

Fees and Charges for Leisure and Cultural Services
A proposed fee-setting mechanism

Introduction

This paper sets out the Administration's proposal for a mechanism which will provide for a two-tier approach in the setting of fees and charges for Leisure and Cultural services. Fees and charges in the first-tier will be set through legislative means and will be subject to negative vetting by the Legislative Council. The rest will be in the second tier which will be set administratively by the new department for Leisure and Cultural Services to be created (the new department), with the approval of the Financial Secretary.

Background

2. The mechanism for setting of fees and charges after the reorganization of the municipal services has been discussed several times in the Bills Committee. Three previous papers were produced, respectively for meetings of 25 May, 4 June and 25 June, summing up the existing situation and providing reasons why flexibility in the determination of fees is necessary in order to promote usage of venues and programmes, cost effectiveness and a more proactive marketing strategy. Throughout the discussions, the point has always been maintained that the Administration has no wish to resist LegCo scrutiny of the fees, only that we need to find a pragmatic solution to allow the new department to operate responsively, while LegCo maintains a sufficient overview.

3. In previous discussions, the point seems to have been established that admission charges to programmes should not be set through legislative means in view of their number and diversity and because of the time element.

The rationale for a two-tier approach

4. We should keep fees and charges in line with the policy objectives and community demand. Cumbersome procedures and a long time gap will inhibit innovative approaches and undermine staff enthusiasm in introducing

schemes like differential rates to spread out usage of popular facilities or programmes, adjustable (by location and by time slot) group or block booking discounts to improve the marketability of less popular ones, adding new attractions to existing facilities, variation of use of facilities not in keen demand, etc.

5. We however note the views expressed by Members in the Bills Committee that certain fees and charges are of such concern to the general public that they should be subject a more stable regime with LegCo holding a veto power. Striking a balance with the consideration in the foregoing paragraph, we propose that fees and charges for venues and facilities which **are widely used by individual members of the public** should go into a category of its own, to be prescribed by regulation and subject to ‘negative vetting’ by LegCo. All other fees and charges for leisure and culture, including hire of facilities in the first category **for commercial purposes or for use by organisations**, will go into another category which will be determined by the head of the new department with the approval of the Financial Secretary, in a fashion as now proposed in 124J (1) (n).

6. Previously, we have stated that in respect of fees and charges not subject to ‘negative vetting’, the Administration will ensure transparency by submission of information to the relevant LegCo panel regularly or as required. At any time, we shall be prepared to justify fees and charges in this category before the relevant LegCo panel.

7. If, in the future there are contracting out or commercialization schemes that would require a degree of autonomy in fees and charges by the operator, we shall consult the relevant LegCo panel beforehand.

8. In the discussion on 8 October, we were asked to see whether ‘with the approval of the Financial Secretary’ could be taken out of the proposed legislation. We have duly considered and would reiterate that the current formulation is not intended to facilitate hiking of fees, but to achieve a proper check and balance. Although administrative control mechanisms can achieve similar results, for transparency and internal balance within the legislation, the current formulation is better. In any case, we do not see it possible for the proposed arrangement to result in a change of policy or practice to the detriment of the development of culture or sports in Hong Kong.

Examples of the Two -Tier Approach

List A *Fees and Charges for Venues and Services widely used by individual members of the public (a definitive list)*

Admission to Public Swimming Pools

Hire of Tennis Courts

Hire of Basket Ball Courts

Hire of Squash Courts

Hire of Football Pitches

Hire of Table Tennis Tables

Hire of Badminton Courts

Holiday Camp Fees

Admission to Museums

Admission to Public Libraries

List B *Any other services or facilities relating to leisure and cultural activities provided by the new department (the following is an illustrative list only)*

Leisure Services

1. Fees for hire of swimming pools
 - hire charges of pool facilities
 - hire charges of equipment and facilities
 - non-designated use

2. Fees for use of tennis courts
 - events with admission fees/incomes (including Victoria Park Centre Court)
 - non-designated use

3. Hire charges for use of indoor games halls/leisure centres/indoor recreation centres facilities
 - volleyball courts
 - activity room
 - fitness room
 - public address system

