

LEGCO PANEL ON HOME AFFAIRS

Provision of a Multi-Purpose Grass Pitch on Sai Tso Wan Former Landfill

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is to brief Members on the proposal to build a multi-purpose grass pitch on the former landfill site at Sai Tso Wan, Kowloon. We intend to seek the Public Works Sub-committee's approval at its meeting on 6 December to upgrade this project to Category A in the Public Works Programme.

BACKGROUND

Demand for Grass Pitches

2. There is a very heavy demand for the use of grass pitches throughout Hong Kong. The utilization rate for the 55 grass pitches under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is on average about 98%. At peak times there are simply insufficient pitches to meet the demand of the National Sports Associations, other sports organizations and casual users.

Availability of Former Landfill Sites

3. In order to provide for the beneficial use of land on restored former landfill sites under the management of the Environmental Protection Department, we have proposed that where suitable, these sites be set aside for the development of recreational facilities. Given the nature of these sites, they are suitable for the provision of "low intensity" venues such as grass pitches, parks and golfing facilities.

4. Following discussion with the former Municipal Councils, in 1996 the Hong Kong Jockey Club agreed in principle to donate \$300 million towards recreational developments on the former landfill

sites at Sai Tso Wan, Tseung Kwan O, Shuen Wan and Jordan Valley. The former Councils themselves agreed to pay the balance of the cost of these developments. A summary of the facilities to be provided on the sites in question is at Annex A.

THE PROJECT

5. We are now ready to begin detailed design and construction of the first of these projects, namely the provision of a natural grass pitch for football and baseball on the former Sai Tso Wan landfill. Ancillary recreational facilities on the site will include a children's play area and a picnic area. We plan to start construction in January 2002, and aim to make the facility available to the public in November 2002.

6. We consider that usage rates for a pitch at Sai Tso Wan, which has excellent public transport links, would be particularly strong, especially as we propose to design the facility not only as football pitch, but as a venue for the development of baseball in Hong Kong.

7. At December 1999 prices, the total estimated cost for this project is \$37.6 million of which \$31.3 million will be met from the Hong Kong Jockey Club's donation. The remainder of the \$300 million donation will be used to help meet the cost of the three other projects described at Annex A. The donation will be apportioned on a "pro rata" basis in accordance with the estimated costs of these projects, as shown in the table at Annex B.

WAY FORWARD

8. Subject to Members' views, we shall submit the proposal to upgrade this project to Category A to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration at its meeting on 6 December 2000. As regards the other three projects described at Annex A, we aim to develop these in accordance with the timetable at Annex C.

Home Affairs Bureau
6 November, 2000

Summary of Facilities to be provided on Landfill Sites at Sai Tso Wan, Tseung Kwan O, Shuen Wan and Jordan Valley

(A) Sai Tso Wan

- A natural grass pitch
- A children's play area
- A picnic area

(B) Tseung Kwan O

- Four natural grass pitches for soccer and rugby
- A natural grass pitch for baseball and cricket
- A model car racing circuit

(C) Shuen Wan

- A nine-hole public golf course
- A driving range area
- A clubhouse

(D) Jordan Valley

- Environmental education centre and park
- Two gateball pitches
- A model car racing circuit
- A picnic area

Apportionment of Costs for the Recreational Development of Landfill Sites

Project	Contribution (\$million)		Total
	HKJC	Government	
Preliminary Feasibility Studies and Initial Designs	6.0	-	6.0
Consultancy Studies for Landfill Development	5.0	14.5	19.5
Recreational Development of Landfill Site at Sai Tso Wan	31.3	6.3	37.6
Recreational Development of Landfill Site at Tseung Kwan O	71.9	14.5	86.4
Recreational Development of Landfill Site at Shuen Wan	108.9	20.6	129.5
Recreational Development of Landfill Site at Jordan Valley	76.9	15.4	92.3
Total	300.0	71.3	371.3

**Timetable for Commissioning of Recreational Facilities
on Landfill Sites at Tseung Kwan O, Shuen Wan and Jordan Valley**

<u>Location of Landfill</u>	<u>Commissioning of Facilities</u>
Tseung Kwan O	End-2003
Shuen Wan	End-2004
Jordan Valley	Mid-2005