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Panel on Home Affairs

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 9 April 2010**

Development of Public Library Services

Purpose

This paper gives an account of discussions by Legislative Council (LegCo) Members on the development of public library services since April 2009. For background information on the subject before that date, members may wish to refer to LC Paper No. CB(2)1301/08-09(04) issued on 9 April 2009.

Background

2. In June 2007, the Administration briefed the Panel on the key recommendations of the Recommendation Report of the Committee on Libraries (CoL)^(note). To take forth these recommendations, the Public Libraries Advisory Committee was set up in May 2008 to advise the Administration on the overall development strategy of Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL). In April 2009, the Administration updated the Panel on the progress in the implementation of CoL's recommendations, in particular the development plans of public library services. The key steps/initiatives taken by the Administration to enhance the provision of library services are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Provision of libraries

3. The provision of public libraries in Hong Kong has been made with reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines which states that one district library should be provided for each district and that there should also be a district library for every 200 000 persons. As at April 2009, the 7.03 million population in Hong Kong was served by 66 static libraries and 10 mobile library vans. To enhance space provision in new libraries, the standard space provision for district library and major library have been revised to 2 900 and 6 200 square metres respectively, as compared to the corresponding old standards of 2 200 and 3 310 square metres.

Note: The CoL was established in November 2004 for a tenure of two years to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on strategies and plans for betterment of the Hong Kong public libraries' facilities and services. It completed its terms and submitted its Recommendation Report to the Secretary for Home Affairs in May 2007.

Management of district libraries and community libraries

4. Library facilities at the district level have been put under the co-management of the District Councils (DCs) since January 2008, resulting in closer collaboration between the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the local community for developing library services/activities. Under the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme, participating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are provided with free block loan of library materials and professional advice for the setting up of community libraries to bring library services closer to the community. In March 2009, 100 community libraries had been set up in various districts and over 2 million items of library materials were borrowed through these libraries.

Extension of library opening hours

5. To better meet the public's demand for library services, the 33 major and district libraries have extended their opening hours to 71 hours a week since 1 April 2009 to provide seven-day a week library services. Under the new arrangement, opening hours of the major and district libraries in the urban area and the New Territories region have been aligned.

Development of library collections and support of lifelong learning

6. To meet the community's divergent needs and anticipated demands for library collections, HKPL has enriched its library stock with about one million new items per year. The provision of library materials per capita has increased from 1.27 items in 2000 to 1.77 items in 2008. Among HKPL's 12.34 million items of library stock, 10.73 million are books and other print materials. The remaining are non-print materials such as audio-visual materials and electronic resources.

Preserving local cultural heritage and promoting reading and literary arts

7. The Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) has set up special collections to promote Hong Kong studies and to preserve the documentary heritage of Hong Kong by collecting reference materials of different formats on the study of Hong Kong's history, culture and heritage for reference and research by members of the public. To promote reading and literary arts, HKPL has organised a diversity of cultural activities on a regular basis in partnership with various outside organisations. More reading promotional activities will be arranged for various reader segments, particularly through the involvement of DCs and in cooperation with NGOs.

Leveraging on the use of IT

8. A pilot test on the use of the radio-frequency-identification technology will be carried out in parallel with the replacement of the Library Automation System scheduled for 2010-2011, and a major upgrade of HKCL's Multimedia Information System is scheduled for launching by 2012-2013 to enable the provision of better digitised information services across the library network/on the Internet.

The strategic plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries 2009-2018

9. For the planning and development of library services in the coming decade, the Administration has developed the Strategic Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries 2009-2018, which specifies the vision, missions and key strategies for guiding the planning of library developments. It includes: (a) providing a wide network of public libraries to serve all residents of Hong Kong; (b) supporting and encouraging lifelong learning; (c) promoting a knowledge-based community through reading; (d) providing a gateway to information and knowledge; (e) enriching the documentary heritage of the history and culture of Hong Kong; (f) promoting Hong Kong literature; (g) leveraging on new technology and the use of information technology to enhance public library services; and (h) enhancing public involvement and partnership in public library services. Business plans will be devised to implement the missions and meet the strategic goals, and a review of the Plan will be conducted at three-year intervals.

