

## Broad Functional Domains of KMDA

As already mentioned, KMDA's functional domains broadly extend over three areas, namely, regulatory functions, planning for development and project implementation. Besides these major functional areas, KMDA is also engaged in providing consultancy services and implementing projects on behalf of other government departments and agencies.

Under provisions of the West Bengal Town and Country (Planning & Development) Act 1979, KMDA prepares existing Land Use Maps and Registers (LUMRs) for different zones within KMA to be able to prepare Land Use and Development Control Plans for those sub areas. KMDA meticulously follows the process of preparation of LUMRs and LUDCPs as laid down in the Act itself. Adoption of the statutory planning documents is preceded by publication of the documents for public inspection, invitation of objections from the public, hearing of objections and incorporation of the necessary modifications in these documents. The LUDCPs provide for regulatory measures, enforcement of which would lead to an environment-friendly planned urban growth subject to protection and conservation of exhaustible natural resources and heritage. As the process of official adoption of LUDCPs usually takes a longer time, Development Control Regulation (DCRs) are often drafted and enforced to prevent unregulated and haphazard use and development of land, as an interim measure. In most cases, the responsibility of enforcement of LUDCPs and DCR are delegated to the units of local self-government. KMDA, however, retains the authority in selected areas/zones.

KMDA is engaged in carrying out different levels of planning exercise right from perspective plan to formulation of an investment programme. KMDA keeps on updating the perspective plan and sectoral development plans to take into account the changing physical, social and other contexts. KMDA does these exercises at periodic intervals. Whereas the perspective plan sets out the broad goals and objectives and puts forward a 'vision' to be achieved over a longer period of time, the sectoral master or development plans set out the norms and standards of infrastructure, services, the projected requirement of such infrastructure and services, the strategies to be adopted for achieving the projected requirement and an indicative requirement of funds for the purpose. KMDA strives to ensure that the

project-level interventions conform to the long-term plans.

KMDA formulates short-term action plans based on inter se priorities between different sectors of infrastructure, between zones of KMA and between economic groups of beneficiaries. Based on short-term action plans, KMDA undertakes preparation of project reports towards execution of the same by adopting a competitive tendering process. A large number of projects have so far been executed by KMDA covering different sectors of infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage and drainage, traffic and transportation, township and area development, housing and slum improvement, commercial complexes, parks and playground and so on and so forth. It would be pertinent to note that in the design of these interventions, the urban poor have always received priority. KMDA's interventions have not been confined to development of physical infrastructure alone but have extended to cover the fields of health and community development especially of the urban poor.

Notwithstanding the mandate laid down in the WBT&CP Act and WBMPC Act, KMDA perform has to operate and maintain some infrastructure facilities, especially those which are trans-municipal in nature.

KMDA has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation of the Government of India sponsored Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JN-NURM) for Kolkata and Asansol urban areas. KMDA also functions as one of the executing agencies for JN-NURM projects in KMA.

KMDA has been approached by different government department/agencies for planning, designing and implementing certain projects that require specialized skills. This has happened because of the credibility that KMDA has achieved over the long years of its existence. KMDA is provided with the funds for implementing the projects on turnkey basis and is allowed to retain service charges at mutually acceptable rates. In KMDA parlance, these are called 'deposit works'. KMDA has also extended consultancy services to government departments and agencies in specific areas. Introduction of Geographic Information System (GIS) in municipal functioning has been one of the prime areas where KMDA has provided these services to ULBs.