- use of air-conditioning in an activity room
 - events with admission fees/incomes
 - non-designated use
4. Hire charges for use of squash courts
- events with admission fees/income
 - non-designated use
5. Flower Show
- admission fees
 - auction of stalls (upset price)
 - sale of programme booklets
 - sale of carrying bags
 - sale of souvenir items
 - sale of commemorative envelopes
6. Hire charges for use of football pitches
- events with admission fee/income
 - non-sporting uses
7. Hire charges for use of turf pitches and artificial turf pitches for rugby, cricket and hockey
- hire charges
 - use of floodlight
 - events with admission fees/income
 - non-sporting use
8. Hire charges for use of sports grounds
- use of type I venues for sports use (such as Wan Chai Sports Ground)
 - use of type II venues for sports use (such as Causeway Bay Sports Ground)
 - use of floodlight
 - use of electronic scoreboard, timing equipment, starting pistol and walkie-talkie
 - use of electronic scoreboard for advertising
 - additional charge for ground advertisement
 - additional charge for radio or television broadcast
 - events with admission fees/incomes
 - non-designated use

9. Hire charges for use of Mong Kok Stadium by organizations
 - ball games
 - soccer events organised by commercial organizations
 - advertising right
 - use of floodlight
 - use of walkie-talkie
 - non-sporting events

10. Hire charges for use of Hong Kong Stadium by organizations
 - use of stadium (including pitch)
 - use of stadium (excluding pitch)
 - use of walkie-talkie
 - use of diamond vision
 - film shooting
 - hire of scoreboard
 - hire of souvenir shop
 - advertising right
 - broadcasting right
 - police cost
 - setting up of chair
 - laying of terraplas
 - sound technician
 - sound monitoring
 - hire of executive suite
 - hire of multi-use room
 - hire of car park
 - hire of terraplas outside the stadium
 - hire of plastic chair outside the stadium
 - hire of folding table outside the stadium
 - hire of mills barrier

11. Fees for film shooting by commercial organizations

12. Sale of nursery produce

13. Fees for use of facilities/programmes at Water Sports Centre
 - training programmes
 - package programmes
 - hire of water sports craft
 - tent camping

- day camping
 - membership fee for Water Sports Scheme
14. Fees for hire of holiday camp
 - use of swimming pool for non-campers
 - use of badminton court for non-campers
 - use of squash courts for non-campers
 - use of tennis courts for non-campers
 - non-designated use
 15. Fees for use of bowling green
 - hire charges
 - non-sporting use
 - events with admission fees/income
 16. Fees for hire of obstacle golf course
 - hire charges
 - events with admission fees/income
 - non-sporting use
 17. Fees for hire of golf driving range
 - driving bay/practice green
 - hire of golf club
 - hire of golf ball
 18. Fee for hire of sport climbing facility
 19. Fee for hire of archery range
 20. Fee for hire of rope course
 21. Programme entry fees for recreation and sports activities
 22. Entry fees for horticulture courses
 23. Hire charges of bathing shed

Museums

- Admission charges for special museum exhibitions and programmes
- Venue and equipment hire for spaces in the museum premise open for public hiring
- Trading
- Advertising
- Use of miscellaneous museum services and facilities (e.g. reproduction fees, photocopying fees)

Civic Centres

- Admission charges for cultural and entertainment programmes and activities
- Civic centre venue and equipment hire
- Trading
- Advertising

Libraries

- Admission charges for special extension activities and programmes
- Venue and equipment hire for spaces open for public hiring
- Use of miscellaneous library services and facilities (e.g. cloakroom, reservation of library material, photocopying, computer print-out services)

Music Office

- Concert admission charges
- Course fees for instrumental music training and music theory classes
- Hire of music instruments
- Outreach interest classes

Programme Fees

9. In the discussion of 8 October, a Member asked if we can provide details of the 2000 odd programmes we or others organize in venues managed by the department. An attempt to catalogue the main kinds of events has been

made. The results are at Appendix. Some programmes are commercially run and some are repeated throughout the year and across the territory. Their exact number is difficult to establish.

