

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 20 July 2018, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members attending : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Members absent : Hon Claudia MO
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers : Item II
attending

The Administration

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Acting 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 Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Hong Kong Football Association

Mr Brian LEUNG Hung-tak, MH
Chairman

Mr Ken WU Tze-hing
Head of Corporate Governance

Football Task Force

Mr LI Tak-nang
Member

Dr Lobo LOUIE Hung-tak
Member

Item III

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Acting Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

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

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)1808/17-18(01), CB(2)1863/17-18(01) and CB(2)1875/17-18(01)]

The Panel noted that the following papers had been issued to members after the last meeting:

- (a) referral from Legislative Council Members' meeting with members of Islands District Council on 8 June 2018 regarding review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) [circulated to Members only];
- (b) referral from the Public Complaints Office on policy issues relating to the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) and the Administration's support provided for small owners. [circulated to Members only]; and
- (c) letter dated 18 July 2018 from Hon CHAN Chi-chuen.

II. Hong Kong Football Association Five-Year Strategic Plan – Mid-term Review

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1836/17-18(01) and (02)]

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs ("Atg SHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1836/17-18(01)].

3. Mr LUK Chung-hung declared that he was currently a honorary sponsor of the Yuen Long Football Club, and his son played for the youth team of a football club of the Hong Kong Premier League ("HKPL").

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Discussion

4. Noting that the average attendance per match of HKPL in each of the past three seasons fell short of the interim target attendance of 1 500, Mr Holden CHOW and Mr LAU Kwok-fan urged the Administration/the Hong Kong Football Association ("HKFA") to take measures to boost the interests of members of the public in HKPL. Mr YIU Si-wing considered that football clubs should be provided with a stronger financial incentive to participate in HKPL, e.g. a larger amount of prize money. He also urged HKFA to enhance the interactive features of its website and fan database. In view of the low attendance for local football matches and Hong Kong Representative Teams' lack of progress in their international ranking, Mr Jimmy NG considered that the Administration could further increase its financial support for football development, e.g. by setting up a matching fund to encourage business sponsorship and/or by subsidizing tickets of HKPL matches.

5. Atg SHA and the Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") said that the Football Task Force had recommended that HKFA should review the effectiveness of its marketing strategy and identify ways that would boost the interests of members of the public in HKPL. Besides, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") would discuss with the host teams of HKPL matches on measures to enhance match day experience. Apart from the annual funding of \$25 million earmarked for the Five-Year Strategic Plan from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020, government resources had been allocated to football development through various funding schemes, e.g. the Sports Subvention Scheme and District Football Funding Scheme. Mr AU Nok-hin considered that HKFA should provide more details of how the government funding was used. C for S said that the sustainable development of HKPL hinged on enhancing its market value through attracting more audience and commercial sponsorship, and HKFA should step up efforts in generating commercial revenue. Nevertheless, HKFA and individual HKPL clubs had the autonomy to devise their pricing strategy.

6. Mr Holden CHOW asked why a number of existing clubs failed to comply with the HKPL licence requirements after four seasons since HKPL's establishment. The Chairman of HKFA ("C of HKFA") explained that the Club Licence System was intended to enhance the governance, management, operation and professional standards of football clubs as required by the Asian Football Confederation, and HKFA would liaise with

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those clubs and provide assistance to facilitate their full compliance with licence requirements.

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7. Mr LUK Chung-hung, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr Andrew WAN took the view that tax concession should be granted to business sponsorship for local football, so as to facilitate commercialization of football. Besides, Mr LUK, Mr LAU and Mr AU considered that to promote football, the Administration should make arrangements for live broadcast of HKPL football matches on free-of-charge television channels, e.g. the Radio Television Hong Kong. In this connection, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau should be engaged in taking forward the relevant works. In response, Atg SHA said that while issues relating to granting tax concession to business sponsorship for local football, commercialization of football, and broadcasting arrangement of HKPL matches were not within the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"), members' views and suggestions in these regards would be relayed to the relevant bureaux for consideration.

8. In response to Mr AU Nok-hin's enquiry, Atg SHA said that the Administration had no plan to legalize gambling on local football matches, as the Administration's policy stance was not to encourage gambling.

9. Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that if football clubs of Hong Kong could participate in the Chinese Football Association ("CFA") Super League or other football leagues in the Mainland, it would be a major boost to the development of football in Hong Kong. They enquired whether there was any progress in this respect.

10. C for S said that arranging football clubs of Hong Kong to participate in the CFA Super League was a complex issue, given the difference between the football system of Hong Kong and that of the Mainland, as well as the large investment amount required for a participating football club. C of HKFA noted the importance of HKPL in Hong Kong despite some difficulty for HKPL to be commercially sustainable. HKFA and CFA would explore organizing football matches in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area.

