

**Response to Views/Submissions from Deputations
On Sports Development at the Meeting of the
Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
held on 11 May 2007**

Introduction

This information note sets out the Administration's response to comments put forward by deputations on sports development in Hong Kong at the meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) held on 11 May 2007. Some of the views are related to the redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) a funding proposal of which will be considered by the LegCo Public Works Subcommittee at its meeting on 23 May 2007.

Background

2. At the meeting of the LegCo HA Panel, Members discussed the enhanced support for elite athletes and the proposed redevelopment of the HKSI. Deputations, including the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), District Council (DC) members, sports bodies' representatives and an individual, offered views on the two subjects.

Administration's Response

3. It was agreed that the Administration should supplement its response to the views expressed by deputations made at the meeting in a written submission to facilitate consideration by Members. In this connection, a summary of the Administration's comments on the views expressed is at the Annex for Members' reference.

Advice Sought

4. Members are invited to note the Administration's response to the relevant comments made by the deputations at the LegCo HA Panel meeting held on 11 May 2007.

**Response to Views/Submissions from Deputations on Sports Development at the Meeting of the
Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs held on 11 May 2007**

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
Submission of the Equal Opportunities Commission	
<i>Treatment of disabled and non-disabled athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of financial support for non-disabled elite athletes is much higher than those for the disabled, be it under the current scheme or the enhanced support scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The schemes provided for disabled and non-disabled athletes are materially different for both historical and practical reasons. For non-disabled athletes, financial support is aimed at assisting athletes to achieve excellence in sports and compete in major games. For disabled athletes, other sources of financial support (such as the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund), and other rehabilitation and social welfare services are available according to their needs, so as to encourage their participation in sports training.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) or the Government has given thoughts to the possibilities of equalising the grants under the Sports Aid Foundation Fund (SAFF) and the Sports Aid for the Disabled Fund (SADF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of grants to non-disabled or disabled athletes depends on factors such as the difference among the sports games, training needs and support available outside HKSI. The circumstances in the case of non-disabled athletes are materially different from those in the case of disabled athletes and there have always been two separate support schemes for these classes of athletes.• Nonetheless, the Administration agrees that in justified circumstances, such as when disabled athletes are giving up their studies or career in pursuing sports excellence, enhanced financial support should be provided. HKSI has agreed in principle that, subject to the recommendations from the relevant national sports associations (NSAs)