Home Affairs Bureau
14 October 1999

**Recreation and Sports Programmes Organized by
Provisional Urban Council**

Name of Activities
<u>Athletic & Aquatics</u>
Life Saving Training Course (Bronze Medallion Syllabus)
Life Saving Training Course (Award of Merit Syllabus)
Water Safety Course for Baby
Elementary Swimming Training Course for Children
Elementary Swimming Training Course for Junior
Elementary Swimming Training Course for Youth
Elementary Swimming Training Course for Adult
Level I Swimming Improvement Course
Level II Swimming Improvement Course
<u>Dance & Movement</u>
Aerobic Dance Training Course
Baduanjin Training Course
Children Dance Training Course
Dance Night
Fitness (Multi-gym) Training Course
General Gymnastic Training Course
Hydro-fitness Training Course
Jazz Training Course
Judo Training Course for Children
Judo Training Course for Junior
Modern Dance Training Course
Oriental Dance Training Course
Play Leadership Training Course for Children
Social Dance Training Course
Stress Management & Physical Relaxation Training Course
Tai Chi Training Course
Tai Chi Sword Training Course
Western Folk Dance Training Course
Wushu Training Course for Children
Wushu Training Course for Junior
Yoga Training Course
<u>Individual Games</u>
Elementary Archery Training Course
Elementary Badminton Training Course
Elementary Badminton Training Course for Youth
Badminton Clinic
Mini-tennis Training Course
Elementary Roller Skating Training Course
Elementary Squash Training Course

Name of Activities
Elementary Squash Training Course for Youth
Squash Clinic
Elementary Table-tennis Training Course
Table-tennis Training Course for Children
Table-tennis Training Course for Junior
Table-tennis Clinic
Elementary Tennis Training Course
Elementary Tennis Training Course for Youth
Tennis Clinic
<u>Outdoor Pursuit</u>
1 Star Award Canoe Training Course
2 Star Award Canoe Training Course
3 Star Award Canoe Training Course
Elementary Canoe-polo Training Course
Day Camping
Horse Riding Fun Day
Land Excursion
Elementary Orienteering Training Course
Residential Camping
Introduction to Sailing Training Course
Sailing Helmsman Training Course
Sea Excursion
Sea-Land Excursion
Tent Camping
Elementary Windsurfing Training Course
<u>Team Games</u>
Elementary Basketball Training Course
Elementary Basketball Training Course for Youth
District Basketball Competition for Female
District Basketball Competition for Male
3-on-3 Basketball Knock-out Competition
3-on-3 Basketball League
Elementary Chinese Shuttlecock Training Course
Elementary Soccer Training Course
Elementary Soccer Training Course for Junior
Elementary Soccer Training Course for Youth
District 5-a-side Soccer Competition
District 7-a-side Soccer Competition
District 11-a-side Soccer Competition
District 11-a-side Soccer League
Elementary Gateball Training Course
District Gateball Competition
Elementary Hockey Training Course
Elementary Lawn Bowls Training Course
Elementary Netball Training Course

Name of Activities
Elementary Softball Training Course
Elementary Volleyball Training Course
Elementary Volleyball Training Course for Youth
District Volleyball Competition for Female
District Volleyball Competition for Male
Water Sports Centre
1 & 2 Star Award Canoe Training Course
3 Star Award Canoe Training Course
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring
Kayak Fun Day – Rolling Clinic
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring (Proficiency)
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring (Advanced)
Kayak Proficiency Training Course (include trips)
Kayak Advanced Training Course (include trips)
Introduction to Sailing Training Course
Sailing Helmsman Training Course
Helmsman Clinic
Sailing Trip
Seamanship Training Course
Laser 2000 Helmsman Training Course
Laser 3000 Helmsman Training Course
Dinghy Instructor Pre-entry Clinic
Learn to Sailing Race
420 Helmsman Training Course
420 Tuning Clinic
Improving Racing Technique
Advanced Seamanship Training Course
Basic Windsurfing Training Course
Windsurfing Improver Clinic
Intermediate Windsurfing Training Course
Learn to Windsurfing Race
Improving Racing Technique
Windsurfing Trip
Advance Windsurfing Training Course
Funboard Training Course
Windsurfing Open Sea Award Training Course
Short Board Training Course
Others
Official/Instructor Training Course
Elementary Horticultural Course
Intermediate Horticultural Course
Advance Horticultural Course

