

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)472/12-13
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 14 December 2012, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Members attending : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Member absent : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP

Public Officers : Item VI
attending

The Administration

Mrs Pamela TAN KAM Mi-wah, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
District Officer (Yuen Long)
Home Affairs Department

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Mr YIU Tze-leung
Community Services Secretary

Item VII

The Administration

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jonathan McKinley, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Miss Petty LAI Chun-yee
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport)

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-yee, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr Bobby CHENG Kam-wing, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Leisure Services)

Clerk in : Ms Alice LEUNG
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in : Miss Josephine SO
attendance Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Jasmine TAM
Council Secretary (2) 2

Ms Camy YOONG
Clerical Assistant (2) 2

Action

I. Application for late membership
(LC Paper No. CB(2)229/12-13(01))

Members agreed to accept the late application for membership from Mr LEUNG Che-cheung.

II. Confirmation of minutes
(LC Paper No. CB(2)319/12-13)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2012 were confirmed.

III. Matters arising from last meeting

Setting up of a subcommittee to monitor the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") Project

3. The Chairman recapitulated that at the Panel meeting on 16 October 2012, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che advised members that in the Fourth Legislative Council ("LegCo"), a joint subcommittee had been formed under the Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel") and the Panel on Development ("Dev Panel") to monitor the implementation of the WKCD Project. As the WKCD Project was still in progress, there might be a need for establishing a similar committee in the Fifth LegCo to continue the monitoring work.

4. Mr IP Kwok-him said that he was the Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project formed under the HA and Dev Panels in the Fourth LegCo. As the project would be in full swing in the next several years and many members were concerned about the progress of its implementation, he supported that a dedicated subcommittee be formed in the Fifth LegCo to continue to monitor the implementation of the project. Given that issues relating to the WKCD project straddled the policy areas of arts and culture as well as planning and development, which were within the purviews of the HA and Dev Panels respectively, he proposed that a joint subcommittee should be

Action

formed under these two Panels, like the one formed in the Fourth LegCo. Ms Starry LEE shared similar view and expressed support for Mr IP's proposal. Members agreed to the proposal.

5. The Chairman said that he would liaise with the Chairman of the Dev Panel about the proposal of setting up a joint subcommittee and the arrangements for holding a joint Panel meeting to consider and endorse the proposed terms of reference, time frame and work plan of the proposed joint subcommittee.

IV. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)204/12-13(01), CB(2)234/12-13(01), CB(2)238/12-13(01) and CB(2)299/12-13(01) & (02))

6. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Extract from the report of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Public Pleasure Grounds) (Amendment of Fourth Schedule) (No.2) Order 2012 on issues relating to the management of the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade;
- (b) Referral from the Public Complaints Office of the LegCo Secretariat regarding gambling policy and assistance provided to gamblers;
- (c) Referral from the Public Complaints Office of the LegCo Secretariat concerning the Home Affairs Department's decision to cease the practice of according priority to non-government organizations responsible for the management of the community halls/centres to use the facilities in the community halls/centres under their charge;
- (d) Letter from a group of senior members of Sik Sik Yuen ("SSY") expressing concern about the internal operations of SSY; and
- (e) Administration's written response to the issues raised in the letter from a group of senior members of SSY.

7. Regarding the letter and Administration's response referred to in paragraph 6(d) and (e) above, members agreed to the suggestion of

Action

Mr IP Kin-yuen and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che that the correspondences should be provided to SSY for their information.

(Post-meeting note: The above two correspondences were copied to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SSY on 18 December 2012.)

V. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)321/12-13(01) and (02))

Next regular meeting in January 2013

8. The Chairman said that the next regular meeting was originally scheduled for Friday, 11 January 2013, at 8:30 am. As the Chief Executive would deliver his 2013 Policy Address on 16 January 2013 and the Administration intended to brief the Panel on details of the policy commitments of the Home Affairs portfolio for the year ahead on 18 January 2013, the Administration proposed that the Panel's regular meeting in January be re-scheduled to Friday, 18 January 2013, at 8:30 am to discuss the following two items -

- (a) Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address; and
- (b) Matters relating to the nomination of representatives of Arts interests for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Members agreed to the Administration's proposal.

