

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
12 June 2001**

Policy and structure for the development of sport and recreation

PURPOSE

This paper outlines the existing policy objectives for sport and recreation and the relevant administrative structure. This paper also reports on progress in working out a strategic plan for sports development in Hong Kong.

BACKGROUND

2. In his 2000 Policy Address, the Chief Executive pledged to strengthen the Government's co-operation with the various sports organizations in Hong Kong and to raise the professional standards of our athletes. The Administration has made a commitment to assess the balance of resources required to meet the needs of sports development and to begin within 2001 work on a detailed blueprint for strategic sports development.

SPORTS AND RECREATION POLICY

3. The current broad policy objective for sport and recreation is to nurture an environment within which the people of Hong Kong can enjoy a wide range of sports and recreational opportunities. We also aim to encourage professionalism and excellence in this field. To help achieve these goals, we aim to -

- (a) raise the profile of sport and physical recreation in the community, emphasizing the link between exercise, physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle;

- (b) provide recreational and sports facilities that meet the needs of the community;
- (c) raise the standard and the profile of Hong Kong sport internationally; and
- (d) work with the Hong Kong Sports Development Board and other sports bodies to promote physical recreation and sport at all levels of the community.

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

4. The key organizations involved in sports development in Hong Kong are -

(a) **Home Affairs Bureau**

responsible for the allocation of government funding for sports development and promotion and for co-ordinating overall policy;

(b) **Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

responsible for the organisation of community-wide sports and recreational programmes and for planning and management of venues and facilities;

(c) **Hong Kong Sports Development Board**

statutory body to promote the development of sport, in particular by channeling funding support to sports associations and by supervising training of elite athletes through programmes based at the Hong Kong Sports Institute; and

(d) Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

representative of the International Olympic Committee responsible for Hong Kong SAR's participation in the Olympic movement, including major games and some sports promotion and training activities.

SPORTS POLICY REVIEW

5. Over the past decade, the responsibility for drawing up strategic plans for sports development has rested with the Sports Development Board. With the setting up of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on 1 January 2000, the majority of public sports and recreation venues and associated resources now come under the broad policy responsibility of the Home Affairs Bureau. As the policy bureau for sport, and with the responsibility for rationalizing resources allocated to sports development, the Bureau is in the best position to take the lead in formulating a strategic plan for sports development. Such a plan would address key issues related to -

- (a) promotion of sport throughout the community;
- (b) planning and development of facilities to meet the needs of the public and of sports associations;
- (c) the future of the elite athlete development and training;
- (d) the further development of the sports administrative structure; and
- (e) funding strategies for sports development.

6. On 17 April a Sports Policy Review Team was set up in the Home Affairs Bureau to begin work on the formulation of a strategic plan. This team will complete an initial review of key issues related to sports policy and development before the end of this year.

WAY FORWARD

7. Upon completion of its work, the Sports Policy Review Team will deliver a report on sports development strategies. We intend to conduct consultation on the team's recommendations, with a view to the report forming the basis of a strategic policy plan for sports development over the period 2002-2007.

Home Affairs Bureau
11 June 2001