

康樂及文化事務署

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Flora Tai)

14 December 2006

Dear Miss Tai,

Panel on Home Affairs**Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and
Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils****Minutes of Meeting on 23 October 2006**

Referring to paragraph 13 of the captioned minutes of meeting held on 23 October 2006, we provide as per attached the consolidated response to the views of the DCs expressed at the meeting (Annex).

As for the request at para 19 of the minutes to provide the original and current implementation schedules of outstanding ex-MC leisure and cultural services (LCS) projects, we would reiterate our response to a similar request made by the Subcommittee in May 2005 that we had researched into past records and had found that during 1997-98 to 1999-2000, the progress made by ex-RC in taking forward its LCS projects varied from time to time. Since the Subcommittee's primary concern was to expedite the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects, we deem it appropriate to focus our efforts in exploring ways to speed up their delivery. To achieve this end, a steering committee, co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works), would be convened to oversee the implementation of these projects and to resolve problems impeding progress.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Karen YUEN)

for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

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c.c. Secretary for Home Affairs
(Attn: Ms Janet Wong) (Fax No. 2519 7404)

Director of Architectural Services
(Attn: Mr Wilson Lee) (Fax No. 2523 4693)

Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
(Attn: Mr Edwin Tong) (Fax No. 2971 0774)

Annex**Consolidated Response to concerns expressed by District Councils at the Subcommittee Meeting on 23 October 2006**Tai Po DC

On the two pilot Private Sector Finance (PSF) projects, Members were informed at the Subcommittee meeting that the Administration had encountered difficulties to proceed with the two projects, i.e. Kwun Tong Leisure and Cultural Centre (formerly known as Redevelopment of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool) and the construction of an ice sports centre, a bowling centre and a town park in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O by using the PSF approach. Subsequently on 10 November 2006, the Administration reported in detail the problems to the Panel on Home Affairs and received support on the modification of the mode of delivery to build a new Kwun Tong Swimming Pool (instead of renovating the existing pool) and construct the civic centre in Kwun Tong, and the town park and an indoor sports centre in Tsueng Kwan O Area 45 under the Public Works Programme.

2. The Administration had worked out the overall priority list for the implementation of leisure and cultural services (LCS) projects in Tai Po on the basis of the DC's views and would further discuss with Tai Po DC about the "Local Open Space Area 6, Tai Po" project.

North DC

3. For the development of civic centres, there is a need to ensure the best use of public resources having regard to a range of factors including views of the cultural community, existing provision of such facilities and their usage level, cultural venue and related policies, and relevant consultancy studies conducted before proceeding on the actual planning of the facilities subject to availability of resources and feasibility study.

4. The Administration at present does not have plan to build new civic centre in the North District in the short run, but will continue to review the situation regularly having regard to the assessment of the Consultancy Study on the Provision of Regional/District Cultural and Performance Facilities in Hong Kong and changes in the usage rate of the existing facilities in the district.

Yuen Long DC

5. The Administration is fully committed to the provision of LCS facilities in the Yuen Long District to meet local needs. Apart from pursuing LCS projects to cope with the rapid population growth in Tin Shui Wai (TSW) in the past years, we have also provided and planned various new facilities in the Yuen Long town centre and rural areas: Ping Pak Lane Park (with a 7-a-side soccer pitch, a basketball-cum-volley ball court, children play area etc) at Ping Shan and Ping Ha Road Garden (with a basketball court) at Ha Tsuen were commissioned for use in mid and late 2004 respectively. Two new basketball-cum-volleyball courts and a toilet block at Tung Tau Industrial Area Playground were opened to the public for use in mid 2006.

6. In addition, the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre is expected to open in early 2007. We are also actively pursuing a basketball court-cum-sitting out area at Ko Po Tsuen, Kam Tin, and a local open space at Hung Tak Road, Hung Shui Kiu, to meet the DC and local aspirations. Subject to funding approval, construction works are expected to commence in late 2007 for completion by late 2008. A public library cum sports centre (with a 25m indoor heated swimming pool) at TSW south/ Ping Shan and a public library cum sports centre in Area 3 at Yuen Long town centre under planning are expected to commence construction works in mid 2008 and early 2009 respectively. We have also initiated a site search for a sports centre at Kam Tin to cater for the demand of indoor recreational facilities in the rural area.

7. In Tin Shui Wai, we will open a small library at Tin Chak Shopping Centre in mid December 2006. A sports centre in Area 17, four basketball courts and a toilet-cum-changing block in Area 107 and a local open space in Areas 25, 25A and 25B under construction will be completed by mid 2007. Construction works of a district open space in Area 107 and a district square in Areas 29 and 33A will commence in late 2006 and mid 2007 respectively. We are also planning a sports centre (with a community hall) in Area 101.

8. Regarding the provision of sports centre, with a population of about 550 000, Yuen Long District should be provided with 8 sports centres according to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). Apart from the three existing sports centres, one sports centre (Area 17 Tin Shui Wai) is already under construction, three (Tin Shui Wai south/Ping Shan, Area 101 Tin Shui Wai and Area 3 Yuen Long town centre) are under active planning and one (Kam Tin) is at its initial planning stage. These sports centres should be able to meet the existing and anticipated requirements of indoor recreational facilities in Yuen Long District. We shall regularly review the priority of taking forward additional sports centre projects in consultation with Yuen Long DC and taking into account the usage rates of the existing facilities.

9. We will continue to work in close collaboration with the DC, Rural Committees, Yuen Long District Office, Yuen Long District Lands Office and the Planning Department with a view to providing appropriate LCS facilities for residents in Yuen Long District.

Sha Tin DC

10. According to the HKPSG, a library can be provided for a population of 200 000. With a population of about 625 200, the Sha Tin District is now served by a major library (Sha Tin Public Library), a district library (Ma On Shan Public Library), a small library (Lek Yuen Public Library) and 12 mobile library stops including a mobile library stop at Mei Lam Estate, Tai Wai. To further enhance library services in the district, renovations to improve the overall design and facilities of the Sha Tin Public Library will be carried out in mid 2007.

11. Hin Tin Swimming Pool Phase II (with a 50m indoor heated swimming pool and a Jacuzzi) and a local open space in Area 11 will complete by mid 2007 and early 2008 respectively. We will also carry out works of Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade by 3 phases starting in mid 2007 for completion by early 2010 so as to expedite the project.

12. We shall strive to expedite planning work for the Indoor Recreation Centre-cum-Library Area 14B Sha Tin. We shall also closely monitor the demand of library services in the district and consult the DC in planning new library facilities projects.

Kwun Tong DC

13. There were practical difficulties to expedite the Lam Tin North Municipal Services Building project for the time being as we have to address the need to achieve a satisfactory plot ratio in order to fully utilise the potential of the site. We would actively explore whether there is room to advance its delivery schedule as the project develops in its planning process.

14. On 16 November 2006, we consulted the Kwun Tong DC on the scope of development of the two PSF replacement projects, namely the Cross District Community Cultural Centre in Lower Ngau Tau Kok, Kwun Tong and the Redevelopment of Kwun Tong Recreation Ground and Kwun Tong Swimming Pool Complex. The DC supported the two projects and urged for their early implementation under the Public Works Programme. We would proceed with their delivery in full speed.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
December 2006