

For discussion
on 19 March 2010

Subcommittee on
Designation of Libraries Order 2010
Discussion Paper

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Designation of Libraries Order 2010, which designates the Students' Study Room on the first floor of Tung Chung Municipal Services Building as a library under section 105K of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132).

Background

2. The provision of public libraries is made with reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPS&G) which states that one district library should be provided for each district and that there should be a district library for every 200 000 persons. At present, the outlying islands are served by a district library in Cheung Chau, six small libraries in Lamma Island North, Lamma Island South, Mui Wo, Peng Chau, Tai O and Tung Chung, and six mobile library stops in Lantau Island.

3. To meet the needs of the projected growing population in Tung Chung area from 61 100 in 2004 to 82 200 in 2014, a small library of 745m² was temporarily set up in leased premises at Yat Tung Shopping Centre, Tung Chung in 2004. The small library was intended to serve as a stop-gap measure to provide the library services to

Tung Chung residents pending the provision of a new permanent district library in Tung Chung Municipal Services Building.

Designation of New Tung Chung Public Library

4. The premises for the new Tung Chung Public Library were officially handed over to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (the “Department”) on 30 December 2009. The Department then proceeded with the installation of interior fixture and fittings, such as furniture, bookshelves, computer terminals and audio-visual facilities; testing of the relevant computer systems, and processing of the initial collection of 140 000 library items. The new library is tentatively scheduled for commissioning in mid 2010. At its District Facilities Management Committee Meeting on 13 July 2009 and its informal meeting on 22 October 2009, the Islands District Council has strongly urged the Department to advance the opening of the Students’ Study Room of the new library so as to meet the students’ needs during examination period¹, while preparatory works in the library proper are in progress.

5. Having regard to the request of the Islands District Council and to meet the local demand for the early provision of the Students’ Study Room facility, the Department has decided to open the library facilities in the new Tung Chung Public Library by phases, with the Students’ Study Room on 1 March 2010 and the library proper in mid 2010.

6. Against this background, the Designation of Libraries Order 2010 was gazetted on 26 February 2010 for the designation of the Students’ Study Room on the first floor of Tung Chung Municipal Services Building as a library under section 105K of Cap.132. The Order comes into operation on 1 March 2010 and the concerned Students’ Study Room was opened for public use on the same date.

¹ There is no Students’ Study Room in the existing small library at Yat Tung Estate.

The Way Forward

7. We will arrange another Order to designate the remaining library area on ground floor and first floor of the Tung Chung Municipal Services Building as the new Tung Chung Public Library for commencement of operation in mid 2010.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
March 2010