Regular meeting in February 2013

9. Members also agreed that the regular meeting in February originally scheduled for 8 February 2013 be re-scheduled to Monday, 18 February 2013, at 8:30 am.

(Post-meeting note: Members were informed of the re-scheduling of meeting in February 2013 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)387/12-13 on 19 December 2012.)

Action

VI. Open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)321/12-13(03) and (04))

10. Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") briefed Members on the work plan and progress of the proposal to set up an open bazaar in Tin Shui Wai ("TSW"), as detailed in the Administration's paper. She advised that the bazaar, named as "Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Tin Sau Bazaar" ("Tin Sau Bazaar"), would be operated by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals ("TWGHs") on a non-profit-making basis and was expected to come into operation in early February 2013 before the Chinese New Year.

Objective of the proposed open bazaar

11. Members, including Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr IP Kwok-him, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr Frankie YICK, Miss Alice MAK and Miss CHAN Yuen-han, welcomed the proposal to set up an open bazaar in TSW. They considered that it could help address the needs of local residents for more shopping choices, keep down the prices of daily necessities, boost the local economy and create employment opportunities in the district.

12. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that the Yuen Long District Council and the local residents generally supported the establishment of a district open bazaar in TSW North. There were, however, concerns on whether it would lead to proliferation of hawking activities in other places. DHA explained that the Tin Sau Bazaar aimed to address the district needs in TSW North. Unlike Yuen Long town centre, there were few shopping choices for the residents in TSW North. The rental increase in shopping malls and markets in TSW, which had in turn led to high commodity prices and affected the livelihood of local residents, had been an on-going concern to residents in the district. There were also calls for the Government to increase local employment opportunities in TSW by establishing an open bazaar to boost the local economy. In the light of this, the Government had actively explored ways with different interested groups to address the needs of TSW residents. In response, TWGHs had submitted a proposal to the Government, indicating its interest in operating an open bazaar in TSW on a non-profit-making basis.

13. The Deputy Chairman was of the view that while the proposal could assist the grassroots in achieving self-reliance and help alleviate the poverty problem in TSW, the Administration should draw up a territory-wide strategy and policy on poverty alleviation. Dr Fernando CHEUNG shared similar view with the Deputy Chairman.

Action

14. DHA responded that the proposal was not meant as a project aiming at alleviating poverty. The Government had established the Commission on Poverty to, among others, examine the current poverty situation and causes of poverty in Hong Kong and review existing policies and formulate new policies to achieve the objectives of preventing and alleviating poverty.

Hawking activities in the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah

15. Mr YIU Si-wing and Miss Alice MAK said that most of the patrons visiting the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah were elders and housewives who hoped to buy daily necessities at low prices. Therefore, it was important for Tin Sau Bazaar to provide goods at low prices for local residents. Mr YIU added that as the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah helped alleviate the financial pressure of low-income families and also provided opportunities for the unemployed in the local district to operate small businesses, the Administration should allow some of the stalls in Tin Sau Bazaar to operate in the form of "dawn market" so as to maintain continuity of the existing Morning Bazaar.

16. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Mr WU Chi-wai shared the view that the Administration should adopt a lenient approach and allow the hawking activities along the TSW Nullah to continue to exist, even after the proposed bazaar on Tin Sau Road had come into operation. Expressing similar view, Ms Cyd HO considered that the continual operation of the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah could help ensure the survival of those who strived to achieve self-reliance by running small businesses. She requested that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") should not take vigorous law enforcement actions against the hawking activities there. Her view was echoed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Ms Claudia MO.

17. Mr Tony TSE stressed that while he supported the establishment of a district open bazaar in TSW on Tin Sau Road, it was inappropriate to use the proposed project to rationalize the conduct of unlicensed hawking activities along the TSW Nullah at present in the early mornings.

18. Noting that over 3 800 applications had been received for about 200 stalls in the proposed Tin Sau Bazaar and TWGHs was only granted a short-term tenancy with a lease period for five years to run the bazaar at the site adjacent to the Tin Sau Road Park on Tin Sau Road, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether the Administration would permit the continual operation of the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah.