Views and concerns of LegCo Members

Panel on Home Affairs

10. The main views and concerns expressed by Panel members during the discussion on the above initiatives are summarized as follows.

Expansion of service scope

11. Some members suggested that the Administration should expand the scope of library services, for example, by exploring the feasibility of setting up library outlets at mass transit railway stations and using e-books, which were more cost-effective and convenient options in the delivery of library services.

12. The Administration advised that it would give serious thought to the feasibility of setting up convenient library outlets, taking into consideration the application of information technology (such as the radio-frequency identification technology, which should make the borrowing and returning of books through self-service vending machines possible), types of library books to be selected for the proposed service, availability of space at major railway stations and related costs, etc. Regarding the promotion of e-books, the Administration advised that the HKPL was committed to enhancing the community's reading culture through the development of electronic services and a "Library without Walls".

13. On the measures to assist visually-impaired persons in the use of library facilities, the Administration advised that HKPL had provided Braille books to the resource centre of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind and made available large-print libraries for the use of visually-impaired readers.

Provision of public libraries at district level

14. Members were concerned with measures taken by the Administration to meet the community's demand for enhanced provision of public libraries at district level, for instance, the persistent call for an additional library in Sheng Wan by the Central and Western District Council. A member criticised the Administration for not appointing DC members to sit on the Public Libraries Advisory Committee.

15. The Administration explained that in planning library facilities, it had to strike a balance between the needs of the local community and the territory-wide provision/distribution of such facilities. For the Central and Western District which had a population of some 200 000, the present provision of three libraries (a major library, a district library and a small library) was in line with the current planning standard. Upon members' request, the Administration had provided supplementary information on the additional public libraries requested by the 18 districts, which was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2157/08-09(01) in **Appendix I**. As to the role of DC members in the provision of library services, the Administration further advised that DC members had been engaged in the management of library services at the district level since January 2008.

Council meetings

16. At the Council meetings on 17 June and 8 July 2009, Members raised questions regarding the provision of computer facilities in public libraries. The Administration responded that over 1 600 computers with Internet access were provided for public use in the 66 public libraries under LCSD, which allowed the general public to search and browse the Internet, to use multimedia materials, and to access e-books and online databases provided by the libraries.

17. At the Council meeting on 24 June 2009, Members raised questions on reading promotional activities at public libraries and the acquisition of library materials. The Administration advised that to promote reading and to optimise the use of the HKPL collection, HKPL had actively collaborated with school libraries and community libraries for block loan of public library collection. In 2008, about 3.2 million books were loaned out by HKPL to 771 partner organisations. This apart, HKPL also organised reading activities designed to meet the needs of different communities and reinforce the culture of reading for all.

18. On the acquisition policy, the Administration advised that HKPL had been following the principles laid down in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Public Library Manifesto to provide a balanced and diversified library collection to meet the needs of people of different ages and sectors. In acquiring library materials, HKPL would take into account the overall status of its collection, demands and interests of different users, quality of the materials concerned, the development of its collection, situation on book supply, etc.

Subcommittee on Designation of Libraries Order 2010

19. A Subcommittee was formed under the House Committee on 5 March 2010 to study the Designation of Libraries Order 2010. During the deliberations of the Order, members noted that the proposal for the retention of the small library at Yat Tung Estate was restricted by resource constraints and the need to comply with the planning requirements for public libraries under the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Members considered that the Administration should exercise more flexibility and take into account the special needs of the local community in the planning of public library services. The Administration assured members that it would collaborate closely with an NGO for the provision of a community library under the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme to meet the needs of the local community in Yat Tung Estate.

Latest development

20. At the Panel meetings on 10 July 2009 and 15 October 2009, Hon KAM Nai-wai and Hon WONG Kwok-hing suggested that issues relating to the development of public library services and provision of library facilities in new towns should be further discussed. The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest development of these issues at its meeting on 9 April 2010.

