

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB179

(Question Serial No. 0137)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In 2017-18, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will expand the existing Green Volunteer Scheme to enhance community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the details regarding the expansion of the Scheme? Is there a target number for volunteers of the Scheme?
- 2) Will the Scheme involve engaging volunteers in the surveillance of potentially dangerous trees in urban areas? If so, are there any relevant courses provided for the volunteers and what is the expenditure involved?
- 3) Does the LCSD co-organise any tree surveillance courses with the Tree Management Office? If so, what are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

- 1) The Green Volunteer Scheme (the Scheme) aims to encourage members of the public to participate in voluntary services of greening activities and to assist in tree surveillance in the community. The number of Green Volunteers increased from around 6 500 in 2015-16 to over 7 000 in 2016-17 (up to end February 2017). Whilst there is no specific target number for 2017-18, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to work with the local community in 18 districts to promote the Scheme and recruit more Green Volunteers in 2017-18.
- 2) Under the Scheme, LCSD organises many training and workshops on basic horticultural knowledge, tree care, tree maintenance and tree problems for Green Volunteers to equip them with basic knowledge in horticulture and in spotting signs of tree problems. Relevant training and workshops on tree care and tree problems are provided to the Green Volunteers who are encouraged to assist in tree surveillance by

reporting problematic trees in the community to “1823” Call Centre. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure involved in promoting the Scheme, including that for provision of training, is about \$0.8 million.

- 3) The LCSD invites experts from the Tree Management Office to conduct seminars for the Green Volunteers on a range of tree-related topics, including tree care, indigenous trees species of Hong Kong, old and valuable trees, street trees, tree diseases, tree surveillance and tree planting. These seminars are conducted through internal deployment of resources.

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