

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0440)

Head: (118) Planning Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Town Planning Information Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Planning (Ivan CHUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Government states that it will continue to “organise activities and thematic exhibitions to reach out to the community in promoting Hong Kong’s planning and development, and produce publications to enhance public awareness of town planning in Hong Kong and to facilitate dissemination of planning information”. According to the key performance indicators under this Programme, the estimated number of information pamphlets/booklets published in 2024 will be 110, which is considerably higher than the actual number of information pamphlets/booklets published in 2023 by 44%. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number of visitors to the City Gallery and the Mobile Exhibition Centre in 2023;
- (b) whether the Department will formulate key performance indicators in respect of the work of the City Gallery and the Mobile Exhibition Centre;
- (c) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to the work of the City Gallery and the Mobile Exhibition Centre; and
- (d) the basis on which the estimation of an increase in number of information pamphlets/booklets to be published in 2024 is made?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) In 2023, the total numbers of visitors to the City Gallery (CG) and the Mobile Exhibition Centre (MEC) were 96 067 (including 83 455 on-site and 12 612 online visitors) and 13 147 (at 36 venues) respectively.
- (b) The CG showcases the achievements of Hong Kong’s planning and infrastructure development. It provides a venue for permanent exhibits and thematic exhibitions, and acts as a platform for collaboration and exchange of planning ideas as well as public engagement. The MEC is an exhibition van of the Planning Department (PlanD) to reach out to the schools and the general public to promote town planning in Hong Kong.

To achieve our aim of enhancing public awareness of planning matters and facilitating dissemination of planning information to the public, we are committed to organising more thematic exhibitions, seminars, workshops and activities at CG in collaboration with other government departments, professional institutes and tertiary institutions, on top of the permanent exhibits. We will also explore the possibility of visiting more venues by the MEC to engage different sectors of the public.

- (c) The allocated financial provisions for the operation and maintenance of CG and MEC for 2024-25 are \$14.79 million and \$71,500 respectively. For CG, an outsourced management contractor is deployed for provision of management and supporting services, which involves manpower of 23 on-site staff, with supervision by a team of three professionals from PlanD. For MEC, its work is mainly overseen by another team of two professionals of PlanD, with a non-civil service contract staff serving as vehicle driver and activity assistant. The professionals of PlanD responsible for supervising CG and MEC are also involved in other duties under their respective purviews.
- (d) PlanD is committed to promoting awareness of town planning and providing town planning information services to the public, under which PlanD informs and consults the public on the latest planning proposals. In 2024, the estimated number of information pamphlets/booklets to be published is anticipated to be 45% higher than that of 2023 (i.e. from 76 to 110) mainly because more public engagement activities, including publication of publicity leaflets/booklets, exhibitions and social media campaigns, are planned to be conducted in 2024 for various development proposals under the Northern Metropolis.

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