Relevant papers

21. A list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks at the LegCo website is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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Proposals from District Councils on the Addition and/or Expansion of Libraries including Mobile Library Stops

(January 2006 to April 2009)

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up public libraries in Sheung Wan, Sai Ying Pun, and the Mid-levels. 	<p>The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has been providing public library facilities for the Central and Western District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG)</i>. There is presently no plan to provide additional public libraries. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”, under which community libraries are set up in collaboration with community organisations to provide reading and lending services to local residents. At present, there are a total of 4 community libraries in the Central and Western District.</p>	<p>The population of Central and Western District now stands at around 250 000. In this district the LCSD currently operates a major library built for a population of 400 000, a district library, and a small library to provide library services to the local residents.</p>
Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To build a district library adjacent to the Eastern Law Courts. ➤ To build a cultural and recreation 	<p>LCSD will study the feasibility of setting up a library at the proposed community hall complex on Lei King Road adjacent to the</p>	<p>The population of Eastern District now stands at around 580 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 3 district libraries,</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	<p>centre in the open space adjacent to Block 30 of Heng Fa Chuen, providing various facilities including a library.</p>	<p>Eastern Law Courts in Shau Kei Wan to further enhance the library services in the district. The Planning Department is consulting other government departments about their intentions on the use of the land to resolve the plot ratio concerns.</p> <p>In view of the strong demand for library services from the residents of Heng Fa Chuen, LCSD has provided a mobile library stop in Shing Man Lane, Heng Fa Chuen. A community library has also been set up in the estate in collaboration with the Owners' Committee.</p>	<p>2 small libraries, and 4 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u> <i>Siu Sai Wan Public Library</i> Construction of this small library commenced in early 2008 and is expected to complete in late 2010.</p>
Wan Chai	---	---	<p>The population of Wan Chai District now stands at around 150 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a district library and a small library to provide library services to the local residents. Lockhart Road Public Library had gone through a full scale renovation in 2008 to improve its environment and facilities to meet the need of the community.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
Southern	---	---	The population of Southern District now stands at around 280 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a district library, 3 small libraries, and 4 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents. Aberdeen Public Library had gone through a full scale renovation in 2006 to improve its environment and facilities to meet the need of the community.
Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up a library for Fu Pak and Charming areas. ➤ To increase the service frequency of the mobile library at Hoi Fu Court. ➤ To establish a central library for Kowloon in Yau Tsim Mong District. 	LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Yau Tsim Mong District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i> . There is presently no plan to provide additional public libraries. As the current schedule of mobile libraries is already very tight, it is not possible to increase the number of visits to the mobile library stop at Hoi Fu Court for the time being. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 5 community libraries in Yau Tsim Mong District.	The population of Yau Tsim Mong District now stands at around 300 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 2 district libraries, 2 small libraries, and a mobile library stop to provide library services to the local residents.

