development, in which four major development directions were proposed. Among them, under the development direction of "promoting digital economy development and developing Hong Kong into a smart city", a number of strategies and priorities of smart city development were put forth.

3. Paying heed to the development strategies of the Blueprint 2.0 and the I&T Blueprint, the Administration advised that policy bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") have been committed to **promoting the development of a "smart government", improving management**

**efficiency and optimizing city management through leveraging technology**, including the implementation of a series of digitalization initiatives to expedite the **provision of government services** by B/Ds **through electronic means** to facilitate the public and enterprises in accessing such services. The Administration also pointed out that artificial intelligence (“AI”) is a crucial component for the development of digital economy and smart city. **An AI ecosystem is being built in Hong Kong** on various fronts, such as infrastructure and computing power supply, research and development (“R&D”) of I&T, governance and regulation, exploring application scenarios, nurturing and attracting talent, and deepening cooperation with the Mainland, so as to promote the governance and application of AI.

## **Major views and concerns expressed by Members**

### Smart Government

4. Given that the Blueprint 2.0 had been promulgated for almost five years, Members urged the Administration to **formulate the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 3.0** to demonstrate the new directions and initiatives for Hong Kong’s future smart city development. The Administration advised that it would prioritize the implementation of the “Smart Government” initiatives under the Blueprint 2.0 and the I&T Blueprint, and had established the Digital Policy Office (“DPO”) in July 2024 dedicated to formulating policies and measures relating to digital government, data governance and information technology. DPO would also promote the application of advanced technology and common digital infrastructure and services among B/Ds, and progressively launch over a hundred of digital government and smart city initiatives in 2024 and 2025.

5. Members suggested that the Administration should model after the practice of Foshan to **establish city command centres** for collecting and using various urban data, and **adopt the latest technology such as drones** to enhance city management. The Administration pointed out that its current strategy was to connect the city management data held by different departments, before allowing departments to access the data across systems and optimize the relevant work as needed. On the other hand, a Big Data Analytics Platform had been set up to provide B/Ds with various analytics tools to develop their own big data analytics and AI projects. Meanwhile, facilities such as smart lampposts would be installed for collecting the necessary city data, and public management and related systems would be developed to enhance the capability of city management.

6. Members were concerned about how the Administration would **enhance the application of AI technologies in various public services**, such as the introduction of HKPilot, a generative AI document processing copilot application, and the use of chatbot technology to improve government hotline services. The Administration advised that the pilot use of HKPilot had begun in mid-2024 to assist government personnel in handling document processing tasks such as drafting, translation and summarization of documents. All B/Ds had been invited to arrange for government personnel of different grades to participate in the pilot. A chatbot building infrastructure had also been introduced in 2023 to assist B/Ds in developing chatbots relevant to their scope of work, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of public services and optimizing user experience.

7. Members also raised concerns about issues related to **the interchange of data within the Government**. According to the Administration, a common data platform, known as the Consented Data Exchange Gateway (“CDEG”), had been established and was made fully open for adoption by B/Ds since mid-2024. In compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), CDEG enabled B/Ds to exchange personal data collected through this unified platform upon obtaining authorization from members of the public, thus reducing the need for them to provide personal data repeatedly and simplifying the verification process for departments, and helped to promote the development of more innovative electronic services by B/Ds that would benefit the public and businesses.

### Smart Mobility

8. To expedite the trial and use of autonomous vehicles (“AVs”), Members urged the Administration to **formulate a roadmap for taking forward autonomous driving technology** and to encourage the industry to invest or participate in the development of the relevant technology. The Administration advised that the new regulatory regime for AVs was implemented in March 2024 to provide flexibility for the industry to test and apply AVs under more complex road conditions. The Administration also pointed out that the current development of autonomous driving technology in Hong Kong was still at an early stage. It would continue to keep in view the developments in the Mainland and overseas, and encourage the industry to introduce more trials and pilot projects on AVs to map out the way forward for AV development.