**Recreation and Sports Programmes Organized by
Provisional Regional Council**

Name of Activities
<u>Athletics & Aquatics</u>
Elementary Distance Run Training Course
Elementary Diving Training Course
Elementary Life-saving Training Course
Intermediate Life-saving Training Course
Elementary Snorkelling Training Course
Elementary Swimming Training Course
Intermediate Swimming Training Course
Swimming Training Course for Adult
Swimming Training Course for Children
Swimming Training Course for Toddler
Swimming Training Course for Youth
Swimming Training Course for Family
Intermediate Swimming Training Course for Adult
Intermediate Swimming Training Course for Children
Intermediate Swimming Training Course for Youth
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 1
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 2
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 3
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 4
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 5
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 6
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 7
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 8
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 9
Sports Development Scheme for Swimming Level 10
Elementary Synchronized Swimming Training Course
Elementary Track & Field Training Course
<u>Dance & Movement</u>
Aerobic Dance Training Course
Elementary Children Dance Training Course
Elementary Chinese Dance Training Course
Fitness Exercise Training Course
Fitness through Multi-gym Training Course
Hydro-fitness Training Course
Elementary Gymnastics Training Course
Elementary Acro-sports Training Course

Name of Activities
Elementary Judo Training Course
Intermediate Judo Training Course
Elementary Modern Dance Training Course
Making Dances Ballet Training Course
Elementary Jazz Training Course
Elementary Disco Training Course
Elementary Social Dance Training Course
Intermediate Social Dance Training Course
Elementary Tai Chi Training Course
Intermediate Tai Chi Training Course
Elementary Tai Chi Sword Training Course
Elementary Silk Exercise Training Course
Walking Training Course
Elementary Western Folk Dance Training Course
Elementary Yoga Training Course
<u>Individual Games</u>
Elementary Archery Training Course
Elementary Badminton Training Course
Intermediate Badminton Training Course
Badminton Training Course for Family
Elementary Badminton Training Course for Youth
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 1
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 2
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 3
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 4
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 5
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 6
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 7
Sports Development Scheme for Badminton Level 8
Elementary Chinese Chess Training Course
Elementary Fencing Training Course
Elementary Golf Training Course
Intermediate Golf Training Course
Golf Training Course (Level I/II/III)
Golf Training Course for Friends (Level I/II/III)
Golf Training Course for Women (Level I/II/III)
Golf Training Course for Children (Level I/II/III)
Golf Training Course for Youth (Level I/II/III)
Golf Training Course for Child & Parent (Level I/II/III)
Long Game Improver

Name of Activities
Short Game Improver
Elementary In-line Skating Training Courses
Elementary Lawn Bowls Training Courses
Elementary Mini-tennis Training Courses
Elementary Table-tennis Training Courses
Intermediate Table-tennis Training Courses
Table Tennis Training Courses for Youth
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 1
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 2
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 3
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 4
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 5
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 6
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 7
Sports Development Scheme for Table-tennis Level 8
Elementary Tennis Training Courses
Intermediate Tennis Training Courses
Indoor Tennis Training Courses for Junior
Elementary Roller-skating Training Courses
Elementary Squash Training Courses
Intermediate Squash Training Courses
Elementary Ten-pin Bowling Training Courses
Elementary Trampolining Training Course
<u>Outdoor Pursuit</u>
Colour Boat Training Course
Day Camp
1 & 2 Star Award Canoe Training Course
3 Star Award Canoe Training Course
Elementary international Racing Kayak Training Course
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring
Kayak Proficiency Training Course
Kayak Life Guard Training Course
Kayak Fun Day – Rolling Clinic
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring (Proficiency)
Intermediate International Racing Kayak Training Course
Kayak Advanced Training Course
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring (Advanced)
Kayak Fun Day – Sea Touring and Camping
Chong Hing Flat Water Canoe Slalom
Excursion for Youth

Name of Activities
Excursion for Family
Fishing Activities
Hiking Scheme
Elementary Horse-riding Training Courses
Horse Riding Fun Day
Kite Flying Fun Day
Elementary Orienteering Training Courses
Residential Camp for Youth
Residential Camp for Family
Children Summer Camps
Youth Sports Training Camps
Extended Camp
Elementary Rope Course Training Courses
Elementary Rowing Training Courses
Introduction to Sailing Training Course
Sailing Fun Day
Sailing Helmsman Training Course
Sailing Helmsman Clinic
Sailing Trip
Laser Helmsman Training Course
Seamanship Training Course
Learn to Sailing Race
420 Helmsman Training Course
Improving Racing Technique
Advanced Seamanship Training Course
Dinghy Instructor Pre-entry Clinic
Introduction to Junior Sailing Training Course
Junior Sailing Helmsman Training Course
Junior Sailing Clinic
Topper Sailing Long Trip
Junior Sailing Competition
Wong Shek Topper Race
Tai Po Regatta
Tai Mei Tuk Regatta
Elementary Sports Climbing Training Course
Tent Camping
Elementary Windsurfing Training Course
Windsurfing Improver Clinic
Windsurfing Fun Day
Intermediate Windsurfing Training Course

