

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs Improvement Works for Mong Kok Stadium

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' support for the proposed improvement works for Mong Kok Stadium (the Project).

Background

2. The Project is one of the 21 Leisure and Cultural Services projects of the former Municipal Councils recommended for further planning.

Location of the Project Site

3. The Project site with a total area of about 23 800 square metres is located at No. 37 Flower Market Road in Mong Kok. A site plan is at Annex A.

Project Scope

4. The proposed scope of the Project comprises -
- (a) Demolition of all spectator stands and blocks for kiosks, toilets and player changing rooms;
 - (b) Reconstruction of spectator stands (about 6 500 seats) at the four sides of the pitch with individual seats and provision of light weight covers with lightings for the stands on the North and South sides;
 - (c) Reprovisioning of kiosks, offices, storerooms, players' changing rooms, toilets and other ancillary facilities which will be located under the spectator stands;
 - (d) Reprovisioning of event control, police control facilities and TV broadcast platform at suitable locations;
 - (e) Reprovisioning of VIP stand, VIP seats and VIP room;

- (f) Reconstruction of boundary fence to allow more space for crowd movement;
- (g) Reprovisioning of CCTV and P.A. systems, admission gates, box offices and entrance plaza; and
- (h) Relocation of some car parking spaces at Flower Market Road to the eastern end of the site with new vehicular entrance at the Boundary Street.

Justifications

5. Given its convenient location, the Mong Kok Stadium (MKS) has served as a major base for staging high level local football competitions in the territory, as well as other large-scale events such as the annual parades of the Hong Kong Road Safety Association and Scout Association of Hong Kong. The MKS, formerly known as the Army Sports Ground, has been taken over by the former Urban Council for management in 1961. It is now under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. As MKS has been in use for over 48 years, most of its facilities cannot meet the present day service requirements. Over the years, only a few minor works projects had been carried out in a piecemeal fashion to improve the level of service to the public, including the provision of two additional spectator stands at both ends of the football pitch, and converting a section of the existing stand into a covered VIP seating area with 55 individual VIP seats.

6. Football is a team as well as spectator sport which is well recognised for being able to enhance social cohesion and should therefore be promoted. There has also been a significant increase in the number of spectators in football matches held at the MKS in recent years (attendance figures for the football seasons in 2006/07 and 2007/08 were 78 628 and 100 746 respectively representing an increase of 28% over 2006/07). Frequent requests have been received from hirers (such as the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA)) and members of the public for upgrading the facilities with a view to enhancing safety and creating a more comfortable environment for the spectators. The improvements will also attract more spectators, and are consistent with our policy of promoting "Sport for All" in the community.

7. With the improvement project, we will provide better facilities to help sustain the community's interest and participation in football at large and meet the training needs of our athletes in a more effective manner. It is also of paramount importance to meet the

increasing expectations of local organisations and general public for better and safer facilities as well as to comply with prevailing requirements such as the barrier free access, hygiene and fire services requirements. The proposed improvement works will bring the MKS up to present day standards in terms of spectator services.

8. We will take the opportunity of the temporary closure to upgrade supporting facilities such as TV broadcast platform, media stand, admission controls and box offices which are essential for holding high level football competitions to avoid having to close the venue again for the works. The project will enhance our sporting infrastructure for the long-term development of local football games.

Project Estimates and Implementation Plan

9. The Project is now in Category B. The estimated cost of the Project is about \$250m in Sept 2008 prices.

10. Subject to funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC), the construction is expected to commence in July 2009 for completion in July 2011.

Public Consultation

11. We consulted the Yau Tsim Mong District Council's Community Building Committee on the conceptual design of the Project on 7 August 2008. Members supported the proposal and urged for its early implementation.

12. We have also consulted the Hong Kong Football Association on the project scope and the implementation programme. They support the implementation of the Project and consider the proposed upgrading works essential in meeting standards for holding high level football competitions. They have also urged for the early implementation of the Project to help enhance the sporting infrastructure for the long-term development of local football games.

Way Forward

13. To take the Project forward, we intend to submit the Project to the Public Works Subcommittee of the FC for consideration for upgrading it as Category A at its meeting on 15 December 2008.

Advice Sought

14. Members are invited to support the implementation of the proposed Project.

Home Affairs Bureau
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