9. Members were also concerned about the use of the **Traffic Data Analytics System** by the public. The Administration pointed out that the system, using the Big Data Analytics Platform launched by the Government,

analysed past and real-time traffic, transport and weather data, as well as weather forecast data from the Hong Kong Observatory to provide the estimated travel times in real time and for the next 15 to 90 minutes. The Administration advised that the system had been operating smoothly since its launch. Members considered that, given the interrelated nature of various traffic and transport data, **a central command centre should be set up to integrate and analyse traffic and transport data from different scenarios** to enhance data availability, thereby promoting the development of technologies such as next-generation AI applications.

### Smart Living

10. Noting that the “iAM Smart” platform was launched in 2020 to promote the wider use of personal digital identity in the community, Members suggested that the Administration should **step up the publicity and promotion of “iAM Smart”, while developing functions suitable for use by the private sector in “iAM Smart”**, in order to increase its utilization rate. The Administration advised that public and private organizations, such as banks and medical institutions, would be invited to provide the relevant online services through “iAM Smart”, and the current fee waiver arrangement would also be extended for three years to attract more organizations to use the platform. It was also the Administration’s plan to require “iAM Smart” to be fully adopted by all government online services by 2025, and to make use of personalized design and AI technology to make recommendations to users on suitable services.

11. Members enquired how the Administration would **promote the use of electronic payment (“e-payment”) means by small and medium enterprises (“SMEs”) and the public**. The Administration advised that in order to encourage more local retail and catering merchants to adopt e-payment, it had liaised with the relevant industry organizations to facilitate the active connection between e-payment operators and industry organizations, with a view to providing the industry (particularly SMEs) with the most suitable and cost-effective payment solutions. In addition, the People’s Bank of China and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority were working together to implement the linkage of the Internet Banking Payment System in the Mainland and the Faster Payment System in Hong Kong, with a view to enabling the public to make real-time, small-value and cross-boundary remittances, thus helping to promote market connection.

### Smart Environment

12. Members expressed concern about the measures taken by the Administration to **promote the application of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong** to facilitate its green transformation **in pursuit of carbon neutrality**.

The Administration advised that the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong was promulgated in June 2024 to create a local environment conducive to the development of hydrogen energy in a prudent and orderly manner. The Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel was also set up in 2022 to jointly formulate best practices, regulations and standards, etc. for the safe application of hydrogen energy in the local context, and to actively study the development and commercialization pathways of various hydrogen energy technologies by promoting local trial projects on hydrogen energy, having regard to the development needs of Hong Kong.

13. Noting the Administration's proposal in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles ("EVs") to stop new registration of fuel-propelled private cars in 2035 or earlier to attain zero vehicular emissions before 2050, Members urged the Administration to **ensure an adequate supply of EV charging facilities** to address the increasing demand from private EV owners.

14. According to the Administration, in order to encourage the provision of charging-enabling infrastructure at parking spaces of new private buildings, the arrangement of gross floor area concessions was tightened in 2011 to only provide concession for underground car parks where EV charging-enabling infrastructure was installed at each car parking space. In addition, the Administration was preparing to gradually convert some of the existing petrol and liquefied petroleum gas filling stations into quick charging stations, so as to support the provision of charging services for more diverse types of vehicles. Furthermore, to promote the green transformation of public land transport, the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis was published in December 2024, in which a number of measures were proposed, including subsidizing franchised bus operators and the taxi trades to purchase electric buses and electric taxis, and encouraging the industry to expand charging facilities.

### Smart People

15. Members enquired about the Administration's concrete plans to **promote the popularization of I&T application**, with a view to nurturing a highly adaptive population to embrace changes in technology. Members also suggested that **coding and AI should be incorporated into the regular curriculum of primary schools** to nurture students' interest in learning things related to Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics ("STEAM") from an early age. **Primary school students should also be encouraged to acquire STEAM knowledge**, so that they could establish a solid foundation in science, mathematics and technology. The Administration advised that it would promote the popularization of I&T

application on various fronts, including promoting STEAM education “for all” in primary and secondary schools, organizing activities to enhance the ability and interest of the elderly in using digital technologies, as well as enhancing the collaboration with groups from different sectors and local organizations in hosting activities and conducting promotional campaigns to foster the popularization of I&T at various levels of society.