Action

19. In response to members' views and enquiry, DHA made the following points -

- (a) to start with, the site in Tin Sau Road was leased out to TWGHs under a short-term tenancy for a period of five years. Subject to a future review on the public acceptability of the bazaar and the need for its continued existence, as well as the agreement of the Yuen Long District Lands Office and TWGHs, the tenancy could be renewable;
- (b) for the purpose of reducing residents' consumption burden, the monthly rental for each stall in Tin Sau Bazaar would be in the region of \$800 to \$1,000 in the first year, whilst that for twin stalls would be \$2,000. To provide support for the underprivileged, applicants with low income or financial difficulties recommended by social workers might apply for rental exemption for the first two months; and
- (c) over the years, there had been complaints about the noise and environmental hygiene problems caused by the hawking activities in the Morning Bazaar along the TSW Nullah. FEHD had been adopting the approach of giving warning to the hawkers concerned before taking enforcement actions. FEHD would continue to adopt the above approach and monitor the situation along the TSW Nullah after the Tin Sau Bazaar had come into operation.

20. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was of the view that the Government should consider building a permanent public market in TSW, so as to offer more alternatives for the operation of small businesses and more shopping variety to the residents in the district. He suggested that the present site for setting up Tin Sau Bazaar might be used for a public market, upon the expiry of the land lease.

Policy on hawking and bazaar economic activities

21. In response to Mr Tony TSE's enquiry about the Administration's policy on the control of hawking activities and development of bazaar economic activities, DHA explained that the initiative to set up a district open bazaar in TSW was a specific measure aiming at addressing the specific needs of residents in TSW North. The Administration would take into account the unique circumstances of individual districts in considering the need for setting up bazaars in other districts. She added that TWGHs had, in

Action

collaboration with the Hong Kong Baptist University, conducted a detailed survey in TSW in October 2012 to gauge the residents' views on the proposal to establish an open bazaar on Tin Sau Road, including its operating hours and the types of goods residents needed. The residents in the neighbourhood were generally supportive of the proposal.

22. Mr Tony TSE, Mr IP Kwok-him, Ms Cyd HO, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Miss Alice MAK and the Deputy Chairman were of the view that the Administration should formulate a comprehensive policy on hawking and bazaar economic activities. Expressing support for the development and promotion of open-air bazaars with local and unique characteristics, they urged the Administration to conduct a study on the development of local community economy bazaars to meet the needs of residents in various districts.

23. Mr Christopher CHUNG considered that the proposed project was a pilot scheme. The Administration should consolidate past experience gained from the operation of open-air bazaars in other districts, such as those in Wong Tai Sin and the Eastern District, before formulating any long-term policy on the development of local community economy bazaars and considering the need for extending the current project in TSW to other districts.

24. DHA responded that the Administration would consider the need for establishing open bazaars in other districts, having regard to the experience gained in operating Tin Sau Bazaar in TSW. In considering the need for establishing other open bazaars, it would be necessary to look into the local demand, whether a suitable site was available, and carefully assess the traffic impact, noise, environmental hygiene and management problems.

25. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that should the launch of the present project in TSW prove to be successful, consideration should be given to extending the project to other districts, such as Kwun Tong, Tung Chung and Sham Shui Po. His suggestion was echoed by the Deputy Chairman.

26. Citing the past experience of the Dragon Market in Wong Tai Sin, Mr WU Chi-wai said that it was most important to ensure that the proposed Tin Sau Bazaar would attract sufficient visitors, as this would be conducive to the success of the bazaar. In his view, the Administration should consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific locations on designated market days/during specific periods on a regular basis, so as to provide people with more opportunities for running small businesses.

Action

27. DHA responded that identification of suitable sites for open bazaars was not an easy task given the limited supply of land in Hong Kong. As each district had its characteristics and unique circumstances, the Administration would need to consult the District Councils ("DCs") concerned.

28. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that a motion on "Development diversified hawking and bazaar economic activities" was passed at the Council meeting of 14 November 2007. He enquired whether and what follow-up actions had been taken by the Administration in respect of the relevant recommendations put forward by Members.

29. DHA advised that the hawker policy and related initiatives were under the purview of the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB"). She would relay Members' views on the need for a comprehensive policy on hawking and bazaar activities to FHB for its consideration.