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
	<p>and the proof and justifications from the athletes, HKSI would exercise discretion to provide top-up financial support to disabled elite athletes on a case-by-case basis. The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled (HKPC&SAPD) and the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped have been informed of this proposal and are content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration has met the representative of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) on the treatment of disabled and non-disabled athletes together with representatives of HKSI on 17 May 2007. EOC has been informed that the sports sector as a whole is aware of and accepts the difference with the level of financial support disbursed through HKSI. The Administration will continue to discuss with EOC on this issue as necessary to address EOC's concern.
Submission of Mr Kwok Ming-chi	
<i>Provision of community sports facilities</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There seems to be a general lack of sports facilities in the New Territories West (NTW) region. The Administration should redress this shortfall rather than invest heavily on the redevelopment of HKSI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration is conscious of the recreational needs of residents in NTW region. In this connection, a total of 34 projects with an estimated project cost of some \$4,400 million are under construction or active planning in the NTW region, including Islands, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long Districts. Details of these projects arranged by district are at <u>Enclosure I to V</u>.
Submission of Mr Yue Kwok-leung, Tony, Chairman, Hong Kong Table Tennis Association	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports HKSI redevelopment so that training facilities can keep pace with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<p>increased sophistication in sports development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeveloping the HKSI right after the completion of the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events is a timely arrangement. • Glad to see that the Government is committed to putting in more resources to enhance the financial support to athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted.
<p>Submission of Mr Pang Chung, BBS, Hon Secretary General, Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC)</p>	
<p><i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the HKSI redevelopment project as it provides a home base for preparing Hong Kong athletes in systematic training for world-level competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<i>Enhanced support to elite athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKPC&SAPD considers that disabled athletes are given adequate financial support provided by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and public organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF&OC is developing a comprehensive retirement scheme for Hong Kong's top athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. This is part of the package for supporting elite athletes announced in the Chief Executive's 2006-07 Policy Address. The Administration will work closely with SF&OC.
Submission of the Hong Kong Tennis Association	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surprised to see the reduction in the number of tennis court from 14 to six in the redeveloped HKSI. • The tennis courts in the training base should be used exclusively by the Hong Kong Tennis Association (HKTA) for training purposes. • If the new tennis courts in the training base in the Kowloon Tsai Park can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be six outdoor tennis courts and one indoor court in the redeveloped HKSI. This should be sufficient to meet the training needs of the HKSI tennis squad given the size of the squad and the training schedules of the athletes. • The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) plans to convert, as a pilot scheme, the Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis & Squash Courts into a dedicated sports training base for tennis. The training base would be managed by a non-profit making sports organisation on a self-financing basis through public tender. The HKTA is eligible to bid for operating the training base to provide training for tennis athletes. • Noted.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<p>compensate the loss in tennis courts in the redeveloped HKSI, the HKTA would not object to the redevelopment of HKSI.</p>	
<i>HKSI Elite Training Funds Allocation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current funding policy for elite sports depends largely on the number of medals won by each sport or on the potential of the sport to win medals. A more equitable basis should be adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKSI advises that as sports are different from one another in terms of equipment, facilities, squad size, format of play, international/professional development, participation in Asian and Olympic Games status, etc., it is impractical to allocate equal funding to each of the elite sports supported by HKSI. Besides, the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong athletes in the Doha Asian Games have proved that HKSI's current funding mechanism for elite sports is effective. That said, HKSI management will consider and review the established funding patterns of different sports, the training needs, global development of different elite sports and the interest of all parties in allocating funding for the training programmes of each elite sport.
<i>Sports facilities</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of sports facilities for holding major sports events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government understands the importance of equipping Hong Kong with up to standard facilities to support the staging of major sports events. The LCSD has plans to upgrade a number of sports facilities for staging the 2009 East Asian Games and new facilities for international sports events are being planned.
Submission of Mr Hung Chung-yam, Chairman of the Hong Kong Elite Athletes Association	
<i>Direct financial support to elite athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed enhancement to the direct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<p>financial support to elite athletes is a great encouragement to athletes.</p>	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgrading of facilities of the HKSI will enhance the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong's elite athletes in international sports competitions. • The current development plan of HKSI redevelopment would minimise disruption to athletes' training, and the need to use the facilities in Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village and LCSD venues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. The outdoor velodrome of the HKSI would be demolished in 2008 and a new indoor velodrome will be completed by around 2012. The Government is working with the Hong Kong Cycling Association to identify a site for building an outdoor velodrome preferably in Sha Tin to fill the gap on the provision of cycling training facilities from 2008 to 2012 or so.
<i>Athletes retirement scheme</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciates the efforts of the SF&OC to develop a retirement scheme for athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
Submission of the Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI and treatment of disabled athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current facilities in HKSI cannot meet the needs of disabled persons. • There is disparate treatment between disabled and non-disabled athletes in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. The needs and access of disabled persons will be addressed in the redeveloped HKSI. • Please refer to the response to EOC's comments above.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<p>terms of financial support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should consider the needs of disabled persons in future review of Hong Kong's sports development and in the redevelopment of HKSI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted.
Comments from Mr Law Kwong-keung, Sha Tin District Council Member	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the redevelopment of HKSI and hopes the facilities would help redress the lack of sports facilities in Sha Tin. Would like to see some legacy of the 2008 Equestrian Events such as retaining some of the built facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted. The Administration shares the public aspiration for legacy of the Olympic Equestrian Events, and will discuss with the Hong Kong Jockey Club on its plan for Penford Park. Will consult Sha Tin District Council in due course.
<i>Retirement plan for athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better use of athletes' skills should be made for the benefits of sports development in Hong Kong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration has invited the SF&OC to develop a comprehensive plan for retired athletes, including engaging retired athletes as "ambassadors" to help promote sports, and to help retired athletes to pursue further studies and/or to take up suitable placements in sponsoring corporations.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
Comments from Mr Tsoi Yiu-cheong, Sha Tin District Council Member	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomes the location of the redeveloped HKSI in Fo Tan. Hopes to have improved pedestrian links such as improving the footbridge between HKSI and Fo Tan railway station. • Welcomes the setting up of a sports information centre near HKSI. • The Government should consider the need to provide more facilities in the neighbouring areas of HKSI to support training of athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. Implementation of measures to improve passenger flow to and from the HKSI would depend on the result of relevant feasibility assessments. • Noted. • Noted.
Comments from the Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association (HKASA)	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More hostels for visiting teams should be provided in the redeveloped HKSI. • Supports the addition of a 50m swimming pool in the redeveloped HKSI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two-storey sports residence is already added with the objective of promoting sports exchange in mind. The site is zoned “Government, Institution, Community” in the outline zoning plan, which may not permit excessive provision of hostel rooms for commercial purposes. • Noted.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the water quality of Shing Mun River is improved, the rowing site can also be used for swimming contests. • HKSI should allocate more training sessions and swimming lanes of its swimming pools to the members of HKASA and give priority to the HKASA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. This has been referred to the HKSI for consideration in consultation with the HKASA.
<i>Direct financial support to elite athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciates that NSAs and the sports sector have been consulted before the financial support schemes are finalised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
Comments from Mr Mak Ip-shing, Yuen Long District Council Member	
<i>Redevelopment of HKSI</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the redevelopment of HKSI and it should be carried out as soon as possible. • HKSI should consider including a venue for judo training in the redeveloped HKSI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. This has been referred to the HKSI for consideration.

