

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2047/17-18

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 23 April 2018, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Member attending : Hon HO Kai-ming

Members absent : Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Public Officers attending : Item III

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports

Mrs Doris FOK LEE Sheung-ling
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Simon LIU Wai-shing
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Michael CHIU Yat-on
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Linda CHEUNG Yuk-shan
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Edward TSE Cheong-wo
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Chris LIU Chi-ho
Chief Project Manager 302
Architectural Services Department

Mrs Alice CHING WOO Wai-ling,
Chief Project Manager 303
Architectural Services Department

Item IV

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports

Mr Paul CHENG Ching-wan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation
and Sport) 1

Ms SO Yuen-yi
Principal Education Officer (School Administration)

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Mr Richard WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fonny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

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I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1163/17-18(01) and CB(2)1242/17-18(01)]

Members noted that the following papers had been issued after the last meeting:

- (a) letter dated 29 March 2018 from Hon AU Nok-hin; and
- (b) information paper on "Designation and enhancement of suitable sports facilities as competition venues" provided by the Administration.

2. Referring to the above letter from Hon AU Nok-hin, Ms Tanya CHAN expressed support for Mr AU's proposal to hold a special meeting to receive public views on the review of the policy of Private Recreational Leases ("PRL"). The Chairman consulted members' views.

3. Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr Steven HO expressed a similar view that as the public consultation on the PRL policy was being conducted, and the Task Force on Land Supply under the Development Bureau was about to launch a public engagement exercise on land supply issues, there was no need for the Panel to also arrange a special meeting to receive public views on the PRL policy.

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4. Mr Tony TSE considered that as the Task Force on Land Supply had not yet released the public engagement document, it was not the appropriate timing for the Panel to decide at the present stage whether or not to arrange a special meeting to receive public views on the PRL policy.

5. Ms Tanya CHAN said that the PRL policy, which was an issue of great public concern, was under the Panel's purview, and she therefore considered it warranted to arrange a special Panel meeting to receive public views on the relevant consultation document. Mr SHIU Ka-chun concurred with Ms CHAN, adding that there had been many occasions in the past where a Panel invited public views on a policy issue in parallel with the public consultation concerned.

6. Given members' diverse views, the Chairman put to vote the question of whether to arrange a special meeting to receive public views on the PRL policy review.

7. The voting result was that three members voted for and nine members voted against the question, and one member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the proposal was not supported.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1222/17-18(01) and (02)]

8. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 28 May 2018 at 8:30 am:

- (c) injections to the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Sports Portion) & the Elite Athletes Development Fund; and
- (d) funding support to Intangible Cultural Heritage and museum initiatives.

III. Sports and recreation facility projects (Swimming pool complex and open space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai; Provision of heated pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex, Wong Tai Sin; Open space in Area 47 and 48, North District; Open space in Area

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6, Tai Po and Pre-construction activities for the redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium)

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1222/17-18(03)]

9. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the five capital works projects of new sports and recreation facilities, the details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1222/17-18(03)].

Discussion

10. Members in general expressed support for the Administration to carry out the above five projects. Members also urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of projects which had been long awaited by the relevant districts, e.g. the "Swimming Pool Complex and Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai" project ("the Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool Project") and the "Provision of Heated Pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex, Wong Tai Sin" project ("the Morse Park Swimming Pool Project").

11. SHA said that in the past few years, there was a relatively small number of proposals on sports and recreation facilities submitted to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for funding approval. In order to substantially increase provision of public sports and recreation facilities, it was announced in the 2017 Policy Address that \$20 billion were earmarked for the implementation of 26 projects from 2017 to 2021 to develop new or improve existing sports and recreation facilities. Moreover, technical feasibility studies would be conducted for another 15 sports and recreation facility projects to prepare for their implementation in the future. SHA added that some of the 26 projects had been submitted in batches to LegCo, and the remainder would be submitted before the end of 2021.

12. Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr YIU Si-wing suggested that apart from the aforesaid 26 projects, the Administration should also consider setting up a dedicated fund to take forward other works projects such as those carried forward from the two former Municipal Councils. Mr Tony TSE suggested that the Administration should consider adopting the "single site, multiple use" model when designing sports and recreation facilities in the future. Noting that some of the sites reserved for the provision of sports and recreation facilities were fenced and left idle, the Deputy Chairman

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suggested that the Administration should consider better utilizing such sites, e.g. by growing green lawns for public use.

13. In response, SHA said that after taking forward the aforesaid 26 projects, the Administration would contemplate how to implement other works projects to meet local demands. He added that the Administration would consider members' views and suggestions.

Admin 14. Mr AU Nok-hin said that members of the public were often unable to obtain information on the usage rates of sports and recreation facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") or the necessary information for assessment of how far these facilities in districts met the requirements laid down by the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. He urged the Administration to release such information through the Public Sector Information portal "DATA.GOV.HK". In response, SHA said that the Administration would look into whether and how the relevant information could be released in a more consistent and open manner.