11. Members welcomed HKFA's performance in achieving indicators and targets relating to the promotion of grassroots and youth football, and girls and women's football. With regards to grassroots and youth football,

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Mr LEUNG Che-cheung asked whether the statistics provided in the Administration's paper had already included participants in programmes offered by private football academies. Mr Andrew WAN considered that HKFA could have more collaboration with private football academies so as to provide a greater variety of training programmes.

12. C of HKFA said that in recent years, there had been great demand for grassroots and youth football in the community, and the statistics provided in the Administration's paper only included those programmes offered by HKFA and its affiliated associations but not private football academies. C for S added that interested applicants could join training programmes offered by HKFA and those by private football academies, or even both, in accordance with their own needs.

13. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman expressed a similar view that in order to make playing football a viable career option for the youth, it was imperative for the Administration/HKFA to improve the remuneration and career prospect of football players. The Chairman asked whether HKPL's existing regulations on the ratio between non-resident (foreign) players and local players had any impact on the career prospect of local players. The Deputy Chairman asked whether there was any progress in the establishment of the Professional Footballers' Association in Hong Kong.

14. Mr Andrew WAN considered that to facilitate the development of local players, more high-level overseas players who were at the later stage of their career should be recruited to HKPL teams. Besides, he suggested that the Administration/HKFA should establish a more systematic scheme for subsidizing local players to receive overseas training.

15. C for S said that there had been substantial increase in HKPL players' salaries in recent years. Furthermore, following the discussion between HAB/HKFA and CFA in the previous year, Hong Kong players had been allowed to play for football clubs in the CFA Super League or the CFA China League 1. C of HKFA said that the existing player registration system of HKPL (i.e. a participating club could submit up to a maximum of six non-resident (foreign) players in total, and a maximum of four could be fielded at one time of a match) had already struck a balance between the need to make the matches more appealing and that to give more opportunities to local players. He further said that there had not been substantive progress in the establishment of the Professional Footballers' Association.

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16. Dr Pierre CHAN considered that the Administration should put more emphasis on the promotion of futsal. He urged the Administration to provide more futsal pitches which met the international standards, e.g. by renovating the existing five-a-side pitches. Dr CHAN also considered that the Administration should provide more free-of-charge hard-surfaced football pitches so that more members of the public could play football without having to make advance booking and to cater for players from low-income families.

17. Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed a similar view that apart from the football training centre at Tseung Kwan O, the Administration should devise a concrete plan to provide more football pitches in various districts. Mr HUI considered it desirable for each HKPL football club to have a designated training pitch, as in the case of the Kitchee Football Team.

18. Atg SHA and C for S said that the Administration would continue to increase the supply of football pitches, including renovating existing pitches into futsal pitches as appropriate. In fact, the Administration had been pressing ahead with the Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreational Facilities, which would develop new or improve existing football pitches in various districts. Besides, under the current arrangement between LCSD and HKFA, each HKPL team already had a designated training pitch.

(Post-meeting note: Hon SHIU Ka-chun's letter on the supply of football pitches and the Administration's reply letter were issued on 6 August 2018 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1912/17-18(01) and (02) respectively.)

19. Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that the Panel should conduct a meeting to receive public views on the subject, particularly those in the football sector. The Chairman said that as this was the last meeting of the 2017-2018 session, the matter could be followed up in the 2018-2019 session.

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III. Use of public open space managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1836/17-18(03) and (04)]

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, Atg SHA briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1836/17-18(03)].

Discussion

21. Mr YIU Si-wing welcomed the launch of an innovative inclusive playground in Tuen Mun Park by LCSD as a pilot scheme, and urged the Administration to draw on the experience from this pilot scheme when renovating existing playgrounds and planning for new ones. Mr LAU Kwok-fan considered that the play equipment currently provided in LCSD venues put too much emphasis on the safety concern. He urged the Administration to provide a greater variety of play equipment that would appeal more to children. Mr HUI Chi-fung considered that notwithstanding the need to comply with safety standards, there were many cases locally and overseas where children's play equipment was more interesting than that provided in LCSD venues, e.g. playgrounds managed by private developers and the Housing Department, as well as those in Japan.

22. Atg SHA and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") responded that in order to strengthen the appeal to children, themes and popular play facilities such as climbing frames, slides and swings, would be included in LCSD playgrounds as far as possible. LCSD would continue to liaise with concern groups and the district community on the design and play equipment. Besides, LCSD, together with relevant works departments, would evaluate the feedbacks on the pilot scheme of the innovative inclusive playground in Tuen Mun Park to see how the experience gained from this project could be adapted or adopted when planning for new park projects or modernizing existing venues.

