

Finance Committee Meeting on 1 December 2017

Issues requiring follow-up actions by the Government

PWP Item No. 281RS – Reprovisioning of Tsun Yip Street Playground facilities to Hong Ning Road Park and Ngau Tau Kok Fresh Water Service Reservoir

Members discussed the above works project at the Finance Committee meeting on 1 December 2017 and requested for supplementary information (shown in *italics* below). Our reply is set out below.

“At the request of Hon CHU Hoi-dick, the Government should provide the following supplementary information:

- (b) (i) The standards used by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the provision of children’s play facilities, and the reasons that in recent years certain types of facilities (such as merry-go-round and climbing frames) were not provided in the playgrounds under LCSD’s management;*
- (ii) Details of the Government’s policy in providing ‘diversified’ children’s play facilities; and*
- (iii) Details of the children’s play facilities provided in Tuen Mun Park.”*

- (b) The Government is committed to providing diversified play facilities in playgrounds for children of different ages and abilities to help develop their balanced development by acquiring different skills through playing together in the playgrounds. In the planning of children’s playgrounds, LCSD and relevant works departments take into account a host of factors including the site area and physical setting of individual venues, relevant international safety standards, needs of different types of users and views of the District Council concerned. Together they will formulate the overall park design concept and procure children’s play equipment.

Currently, LCSD manages more than 630 venues with outdoor children’s playgrounds which provide diversified play facilities such as swings, slides, saddle-mates, sway boats, climbing frames, multi-play equipment and merry-go-round, etc. To encourage inclusive play, some playgrounds are also equipped with such features as tactile play panels and movable parts in different shapes for visually-impaired children, transfer platforms or ramps to facilitate children using wheelchairs to access the play equipment, and climbing frames of different levels of climbing difficulty to add interest, etc. to cater for the needs of children of different ages and abilities.

Apart from maintaining constant dialogue with various concern groups on the provision of children's play equipment in playgrounds, the Government will also draw reference from overseas examples and gauge public views to keep abreast of the prevailing needs of our community for continual improvement. For example, the winning design of the Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition was adopted as a prototype to enhance the children's play equipment in Tuen Mun Park as part of a pilot scheme in 2016.

The refurbished children's playground in Tuen Mun Park will be divided into the northern and southern portions, with "Water Lily Park" and "Reptile Fun" as the respective design themes. Facilities in the northern portion include a water play area with the themes of water and lighting effect, balancing facilities such as spinning plates and trampoline, and musical instruments like giant chimes and drums, etc. Facilities in the southern portion include a sand pit to encourage children's creativity and interaction, a merry-go-round suitable for children on wheelchairs, climbing frames and slides, etc. A Swing Zone is located next to the southern portion to provide different types of swing facilities for children. The playground is expected to open for public use in mid-2018.

LCSD will examine and draw reference from the findings of the pilot scheme in Tuen Mun Park, continue to keep in contact with the concern groups, and consult the organisations and District Councils concerned with a view to further improving the facilities of the playgrounds.

“At the request of Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, the Government should provide the following supplementary information:

- (c) (i) Mechanism for the Government to monitor works progress to ensure timely completion of the project; and***
 - (ii) Mechanism for the Government to communicate with the stakeholders including the District Council and the Owners' Corporations during construction.”***
- (c) (i) In awarding construction contracts, past performance of tenderers including their abilities in completing the works according to committed schedules is one of the considerations. The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has an established mechanism to monitor contractors' performance and works progress. Under the contract conditions, contractors are required to carry out the works based on the programmes approved by the procuring office of ArchSD. Besides daily monitoring on site by resident site staff, professional staff will also conduct regular site inspections and hold meetings with contractors to review the progress of works. ArchSD will conduct regular

assessments on the contractors' performance according to the contract requirements. ArchSD will also help liaise with other relevant parties, including utility authorities/companies, to facilitate close coordination on interfacing works for the timely completion of projects.

- (ii) ArchSD or the contractor will send letters to the local community in the vicinity of the project site concerned, including Owners' Corporations of residential developments, property management offices, and schools, etc. to notify them of the project's commencement date, tentative construction period and contact hotline. Such information will also be displayed on the site hoarding. Any enquiries or suggestions may be made through the hotline.

Development Bureau
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Architectural Services Department

10 January 2018