16. Members expressed concern about the talent shortage in the technology sector and enquired about the measures taken by the Administration to **trawl for I&T talent to fill the vacancies**. The Administration advised that apart from nurturing local talent, it had launched a series of measures to proactively attract top-notch Mainland and overseas I&T talent. These included providing a fast-track arrangement to admit technology talent from the Mainland and overseas to work on R&D in Hong Kong under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme; and collaborating with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises to provide special facilitation measures in a targeted manner, as well as one-stop facilitation services to attract top-notch I&T talent to bring with them their businesses or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong. Besides, measures had been introduced to enhance the Research Talent Hub scheme, including an increase in the maximum level of monthly allowance for research talents with a bachelor’s degree or above, and the provision of an additional living allowance for research talents with a doctoral degree, with a view to strengthening the nurturing and attraction of I&T talent from around the world.

### Smart Economy

17. Members enquired about the Administration’s specific plans to **help financial technology (“Fintech”) enterprises and companies promote their business through the use of financial data, including cross-boundary financial data**. The Administration advised that it would develop key Fintech infrastructure, such as the Open Application Programming Interface and Commercial Data Interchange (“CDI”), to allow Fintech-aided services to operate efficiently. The Administration was also exploring to connect CDI with the Land Registry in phases from 2025, in order to enhance the mortgage and loan assessment process for individuals and companies. As regards the cross-boundary financial data, the Shenzhen and Hong Kong authorities had been piloting the Shenzhen-Hong Kong cross-boundary data validation platform since May 2024, which utilized blockchain technology and data coding for document verification. The Administration indicated that it would continue to maintain close liaison with Mainland regulators and various stakeholders to strike for greater policy room for the cross-boundary exchange and application of financial data.

## **Relevant papers**

18. A list of relevant papers available on the LegCo website is in the [Appendix](#).

Council Business Divisions  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
7 May 2025

## Digital government and smart city development

## List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting	8 April 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item III: Enhancing digital infrastructure and support to the development of the artificial intelligence ecosystem <a href="#">Agenda</a> Item IV: Establishment of the Digital Policy Office <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>
	13 May 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item III: “Digital Corporate Identity” platform <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>
	8 July 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item III: Latest enhancement of “iAM Smart” <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of Smart City	7 June 2023*	<a href="#">Report of the Subcommittee</a>
	12 July 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item I: Update on Smart City Development of Hong Kong <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>
	22 October 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item I: Updates on the promotion of smart government and digital infrastructure development <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>
	20 January 2025	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item I: Update on the implementation of smart mobility initiatives <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>



Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
	28 April 2025	<a href="#">Agenda</a> Item I: Update on the implementation of smart people initiatives <a href="#">Agenda</a> Item II: Update on the implementation of smart environment initiatives

\* Date of issue

Council meeting	Member's motion
29 May 2024	<a href="#">Members' motion</a> : Developing digital education <a href="#">Progress report</a>
20 November 2024	<a href="#">Members' motion</a> : Formulating an AI Plus strategy <a href="#">Progress report</a>
26 March 2025	<a href="#">Members' motion</a> : Accelerating the development of a smart government to better assist the public in integrating into the life in the Greater Bay Area

Council meeting	Question
24 January 2024	<a href="#">Question 18</a> : Development and application of artificial intelligence
31 January 2024	<a href="#">Question 5</a> : Developing artificial intelligence
10 April 2024	<a href="#">Question 14</a> : Implementing digital government
24 April 2024	<a href="#">Question 9</a> : Immigration clearance for visitors to Hong Kong
8 May 2024	<a href="#">Question 20</a> : Multi-functional smart lampposts
30 October 2024	<a href="#">Question 1</a> : Promoting digital corporate identity
27 November 2024	<a href="#">Question 10</a> : Smart Village Pilots

<b>Council meeting</b>	<b>Question</b>
18 December 2024	<a href="#">Question 5</a> : Helping enterprises leverage artificial intelligence technologies
22 January 2025	<a href="#">Question 3</a> : Application of robots and artificial intelligence technologies
19 March 2025	<a href="#">Question 20</a> : Development of artificial intelligence
2 April 2025	<a href="#">Question 7</a> : Large language models developed in Hong Kong
16 April 2025	<a href="#">Question 13</a> : Using artificial intelligence to optimize public service processes