23. In response to Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's enquiry about the implementation details of the "Community Build Playground ('CBP') project", Atg SHA and DLCS explained that CBP was a brand new concept which allowed children to partner with their parents to create their own playground by using simple tools (e.g. recycled materials) and to explore the parks through imagination and cooperation. The CBP project was being rolled out from September 2017 to August 2020 at four major parks on Hong

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Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered it desirable if the Administration could also engage the community in the use and management of more parks, as in the case of the Sculpture Walk in the Tin Shui Wai Park and the Dragon Park of Tin Shui Wai.

24. Noting that LCSD planned to provide three new pet gardens in 2018 and 2019, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the number was rather small and urged the Administration to provide more pet gardens in the future. He relayed Ms Claudia MO's view that "pet gardens" should be called "animal gardens", and suggested that pet owners and their pets should be allowed to use LCSD parks together with other users. He urged the Administration to examine the issue, and if necessary, consider amending the relevant legislation. Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed a similar view, and suggested that the Administration should consider, on a pilot basis, designating a few parks where pet owners and their pets could use together with other users. Ms Starry LEE also held the view that it was desirable if more parks could be used by pet owners and their pets together with other users. She urged the Administration to make reference to the management of the Penfold Park, which was one of the most pet-friendly venues in Hong Kong.

25. Atg SHA and DLCS responded that LCSD had all along adopted a proactive approach to address the demand of dog owners for more pet gardens by designating specific areas in parks as pet gardens after obtaining the support of the respective district councils and the local community. The number of pet gardens managed by LCSD had increased from 19 in 2010 to 48 in June 2018. Besides, pet accesses were also provided in eight parks (including six venues provided with pet gardens). LCSD would continue to identify suitable venues in existing or planned parks for the provision of additional pet gardens. Atg SHA added that it would require the consensus among different stakeholders over the issue of allowing pet owners and their pets to use LCSD parks with other users.

26. The Chairman welcomed LCSD's addition of an arts and cultural dimension to public open spaces and pleasure grounds, and considered that the Administration should further expand the "City Dress Up" so as to promote arts and culture through nurturing local artists and building audience. He also suggested that LCSD's parks should be planted with more *Aquilaria sinensis* (commonly known as Incense tree), which was related to the origin of the name of Hong Kong.

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27. The Deputy Chairman considered that apart from children's play equipment and elderly fitness equipment, fitness equipment tailored for adults should be provided in LCSD parks. Besides, she urged the Administration to consider advancing the opening time of LCSD parks, and designating more area therein for outdoor performances with streamlined procedures of application for use of such area.

28. Noting that the elderly often joined fitness activities as a group in LCSD parks, Mr YIU Si-wing suggested that on-site instructor/coach could be arranged to facilitate those users. Besides, Mr YIU considered that the sites selected for providing leisure angling ancillary facilities could be more conveniently located so as to attract more users.

29. Mr AU Nok-hin, Mr HUI Chi-fung and Ms Tanya CHAN considered that the public should be allowed to enjoy a greater variety of activities in public open spaces without too many restrictions. Ms CHAN considered that some sitting-out areas in urban districts (e.g. Wan Chai) would be better utilized if the Administration fine-tuned the design.

30. In response to members' views and suggestions, Atg SHA and DLCS said that LCSD had been enhancing the design, vibrancy, ambience and safety of its venues for public enjoyment, and members of the public could participate in a great variety of leisure activities in LCSD venues, including group fitness activities in parks and angling at the waterfronts. In fact, the number of parks and gardens managed by LCSD with large multi-purpose lawn areas had increased from 39 in 2010 to 51 in June 2018. Moreover, three new parks and gardens with large lawn areas would be launched in 2018 and 2019. Atg SHA further said that in taking forward the work relating to design and management of public open space, LCSD would take into account members' suggestions and the views of the public. For example, in response to increasing community demand for more venues for young children to play balance bikes, LCSD planned to implement in August 2018 a trial scheme of opening up suitable parks for casual use by balance bike riders.

31. Mr AU Nok-hin urged the Administration to release information on the supply of public open space and recreational facilities under LCSD and the relevant planning standards in the 18 districts. Atg SHA responded that information on the supply of venues/facilities under LCSD was available at the LCSD's website. He added that the Administration could further liaise with Mr AU on the matter after the meeting.

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(The Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for not more than 15 minutes.)

Motion

32. Mr AU Nok-hin proposed to move the following motion:

(Translation)

"The this Committee urged the Government to release the information on the supply of public open space and recreational facilities under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the 18 districts and the relevant planning standards for the public to examine and monitor."

33. Given members' diverse views, the Chairman put to vote the question as to whether the motion proposed by Mr AU Nok-hin should be dealt with.

34. The voting result was that four members voted for and four members voted against the question, and no member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that as the question did not have the support of a majority of the members voting, it was negatived.

IV. Any other business

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 November 2018