

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)218**

**(Question Serial No. 3392)**

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

Question:

Under Programme (3), the provision for 2026-27 is significantly lower than the revised estimate for 2025-26 by 7.8%, mainly due to the reduction in operating expenses. However, as various projects in the Northern Metropolis enter the detailed planning stage, the demand for public consultation should reasonably increase. Please advise this Committee on:

- (1) whether the reduction in the relevant provision will affect the quality and quantity of the Department's organisation of public engagement activities, exhibitions, and production of publicity materials; and
- (2) what concrete plans the Department has for 2026-27 to effectively utilise limited resources in explaining to the public complex large-scale planning projects such as the San Tin Technopole and the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

Public engagement activities for the New Development Areas (NDAs) in Northern Metropolis (NM) and other NDAs (including Lung Kwu Tan and Tuen Mun West) are conducted under the relevant planning and engineering studies, with expenses incorporated in the expenditure involved in the studies. The relevant costs are borne by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), while the management of the studies and handling of public engagement activities will be undertaken by in-house staff of the Planning Department (PlanD) and CEDD as part of their overall duties.

When development projects enter the detailed design and construction stages, relevant government departments will consult local residents and stakeholders on the concrete proposals. Upon entering the statutory plan-making stage, PlanD will consult the public, including District Councils, in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) and explain the planning proposals to the local communities and citizens. Regarding the NM development, the Government has set up exhibition centres in 4 NDAs in NM, including Kwu Tung North, Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen and the Loop. The Government also

plans to establish a larger and multi-purpose core exhibition gallery for the NM in the Kwu Tung North NDA, with the first phase targeted for opening in 2027. This gallery will replace the aforementioned exhibition centre in Kwu Tung North, which is of a smaller scale. In addition, PlanD will flexibly make good use of various resources, including City Gallery, the websites of PlanD and Town Planning Board, as well as social media to disseminate information about major development projects more effectively and enable the public to better understand our planning proposals.

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