Criteria for allocation of stalls to applicants

30. Noting that the number of applications received for a stall operating licence far exceeded the number of stalls available in Tin Sau Bazaar, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Miss Alice MAK enquired about the criteria to be adopted for selecting suitable stall operators, and the measures to be put in place to safeguard the interest of the needy people and ensure that the selection process would be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Mr YIU was particularly concerned about the possible occurrence of bid rigging.

31. DHA and Community Services Secretary, TWGHs ("CSS/TWGHs") advised that TWGHs had formed a committee for selecting suitable stall operators. As a preliminary idea, there were two categories of applicants and their respective eligibility criteria were as follows -

- (a) organization applicants - non-profit-making organizations or social enterprises under such organizations; and
- (b) individual applicants - Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who lived in Yuen Long district. Priority would be given to needy people referred by social workers (including those with low income, on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"), unemployed, with employment difficulties such as new arrivals/ethnic minorities, or with financial difficulties due to special reasons).

Action

32. CSS/TWGHs added that to prevent bid rigging, the stall tenants would be required to be responsible for running the stalls and the transfer of stall operating licences would not be permitted. To enhance the uniqueness, diversity and attractiveness of Tin Sau Bazaar, the initial thinking of TWGHs was that subject to the endorsement of the selection committee, applications for stall operating licences to run a business with creativity and characteristics or providing services most needed by the local people in the district (e.g. shoe repair and locksmith services), would be given additional scores during the process of application assessment.

33. In response to Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's enquiry on whether and how the Administration would assist those failed applicants, DHA advised that TWGHs was actively exploring the feasibility of organizing a holiday bazaar, with additional stalls to be rented out only on holidays and on a short term basis. To add vibrancy to Tin Sau Bazaar, hawkers selling goods/commodities with characteristics would be welcomed.

Future management of Tin Sau Bazaar

34. The Deputy Chairman, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr YIU Si-wing, Ms Claudia MO and Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern whether residents' representatives and representatives of stall tenants would be engaged in the future management of Tin Sau Bazaar.

35. In response, DHA and CSS/TWGHs made the following points -

- (a) since the announcement of the proposal, the Yuen Long District Office and TWGHs had been actively communicating with various stakeholders, including DC members, Area Committee members, representatives of Morning Bazaar hawkers, non-government organizations and residents' groups; and
- (b) after the opening of Tin Sau Bazaar in early February 2013, TWGHs would continue its communication with relevant stakeholders and hold management meetings on a regular basis to exchange views with representatives of stall tenants for the purpose of reviewing and identifying improvements to the management of the open bazaar.

36. In response to the concern raised by Mr Christopher CHUNG, DHA advised that to complement the establishment of Tin Sau Bazaar, measures to facilitate its smooth operation, including improvements to traffic supporting

Action

facilities and the provision of a loading and unloading area near the entrance of the bazaar on Tin Sau Road, would be adopted.

37. Mr IP Kin-yuen noted that Tin Sau Bazaar would operate from 8 am to 8 pm daily and be divided into several zones, each of which comprising stalls selling specific types of goods, including the dry goods zone, wet goods zone, services/gifts zone and special stalls zone. He queried whether such rigid and inflexible operation mode was appropriate for open bazaars which were supposedly designed for bringing vibrancy and vitality to the local community. Sharing a similar view, Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to allow a greater degree of flexibility in the operation of Tin Sau Bazaar.

38. DHA responded that the zoning plan proposed for Tin Sau Bazaar was meant to facilitate the conduct of business and visitor flow within the bazaar. Besides, wet goods stalls (including fruit stalls and vegetables stalls) and dry goods stalls would require different support facilities.

Submissions received and tabled at the meeting

39. Members noted the following two submissions tabled at the meeting -

- (a) Joint submission from Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance, Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance, Tung Chung Community Development Alliance, 西區墟市關注組, Tin Shui Wai Hawkers Concern Group and 深水埗午夜墟及天光墟關注小組 (Chinese version only); and
- (b) Joint submission from Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance and Tin Shui Wai Hawkers Concern Group (Chinese version only).

(Post-meeting note: The submissions tabled at the meeting were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)363/12-13 on 14 December 2012.)