Name of Activities
Funboard Training Course
Learn to Windsurfing race
Improving Racing Technique (Race Board)
Advanced Windsurfing Training Course
Windsurfing Open Sea Award Training Course
Wong Shek Windsurfing Race
<u>Team Games</u>
Elementary Baseball Training Courses
Elementary Basketball Training Courses
Intermediate Basketball Training Courses
Elementary Basketball Training Courses for Men
Elementary Basketball Training Courses for Women
Elementary Basketball Training Courses for Youth
Sports Development Scheme for Basketball Level 1
Sports Development Scheme for Basketball Level 2
Sports Development Scheme for Basketball Level 3
Sports Development Scheme for Basketball Level 4
District Women's Basketball League
District Men's Basketball League
District Gateball Competition
Elementary Gateball Training Courses
District Handball Competition
Elementary Handball Training Courses
Elementary Hockey Training Courses
Children's Mini Hockey Training Course
Elementary Mini-soccer Training Courses
District 5-a-side Football Competition
Elementary Football Training Courses
Intermediate Football Training Courses
Sports Development Scheme for Football Level 1
Sports Development Scheme for Football Level 2
Sports Development Scheme for Football Level 3
Sports Development Scheme for Football Level 4
District 11-a side Soccer League
Elementary Softball Training Course
Elementary Rugby Training Courses
Elementary Volleyball Training Courses
Intermediate Volleyball Training Courses
Volleyball Training Courses for men
Volleyball Training Courses for women

Name of Activities
District Volleyball Competition for Female
District Volleyball Competition for Male
Others
Coaches/Referees/Leaders/Camp Counsellors Training Course
Horticultural Class

A. Year-round Cultural Programmes Presented
by the Municipal Councils in 1998/99

Type		Provisional Urban Council				Provisional Regional Council			
		Presentation		Sponsored		Presentation		Joint Presentation	
		Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf
Music	Western Orchestra	11	45			13	23		
	Ensemble and Instrumental	22	43			22	27		
	Western Opera	1	9			-	-		
	Chinese Orchestra	5	6			9	14		
	Chinese Instrumental Ensembles	5	23			14	17		
	Vocal	8	12			9	15		
	Jazz	1	1			-	-		
	Sub-total	53	139	45	124	67	96	32	39
Dance	Ballet	4	12			5	25		
	Modern Dance	8	56			3	7		
	Chinese Dance	4	12			2	4		
	Folk Dance	1	3			2	3		
	Sub-total	17	83	11	43	12	39	29	16
Theatrical Arts	Drama	20	133			20	159		
	Puppets	9	48			9	28		
	Sub-total	29	181	7	37	29	187	7	18
Chinese Opera and Operatic Songs		45	97	15	23	19	59	39	46
Film / Video Art		5	41	4	59	1	14	-	-
Pop Concerts		-	-			9	28	2	2
Others (lectures, workshops, exhibitions, etc)		18	65	2	4	25	120	20	48
Total		167	606	84	290	162	543	129	169

Presentation : 329 programmes 1149 performances
Joint Presentation : 213 programmes 459 performances

**B. Programmes in Festivals organized
by the Provisional Urban Council 1998/99**

Type	22 nd Hong Kong International Film Festival		International Arts Carnival		17 th Festival of Asian Arts	
	Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf
Music				6		22
Dance				16		53
Theatre				23		13
Chinese Opera				-		4
Film/Video	263	310		7		-
Others (lectures, workshops, exhibitions, etc)		13		26		9
Total	263	323	12	78	16	101

C. Performing Companies under PUC

Programmes Presented in 1998/99

	Main Programme		Extension / Special Activities	
	Prog	Perf	Prog	Perf
Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	16	31	4	65
Hong Kong Dance Company	5	17	5	162
Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	8	134	4	150
Total	29	182	13	377

Grand Total : 42 Programmes
559 Performances