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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SV-DEVB(W)001	SV020	HONG Wen, Wendy	159	(6) Intra-Governmental Services
SV-DEVB(W)002	SV019	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	159	(5) Project Strategy and Governance

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-DEVB(W)001

(Question Serial No. SV020)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (6) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Among the community isolation facilities in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, which occupy about 19 hectares of land, those on the five hectares of land at the southern end of the Loop have been transferred to other suitable locations for reconfiguration. In regard to the remaining 14 or so hectares of land currently being used for purposes related to the Central Government-aided Emergency Hospital which will not be transferred in the near future, will the Government inform this Committee of the area of land occupied for such purposes?

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The community isolation facility (CIF) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop covers an area of about 19 hectares. The CIF on the five hectares of land at the southern end of the Loop was moved to other suitable locations for reconfiguration and reuse in the first quarter of this year. At present, the Civil Engineering and Development Department is carrying out site formation works on the land released so that construction of the five buildings in batch 1 under Phase 1 of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) can kick-start as soon as possible.

The remaining 14 hectares of land housing the CIF are within the construction area of the remaining batches of HSITP Phase 1. The Central Government-aided Emergency Hospital site and its living facilities are not located in the 14-hectare site.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. SV019)

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (5) Project Strategy and Governance

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As mentioned in the 2024-2025 Budget Speech, relevant bureaux and departments have reviewed the cost-effectiveness of works projects and give due regard to priority and urgency to adjust the implementation schedule. In the Medium Range Forecast, capital works expenditure could be contained at about \$90 billion per annum on average. In this connection, would the Government explain whether adjustments have been made to the estimated expenditure of public works in 2024-2025 accordingly having regard to the said review?

In addition, the Government mentioned in the written reply that projects with estimated costs not exceeding \$50 million are vetted under the Capital Works Reserve Fund block allocations. Would the Government provide supplementary information on whether minor works are covered under cost surveillance and project governance of the Project Strategy and Governance Office?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

Implementation of infrastructure projects is not only an investment for the future, but can also promote Hong Kong's economic development and enhance people's livelihood. In recent years, the Government has made all-out effort to press ahead with the land and housing supply projects, including new development areas and new towns, and also proposed a number of other works projects for improving the environment and people's livelihood. The Government needs to contain its expenditure on infrastructure works at a sustainable level. To this end, relevant bureaux and departments have reviewed the cost-effectiveness of works projects and give due regard to priority and urgency to adjust the implementation schedule. In deriving the capital works expenditure of about \$90 billion per annum on average in the Medium Range Forecast, the aforesaid implementation schedule of relevant works projects has been taken into consideration.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the financial ceiling of delegated authority for applicable Category D items in the Capital Works Programme was adjusted from \$30 million to \$50 million. Upon the implementation of the new ceiling, the Project Strategy and Governance Office under the Development Bureau has reviewed works projects with estimates between \$30 million to \$50 million to ensure cost-effectiveness of the relevant projects.

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