40. The Chairman said that the organizations providing the above submissions were of the view that developing bazaar economic activities was a measure to alleviate poverty. While many Members also shared this view, the subject of poverty alleviation was not within the terms of reference of the HA Panel. As the terms of reference of the Subcommittee on Poverty was to, among others, study relevant policies and measures to alleviate poverty, he suggested that the above two submissions be referred to the Subcommittee on Poverty for reference and follow-up. Members agreed.

Action

41. The Chairman added that the organizations had also raised concerns about hawker management and control as well as the Administration's policy on hawking and bazaar economic activities. As the hawker policy was under the purview of FHB and the Administration had advised that it would relay Members' views to FHB after the meeting, he suggested that this subject be referred to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for follow-up. Members agreed.

VII. Sports Policy and Objectives

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)321/12-13(05) and (06))

Development of community sports

42. The Deputy Chairman enquired whether the Administration had any plans to conduct a territory-wide survey to study the lifestyle and habits of Hong Kong people, their interests in sports and public demand for sports facilities. Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") responded that a consultancy study on the participation patterns of Hong Kong people in physical activities had been conducted and the relevant findings published for public information. As the study revealed that the level of participation of Hong Kong people in sports and physical activities was generally low, the Administration would endeavour to promote higher levels of sports participation in the community. To this end, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had organized a series of community sports events and competitions, such as an annual "Sport For All Day" and the biennial Hong Kong Games.

43. On Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry about whether the Administration would conduct similar studies or surveys on a regular basis, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that LCSD had conducted territory-wide surveys regularly. The study on the participation patterns of Hong Kong people in physical activities was completed in 2008 and a Physical Fitness Test for the Community, which was conducted every five years, was just completed in 2012. In the light of the findings of the 2008 study which included, among others, that the three most popular sports among the general population were jogging, swimming and badminton, the Administration had in the past few years substantially enhanced the provision of relevant facilities, especially heated swimming pools and jogging tracks, in various districts. More indoor sports centres with the provision of badminton facilities would also be built in future.

Action

44. The Chairman, Mr WU Chi-wai and Dr Helena WONG expressed similar concern about the inadequacy of venues for the development of community sports. Mr WU was of the view that as there were always competing demands for sports venues and facilities for the development of community sports and elite sports, the Administration should consider providing separate and dedicated venues for the two types of sports development. Dr WONG called on the Administration to provide more assistance to facilitate the development of non-elite sports and athletes, especially those with potential but had yet to reach the elite level.

45. DLCS responded that while training of elite athletes was mainly conducted by the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") with its own dedicated facilities, LCSD had been providing venue support for training in pre-elite and non-elite sports. To facilitate the work of the National Sports Associations ("NSAs") in promoting sports and organizing training events and competitions, LCSD accorded the highest priority to NSAs in the use of LCSD's sports facilities by allowing them to make block booking 12 months in advance (whereas other organizations and individual users might reserve such facilities three months and one month in advance respectively). Among the 58 NSAs currently subvented by LCSD, most of them were also provided with designated training venues, at which they were accorded the highest priority to make long-term block bookings. DLCS added that with a view to striking a balance between meeting the demand for use of sports facilities by NSAs and sports organizations on the one hand and members of the public on the other, LCSD had implemented a quota system under which only up to one-third of the peak hour sessions might be block-booked by NSAs and sports organizations.

Development of elite sports

46. The Chairman pointed out that athletes supported by HKSI were required to reach the age of 15 or above and attained an educational level of secondary 3 or above before they could become full-time athletes and yet training for athletes in certain sports might need to commence at a very early stage. He enquired how the Administration could facilitate the nurturing of more junior athletes with potential to ensure the succession of elite athletes.

47. DLCS advised that LCSD had since 2009 allocated funding to NSAs to conduct enhanced feeder programmes to identify youngsters with potential and provide training for them at an early stage. In the current financial year, 44 out of the 58 NSAs receiving recurrent subventions under the Sports Subvention Scheme ("SSS") administered by LCSD were provided with funding for implementation of feeder programmes. Up to 2012, more than

Action

300 athletes identified for further training through the enhanced feeder programmes were selected to join the junior squads and national squads.

48. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern that the amounts of incentive awards for disabled athletes who won medals at the Paralympic Games were far less than those offered to able-bodied medalists at the Olympic Games. He considered that the incentive awards for disabled elite athletes should be on par with those for the able-bodied elite athletes.