Comments made by Deputations	Administration's Response
<i>Direct financial support to elite athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the enhancement of financial support to elite athletes. • Queries the relationship among athletes, HKSI and NSAs, and whether the grants to athletes would be disbursed through HKSI direct to the athlete or through the NSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. HKSI will clarify with relevant NSAs directly.
<i>Retirement plan for athletes</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach licences would be issued to elite athletes who wish to become coaches after their retirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration has invited the SF&OC to develop a comprehensive plan for retired athletes, including engaging retired athletes as “ambassadors” to help promote sports, and to help retired athletes to pursue further studies and/or to take up suitable placements in sponsoring corporations.

Islands District

- (i) District Open Space in Area 2, Tung Chung: the project commenced construction in March 2006 for completion in early 2008. It includes a piazza, a fountain garden and a landscaped area, etc.
- (ii) Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung: the project commenced construction in December 2006 and will be completed in late 2009. It includes a multi-purpose arena, a multi-purpose activity room, a table tennis room, a fitness room, a chess playing room, a children's playroom, a District Library and a Community Hall, etc.
- (iii) Swimming Pool Complex in Area 2, Tung Chung: the project will commence construction in late 2007 and is scheduled for completion in mid 2010. It includes a 50m indoor heated pool and a 25m outdoor teaching pool.
- (iv) District Open Space in Area 18, Tung Chung: the project will commence construction in mid 2008 and is scheduled for completion in mid 2010. It includes the provision of a 7-a-side soccer pitch and a Chinese herb garden, etc.
- (v) Open Space Development in Area 27, Tung Chung: the project will commence construction in end 2007 and is scheduled for completion by end 2008. It includes a 5-a-side soccer pitch.
- (vi) Open Space Development in Area 40, Tung Chung: the project will commence construction in end 2007 and is scheduled for completion by end 2008. It includes a 7-a-side soccer pitch.
- (vii) Local Open Space in Tai Tsoi Yuen, Cheung Chau: the project is under construction and is scheduled for completion in early 2008. It includes the provision of landscaped and sitting-out areas and a multi-purpose natural lawn area (which can be used as gateball activities).

Kwai Tsing District

- (i) District Open Space in Shek Yam Estate – phases 1 and 4, Kwai Chung: the project commenced construction in April 2007 and is scheduled for completion in early 2009. It includes jogging facility, fitness corner for the elderly, children play area, landscaped area for gateball activity, etc.
- (ii) District Open Space in Area 9, Tsing Yi: the project will commence construction in late 2007 and is scheduled for completion in late 2009. It includes waterfront promenade, jogging trail with fitness stations, cycling and skateboarding areas and a bicycle kiosk, children play areas, 11-a-side natural turf soccer pitch, basketball courts cum volleyball courts, fitness corner with elderly fitness stations, and landscaped areas for gateball activities, etc.
- (iii) Indoor Recreation Centre Area 4, Tsing Yi: the project will commence construction in mid 2010 and is scheduled for completion by early 2013. It includes a main arena, dance room, activity room, children play room, outdoor climbing wall, etc.
- (iv) Open Space at Tsing Yi North Low Fresh Water and Salt Water Services Reservoirs: the project commenced construction in June 2006 and will be completed in late 2007. It includes a 5-a-side hard surfaced soccer pitch, one toilet block, a pebble walking trail, sitting-out area with landscaped area and elderly fitness equipment.
- (v) Open Space at Kwai Chung Landfill: the feasibility of developing part of the landfill site as a public open space under the minor works programme is being examined.