15. Mr KWONG Chun-yu asked whether implementation of the Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool Project would affect the operation of the Tin Sau Bazaar. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that as swimming competitions would be held in the swimming pool in the future, the Administration had to be mindful about the potential impact of noise nuisance on residents in the vicinity. In response, the Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3 said that the construction works of the project would not encroach onto the Tin Sau Bazaar of which the operation would not be affected.

16. Regarding the Morse Park Swimming Pool Project, the Chairman suggested that the Administration should consider adopting phased implementation of the project so as to shorten the closure period. Mr Vincent CHENG urged the Administration to be mindful of the timeline for implementing the "Redevelopment of Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool" project so as to avoid the closure of the two venues concurrently for a long period of time. Mr CHENG added that as the Morse Park Swimming Pool was not conveniently located, the Administration should consider providing public parking spaces there.

17. The Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") said that the Administration would take measures to shorten the closure period of the Morse Park

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Swimming Pool as far as possible. Besides, the "Redevelopment of Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool" project would be implemented at a later stage, so as to shorten the period of time during which the two swimming pools had to be closed concurrently. The Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1 ("AD(LS)1") added that public parking spaces would not be provided in the Morse Park Swimming Pool, but the project included upgrading works at the swimming pool entrance to provide a lift to facilitate users to arrive at the entrance from the street level.

18. Mr HO Kai-ming expressed concern about the shortage of seasonal lifeguards in public swimming pools in recent years. He also asked whether the water filtering system to be used in the Morse Park Swimming Pool would be effective in cleansing urea in pool water. In response, AD(LS)1 said that LCSD had taken a number of measures to ensure adequate lifeguards were available to provide services at swimming pools, including increasing the salaries and gratuities for seasonal lifeguards to attract more eligible applicants to apply for the position, streamlining recruitment procedures and organizing more walk-in recruitments. She added that ozone sterilization systems would be used in all newly constructed public swimming pools, and regarding the issue of urea in pool water, LCSD had stepped up its publicity efforts to urge swimmers to observe personal hygiene, such as reminding them not to pollute pool water and visit the toilet before swimming, etc.

19. As regards the "Pre-construction activities for the redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium" project ("the Yuen Long Stadium Project"), Mr YIU Si-wing asked about the positioning of the Yuen Long Stadium, and whether any organizations would be given priority for booking the stadium. In response, C for S explained that the project aimed to upgrade the Yuen Long Stadium for hosting local and international football matches including those sanctioned by the Asian Football Confederation ("AFC") (e.g. AFC Champions League and AFC Cup matches), and also for hosting local athletic competitions particularly school athletic meets. He added that at present, the Hong Kong Stadium and the Mong Kok Stadium were the only venues in Hong Kong that could meet the relevant AFC standards, and there was no such venue in the New Territories. Meanwhile, the 50 000-seat main stadium to be provided in the Kai Tak Sports Park was designed to host major international sports events. C for S further said that priority for booking the Yuen Long Stadium would be accorded to "national sports associations" ("NSAs") (particularly the Hong Kong Football Association) and also schools, as in the case of other sports grounds managed by LCSD.

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20. Mr LUK Chung-hung declared that he was a honorary sponsor of the Yuen Long Football Club. Mr LUK Chung-hung, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung and Mr KWONG Chun-yu considered it undesirable that while the Yuen Long Stadium Project included re-provisioning of the west spectator stand with cover, the existing east spectator stand would only be refurbished. They held the view that the Administration should take this opportunity to also provide the east spectator stand with cover, and urged the Administration to provide more details of the cost involved if the east spectator stand were to be provided with cover.

21. C for S said that following the redevelopment, the number of seats in the Yuen Long Stadium would be increased from some 4 000 to around 6 900, of which some 4 000 would be provided in the west spectator stand with cover. He added that taking into account that the average number of participants in school athletic meets was around 1 000; football matches of the Hong Kong Premier League had an average attendance of about 1 200 and AFC-sanctioned football matches would be held at night, the Administration held the view that the 4 000 seats with cover in the west spectator stand could meet the demand of most events to be held in the Yuen Long Stadium. Besides, it was not uncommon for stadia in Hong Kong and overseas to have part of the spectator stand without cover. That said, C for S informed members that the proposed pre-construction activities would include a study on the design options for modification of the existing building and structure to facilitate provision of cover at the east spectator stand where necessary.

22. Mr LUK Chung-hung and the Chairman expressed concern that the distance created by the athletic track between the spectator stand and the football pitch would give rise to a situation that spectators would find it less enjoyable to watch football matches from such a long distance. Mr LUK also suggested that large screens should be installed in the Yuen Long Stadium after redevelopment to facilitate spectators to enjoy football matches. In response, C for S said that the members' views and suggestions would be taken into consideration when the design work of the Yuen Long Stadium Project was carried out.