49. In response, SHA explained that the disparity in the levels of incentive awards for able-bodied and disabled elite athletes was mainly due to historical reasons. The Government of the last term had reviewed and increased the levels of incentive awards for medalists at major games. The level of adjustment for disabled elite athletes was proportionately higher than that for able-bodied elite athletes in the last review exercise. The Sports Commission ("SC") would take heed of the situation when reviewing the levels of incentive awards again in the coming year.

Hosting of major sports events and provision of sports facilities

50. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's enquiry about the Administration's latest stance and policy on bidding to host major sports events, SHA advised that positioning Hong Kong as a regional centre for international sports events was one of the Government's long-term objectives for developing and promoting sports and the current-term Government would continue to bid for hosting major sports events. However, the Administration was mindful that the support from the community and LegCo would need to be sought before any bids were made to host major international sports events in Hong Kong.

51. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that instead of hosting mega-scale international sports events on a one-off basis, the Administration should seek to support the hosting of sports events which could be staged on a sustainable basis and become representative events in Hong Kong (e.g. Hong Kong Sevens). He enquired whether the Administration had any specific targets for sports events to be staged in Hong Kong.

52. SHA responded that while the Administration had been supporting the staging of a number of international single-sport events in Hong Kong, it would not rule out the possibility of bidding to host some major multi-sports events which were held once every few years and with a high international/regional profile, given Hong Kong's position and capability as an international city. The Administration would continue to support NSAs in

Action

staging the existing events (e.g. Hong Kong Sevens and Hong Kong Marathon) and seek the advice of the Major Sports Events Committee under SC on the strategies and initiatives for hosting sport events in Hong Kong.

53. Mr YIU Si-wing was of the view that the Administration should put in place an evaluation mechanism for assessing the benefits (e.g. the social and economic benefits generated and the impact on promoting tourism, etc.) brought about by the staging of local and international sports events in Hong Kong. The Administration should consider conducting annually an overall cost benefit analysis on all the local and international sports events held during the year and publicize the relevant findings for public information.

54. SHA responded that the primary consideration of the Administration in promoting sports was to enhance the overall physical fitness of the public. While the Administration had not conducted comprehensive assessments on the impact of individual sports events held in Hong Kong, it would consider Mr YIU' suggestion and examine its feasibility.

55. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's concern about the provision of public sports facilities, SHA said that the Administration had invested heavily in the provision of sports venues and facilities in the past five years. Between 2007 and 2012, new sports facilities had been completed or existing facilities upgraded at a cost of over \$9 billion. A number of projects with a total investment of nearly \$10 billion were also underway. The development of the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak would be another multi-billion project upon commencement of construction. The Administration would continue to invest resources in taking forward sports facilities projects in future.

56. Ms Claudia MO was worried that due to the rigid opening hours and poor accessibility of the public sports facilities, many members of the public were not able to use these facilities. She called on the Administration to cater to the needs of the general public when planning the provision of public sports facilities in the 18 districts.

57. DLCS advised that most of the sports venues/facilities under the management of LCSD were open from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm in order to suit the needs of the general public, including those who needed to work or go to school. In planning the provision of new sports venues/facilities in districts, LCSD would consult DCs on the relevant proposals and seek their views on and endorsement of the proposed location of the venues/facilities before submitting the relevant funding proposals to LegCo for approval.

Action

Governance of NSAs

58. Pointing out that many NSAs were receiving government funding support and public money was involved, the Deputy Chairman was concerned about the monitoring of the governance of NSAs and the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"). Mr Christopher CHUNG expressed dissatisfaction with the long-standing malpractices of NSAs, which in his view would hinder the sports development in Hong Kong. Citing the low turnover of the office-bearers of some NSAs as an example, Mr Chung enquired whether the Administration would consider revamping the governance structure of NSAs.

59. SHA advised that the Administration had all along attached importance to the governance of NSAs. While the Administration recognized that many office-bearers of NSAs had made significant contributions to support the development and operation of their respective NSAs over the years, it had impressed on them the need for NSAs to keep up with the times and enhance their governance. NSAs had also been provided with a set of "Best Practice Reference for Governance of National Sports Association" ("BPR") drawn up by the Independent Commission Against Corruption specifically for SF&OC and NSAs for reference and adoption.