Tsuen Wan District

- (i) District Open Space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan: the project commenced construction in March 2006 and will be completed in early 2008. It includes a jogging trail, landscaping area, fitness stations for the elderly, etc.
- (ii) Local Open Space in Area 50, Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan: the project commenced construction in April 2007 and will be completed in mid-2008. It includes a basketball cum volleyball court, viewing decks along the promenade, etc.
- (iii) Ecological Park (Tso Kung Tam Valley Tsuen Wan): the project is scheduled to commence construction in mid-2010 and planned for completion in mid-2013. It includes a suspension bridge, exhibition centre, nature walk, green house, viewing platform, etc.
- (iv) Sports Centre between Tsuen Wan Park and Tsuen Wan Road: the proposed Sports Centre is located within a Comprehensive Development Area development site of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC). It is being actively pursued together with KCRC.
- (v) Conversion of three tennis courts into a 5-a-side soccer pitch cum archery practice range at Shing Mun Valley Park: the project is being actively pursued under the minor works programme.

Enclosure IV

Tuen Mun District

- (i) Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South), Tuen Mun: The project commenced construction in January 2007 and is due for completion in July 2008. It includes a children's playground, 2 basketball courts, a 7-a-side soccer pitch, fitness equipment for the elderly, a covered tai-chi area, landscaped areas, sitting-out areas, etc.
- (ii) Swimming Pool Complex in Area 1 (Sun Wai Court), Tuen Mun: the project will commence construction in late 2008 and is planned for completion by mid 2011. It includes a 50m outdoor main pool, a 25m indoor heated pool, a teaching pool, a training pool cum warm up pool, a children pool with Jacuzzi facility, water play equipment, etc.
- (iii) Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 14 (Siu Lun), Tuen Mun: the project is planned for construction to commence in mid 2010 and completion in early 2013. It includes a multi-purpose arena, a multi-purpose activity room, a table-tennis room, a children's playroom, an outdoor climbing wall, etc.
- (iv) District Open Space in Area 27 (Sam Shing), Tuen Mun: the project is planned for construction to commence in early 2010 and completion in early 2012. Detailed scope of the project will be worked out in consultation with the Tuen Mun District Council.
- (v) Construction of footpaths to link up beaches in Tuen Mun: The project commenced construction in late 2006 and is due for completion in late 2007. It includes the improvement of a pedestrian link, provision of ancillary facilities, etc.
- (vi) Local Open Space in Area 52 (Ching Chung), Tuen Mun: the project will commence construction in late 2007 and is scheduled for completion in late 2008. It includes the development of an open space comprising one basketball court, landscaped garden, etc.

Yuen Long District

- (a) Recently completed projects
- (i) Local Open Space in Areas 25, 25A and 25B, Tin Shui Wai: the project was completed and opened to the public in April 2007. It includes a Chinese garden with pavilions, a front hall, a water pond, fitness corner for the elderly and a Tai-Chi area, a children play area, a jogging trail with fitness stations, sitting-out area, landscaped area, etc.
 - (ii) Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 17 Tin Shui Wai: the project was recently completed and will be opened to the public in mid 2007. It includes a main arena, a secondary arena, an activity cum dance room, a fitness room, a children's play room, etc.
- (b) Projects under construction / planning
- (i) Four basketball courts with changing and toilet facilities in Area 107 Tin Shui Wai: the project is under construction and will be completed by mid 2007.
 - (ii) District Square in Areas 33A and 29 Tin Shui Wai: the project is under construction and will be completed by mid 2008. It includes resting area, landscaped area, an open plaza for holding activities, etc.
 - (iii) District Open Space in Area 107 Tin Shui Wai: the project is under construction and will be completed by late 2008. It includes a volleyball court, a jogging trail with fitness stations, children's play areas, fitness corner for the elderly, landscaped areas for sitting, playing Tai Chi and holding activities, etc.

- (iv) A toilet-cum-changing block at On Hing Playground, Yuen Long: The project is planned for construction to commence in early 2008 and completion by early 2009.
 - (v) Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre: the project will commence construction in end 2007 and is due for completion by mid 2011. It includes a main games arena, two multi-purpose activity rooms, a children's play room, a 25m indoor heated swimming pool, the up-grading to a major library, etc.
 - (vi) Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long: the project is planned for construction to commence in late 2008 and completion by late 2011. It includes a main games arena, a dance room, a table tennis room, an activities room, a fitness room, a children's play room, the re-provision of a district library, etc.
 - (vii) Renovation of Yuen Long Public Library: The project will be completed in June 2007.
- (c) Projects to be planned
- (i) Sports Centre and Community Hall in Area 101 Tin Shui Wai: the project is tentatively planned for construction to commence in late 2009 and completion by early 2012.
 - (ii) Local Open Space at Hung Tak Road, Hung Shui Kiu: the project is tentatively planned for construction to commence in early 2008 and completion in early 2009.