23. Summing up, the Chairman said that members supported the submission of the five works proposals to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration.

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IV. Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1222/17-18(04) and (05)]

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1222/17-18(04)].

Discussion

25. Members in general welcomed the implementation of the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme ("the Scheme") so as to increase the provision of sports facilities and enhance the sporting culture in schools. Members raised concern that only a total of 17 sports organizations had arranged to run 45 sports programmes in 15 schools, and urged the Administration to put in more efforts to further enhance the Scheme.

26. SHA and C for S said that the Education Bureau ("EDB") had issued two circular memoranda in June and November 2017 to invite public sector schools to join the Scheme, and over 130 schools had indicated willingness to open up their facilities to sports organizations during certain specified time slots. The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") then distributed information on the schools' opening time slots and facilities to over 100 sports organizations, including NSAs and their affiliated club members, District Sports Associations and other sports organizations, and invited them to apply for the Scheme. However, as some of the schools were in the same districts and offered to open their facilities in the same time slots, not all the available time slots had been used by eligible sports organizations under the Scheme. Moreover, facilities offered by schools were not suitable for all kinds of sports. Besides, the level of charges levied by some schools were considered relatively high as compared with those for the facilities under the management of LCSD.

27. The Chairman and Mr Vincent CHENG considered that sports organizations had a large demand for sports facilities. They hoped that the Scheme could be better utilized to meet the large demand in this regard and suggested that the Administration should devise a more targeted approach in matching sports organizations with schools. SHA said that the Administration would look into how the matching between sports

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organizations and schools could be enhanced. The Chairman further asked whether sports organizations would be hindered by one of the requirements of the Scheme that one-fourth of the places in each sports programme had to be reserved for priority enrolment of student, teachers, and/or parents of the school concerned.

28. C for S responded that the requirement was consistent with the objective of the Scheme, and would provide incentive for schools to participate in the Scheme. Sports programmes currently held under the Scheme included squad training programmes, young athletes training programmes and district sports activities, covering a variety of sports including basketball, volleyball, archery and badminton. For certain sports such as ice hockey and karting which required additional equipment/facilities, the sports organizations concerned would provide the participating schools with the relevant equipment/facilities.

29. Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the number of participating schools seemed to be on the low side. Mr SHIU considered it desirable if schools with more varied sports facilities would participate in the Scheme with a view to providing a wider range of facilities for different sports activities. Noting that participating schools would receive a subsidy to cover the relevant expenses incurred (i.e. \$20,000 for accommodating the first programme and \$15,000 for each subsequent programme, up to a maximum amount of \$80,000 per school in each school year), Mr SHIU suggested that the amount of the subsidy should be increased. Mr AU suggested that instead of setting a uniform rate of subsidy for participating schools across the board, the Administration should consider adopting a more flexible arrangement for different types of sports programmes to ensure that the subsidy amount would be sufficient to cover the actual expenses incurred. Mr CHAN suggested that the Administration should consider providing other types of incentives for participating schools, e.g. allowing the staff members/teachers concerned to take compensatory leave.

30. Noting that participating sports organizations were required to procure adequate insurance (including third party liability insurance) for their use of school facilities, the Chairman and Mr IP Kin-yuen expressed a similar view that such a requirement would make it difficult for sports organizations to participate in the Scheme, and suggested that the Administration should play a more active role in dealing with the issue of insurance so as to encourage more schools and sports organizations to participate in the Scheme. The

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Chairman suggested that the Administration might consider procuring blanket insurance for sports organisations/schools participating in the Scheme.

31. Mr Kenneth LAU and the Chairman suggested that the scope of the Scheme should be further expanded to include opening up school facilities to arts groups for conducting arts and cultural activities, e.g. rehearsals. Mr CHU Hoi-dick suggested that community organizations and owners' corporations should also be allowed to hire school facilities for various types of community activities, and that the Administration should take on a more proactive role in making arrangements for community organizations to hire school facilities.

32. In response to members' views and suggestions, SHA and C for S said that the Administration would consider expanding the Scheme to include arts and cultural organizations. The Scheme would also be expanded to schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme. Furthermore, EDB and HAB would collect feedback from participating schools and sports organizations by the end of the 2017-2018 school year and examine how the Scheme could be further enhanced. The Principal Education Officer (School Administration) ("PEO") added that it was the Government's policy to encourage schools to open up their facilities for hire by community organizations as a means to foster collaboration between schools and the community. Under the spirit of school-based management, it was up to schools to decide whether or not they would open up their facilities for hire by community organizations. At the request of members, PEO undertook to consider also collecting views and suggestions from those schools that did not participate in the Scheme as well.

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V. Any other business

33. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:43 am.