

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

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**(Question Serial No. 2003)**

Head: (118) Planning Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Territorial Planning, (2) District Planning  
Controlling Officer: Director of Planning (YIP Chi Kwai, Tom)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the development of the Northern Metropolis (NM), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In respect of the consultancy study on the Blue and Green Recreation, Tourism and Conservation Circle in the NM to be jointly commissioned by the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, what are the concerned internal expenditure, consultancy fees and the programme? In the course of the study, will there be collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities, and in what ways, to enhance the tourism and ecological synergy between the two places?
2. Having regard to the importance and uniqueness of the NM development, as well as the NM's close connection with Shenzhen and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, will the planning standards applicable to the NM (including but not limited to the provision of cultural and sports facilities) be reviewed?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Blue and Green Recreation, Tourism and Conservation Circle, situated in the easternmost part of the Northern Metropolis (NM), covers a vast expanse with abundant blue and green resources and numerous traditional villages, holding significant potential for recreational and tourism development. The study aims to consolidate and enhance the recreational and tourism resources in the area. The Planning Department (PlanD) and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) plan to commission consultants to commence the study within 2026. In the course of study, relevant stakeholders, including local communities, green groups, the tourism industry, etc., will be consulted. We will also liaise with relevant counterparts in Shenzhen to coordinate the planning of blue and green resources across both regions, thereby driving the development of recreation and tourism. The management of the consultancy service will be undertaken by in-house staff of PlanD and CEDD without incurring any additional expenditure.

2. Town planning must be people-oriented, with care taken to suit the local circumstances and keep pace with the times. The Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines stipulate general guidelines for determining the scale, location and site requirements of various land uses, community facilities and infrastructures according to the population and other factors to ensure that adequate land will be reserved in the planning process to facilitate social and economic development and provision of appropriate public facilities to meet the needs of the public. The relevant guidelines aim to serve as general reference that can be applied flexibly. In planning for the NM, relevant bureaux/departments will exercise flexibility that specific policy initiatives of NM, development positioning, characteristics of the residential and working populations, regional needs, and specific social and local circumstances will be considered holistically for making appropriate adjustments to the provision of facilities (e.g. additional large-scale educational, sports and cultural facilities), with a view to meeting the genuine needs of the public and society.

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