

**Public Works Subcommittee
Meeting on 17 January 2011**

PWSC(2010-11)28

193SC – Community hall at the housing site in Area 18, Tuen Mun

Issue Members of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) expressed concern over the adequacy of function rooms for small scale activities (meaning those rooms that accommodate 20-30 participants) in a standard community hall (CH). The Home Affairs Department (HAD) was requested to review the standard provision of CH and report the findings to the Panel on Home Affairs.

Response At present, a standard CH consists of the following facilities for hire by local organizations: –

- (a) a multi-purpose hall with a stage, a stage meeting room, a stage store room and two dressing rooms; and
- (b) a conference room which can accommodate up to about 30 persons at a meeting setting.

We have recently reviewed the usage of the existing CHs. We found that while the utilization of multi-purpose halls in CHs was high (with an average rate of about 80% during the period of review from March to May 2011), the utilization of conference rooms was generally low (with an average rate of about 40% during the same period). We also observed that the utilization of CH facilities varied with time and location. For example, CH facilities were more heavily patronized in late afternoons and evenings and in CHs in large public housing estates or close to town centres or MTR stations.

Having regard to the above, we consider that the existing standard provision of facilities in CH is appropriate. Nonetheless, to enhance the flexibility of such facilities, to ensure their effective use and to cater for small scale activities, we have decided to introduce the following improvements to future CHs:-

- (a) A full height movable partition with sound insulation will be installed in the multi-purpose hall to make it possible to accommodate two activities by two different groups simultaneously;
- (b) A full height movable partition with sound insulation and an additional door will be installed at the conference room to enable the room to support two small scale activities to be held at the same time. Vertical wall mirrors and dancing bars will also be installed in the room to enable it to be used for multi-purposes; and
- (c) An external access to the stage meeting room will be provided to enable the room to be separately booked and used by local organizations for small scale activities.

With the above measures, the space and facilities of CHs would be more flexibly and effectively used to support activities of different scales. HAD will study the feasibility of introducing the same improvements to its existing CHs and renovate the latter accordingly where appropriate.