60. In response to the Chairman's concern about the insufficiency of manpower resources and inadequacy of office space for NSAs, DLCS advised that following a review of SSS and the governance of NSAs in 2010, LCSD had provided additional recurrent resources to NSAs to strengthen their manpower in order to enhance their administrative and accounting capabilities. Where necessary and justified and subject to availability of resources, LCSD would consider approving NSAs' further requests for additional manpower.

Selection of athletes for participation in international sports competitions

61. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was concerned that from time to time there were press reports about complaints against the lack of transparency and fairness in the selection of athletes for participation in international sports competitions. He asked whether the Administration had established a mechanism to deal with complaints or appeals lodged by athletes who felt aggrieved about the selection process. Echoing Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's concern, Ms Cyd HO considered that the Administration should request NSAs to organize open competitions for their respective sports to select representatives of Hong Kong to take part in international competitions.

Action

62. SHA explained that the selection of Hong Kong athletes to compete in international competitions, such as the Olympic Games, was the prerogative of SF&OC, which was the National Olympic Committee of Hong Kong. SF&OC had an established mechanism for selection of athletes through its member NSAs, which were the national federations of individual sports in Hong Kong and affiliated to their respective international or Asian federations. As individual NSAs had their own established mechanisms for selection of athletes, it would not be appropriate for the Administration to interfere in the operation of such mechanisms. Nonetheless, the Administration was implementing a number of measures, including the issuance of BPR, to assist SF&OC and NSAs to enhance their governance and it would continue to step up efforts in this regard. It was hoped that increased transparency in the operation and governance of SF&OC and NSAs would help ensure a fair mechanism for selection of athletes.

63. DLCS supplemented that the selection of athletes for major sports events was often based not only on athletes' performance in a particular selection race. The International Olympic Committee or the international federations of individual sports might require athletes to attain certain standards or results in a number of races in order to qualify for entering an international competition. The Administration therefore considered it most important that athletes were made aware of the relevant selection criteria. From 2013-2014 onwards, NSAs receiving government subvention under SSS would be requested to make available their athlete selection criteria on their websites for public information.

(Members agreed to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.)

Promotion of sport in schools

64. Mr IP Kin-yuen and Mr Christopher Chung expressed concern about whether the Home Affairs Bureau had formulated the Government's sports policy in consultation with the Education Bureau ("EDB"). Mr CHUNG considered that EDB should play a more active role in taking forward the Government's policy objective of developing sports in the community.

65. DLCS advised that EDB was represented on the Community Sports Committee ("CSC") under SC, which advised the Administration on, among others, matters relating to the development of school sports. Many CSC members were from the school sector and had provided valuable views and advice on how to make Physical Education an important and integral part of the school curriculum. With a view to encouraging school students to take

Action

part in sports regularly, LCSD had launched the School Sports Programme with a participation rate of more than 90% of schools in Hong Kong.

66. In response to Mr Christopher Chung's suggestion of making available school facilities for the staging of community sports activities, SHA advised that work was being carried out at district levels to encourage schools to open up their facilities after school hours for use of the community.

Promotion of sports for the elderly

67. Dr Helena WONG and Mr IP Kin-yuen raised concern about the promotion of sports for the elderly. Dr WONG said that many elders had reflected the view that the area of the fitness stations provided at LCSD venues was too small and the fitness equipment was not properly arranged and highly inadequate. She requested that LCSD should improve the spatial arrangements of the fitness stations and provide more fitness equipment for elderly users. Mr IP considered that in the face of an ageing population in Hong Kong, the Administration should devise a comprehensive policy to promote the participation of the elderly in sports.

68. In response, DLCS advised that in the light of the fact that swimming, jogging and use of fitness equipment were the popular physical activities among the elders, LCSD had substantially increased the provision of relevant facilities. LCSD also launched in July 2012 a monthly ticket scheme for the use of public swimming pools, which was well received by the elderly. It was believed that the scheme could not only help ease the burden on frequent elderly swimmers but also promote swimming among the public.

VIII. Any other business

69. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:45 am.