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To review the planning of public libraries with a view to increasing the number of libraries. ➤ To adopt the standard of providing one district library for every 100 000 persons as proposed by the former Urban Council so as to enhance the library services in Sham Shui Po East. ➤ To provide standby mobile libraries to ensure continuity of service during regular maintenance of existing mobile libraries. ➤ To step up mobile library services at Fu Cheong Estate and Hoi Lai Estate during summer holidays. ➤ To continue to operate a small library at the former site of Pak Tin Public Library after its reprovision. 	<p>At present, LCS D makes reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i> for the provision of libraries. Although a study conducted by the former Urban Council had proposed in 1996 to raise the planning standards to provide one district library for every 100 000 persons, the proposal has not been taken forward. As formulation of library planning standards involves overall policy issues and substantial resources, LCS D must prudently examine the latest developments of supply and demand and ensure the availability of various resources in the long run before considering the revision of the standards. Presently, it is not possible to accept the proposal to provide one district library for every 100 000 persons.</p> <p>Due to limited resources, LCS D has presently no plan to provide standby mobile libraries. As the current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight, it is not possible to further enhance the mobile library services at Fu Cheong Estate and Hoi Lai Estate for the time</p>	<p>The population of Sham Shui Po District now stands at around 380 000. In this district LCS D currently operates 2 district libraries, 2 small libraries, and 3 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Reprovision of Pak Tin Public Library</i> Construction of this small library commenced in mid-2008 and is expected to complete in early 2013.</p> <p><i>Tung Chau Street Public Library</i> Construction of this district library is expected to commence in late 2010 for completion in late 2013. Commencement and completion dates are now under review.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
		<p>being. More books for children and teenagers will, however, be made available on the mobile library during summer holidays.</p> <p>The annual recurrent expenditure of Pak Tin Public Library after reprovision will be approximately three times than that of the existing library. As the operation of the reprovisioned library entails considerable costs, all the human resources and annual operating expenses budgeted for the existing Pak Tin Public Library will be transferred to the new library to cover part of its operating expenses. The existing Pak Tin Public Library will cease operation upon the commissioning of the new library.</p>	
Kowloon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To enhance the library services in the future as a number of new estates have been completed in Kowloon City District. ➤ To provide additional mobile libraries. 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Kowloon City District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. Due to limited resources, it is presently not possible to provide additional mobile library stops in the district. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood -</p>	<p>The population of Kowloon City District now stands at around 360 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a major library built for a population of 400 000, a district library, 2 small libraries, and 2 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
		<p>Community Libraries Partnership Scheme". At present, there are a total of 3 community libraries in Kowloon City District.</p>	<p><u>New library projects</u> Initial planning for the provision of a major library in Kai Tak Development Area is underway.</p>
Wong Tai Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up a large library (major library) equipped with a toy library. ➤ To provide toy libraries at district libraries. ➤ To re-provision Lung Hing Public Library to provide more space for additional seats and facilities. ➤ To expand Fu Shan Public Library, Lok Fu Public Library, and Tsz Wan Shan Public Library. ➤ To set up two small libraries at Fung Wong San Tsuen and Chuk Yuen Estate respectively. ➤ To acquire new mobile libraries and to increase the number of visits paid to mobile library stops. ➤ To re-provision Tsz Wan Shan Public Library in a vacant car park in the 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Wong Tai Sin District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. There is presently no plan to provide additional public libraries. Apart from the setting up of static libraries, the HKPL provides users with library services anytime, anywhere, such as 24-hour online library services, online Multimedia Information System services, telephone renewal service, etc.</p> <p>Due to limited resources, LCSD has presently no plan to provide additional mobile libraries in the district. As the current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight, it is not possible to increase the number of visits to the mobile library stops in the district for the time</p>	<p>The population of Wong Tai Sin District now stands at around 420 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 2 district libraries, 4 small libraries, and 3 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	district.	being. HKPL has, however, launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 4 community libraries in Wong Tai Sin District.	
Kwun Tong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To lease a commercial unit at Hong Tin Court from the Housing Department for the setting up of a temporary library while retaining the temporary library at Tak Tin Estate until the commissioning of the district library in Lam Tin. ➤ To build a large library at Sau Mau Ping Estate. ➤ To set up a study room at Po Tat Estate. ➤ To increase the service frequency of the mobile library at Po Tat Estate to once a week. ➤ To commence the construction of Lam Tin North municipal services building and a district library as soon as possible. 	<p>LCSD has considered the reprovision of Lam Tin Public Library at Kai Tin Shopping Centre, but the project did not materialise due to the lack of suitable units for lease. In view of the strong demand for library services from local residents, LCSD is actively pursuing with the setting up of a district library with a space provision of 2 900 sq m in the proposed Lam Tin North municipal services building to further enhance the library services in the district. Construction is expected to commence in late 2009 for completion in mid-2012. Upon its completion, the number of district libraries in Kwun Tong District will increase from 2 to 3, and the overall library services will also be further enhanced.</p> <p>LCSD also sets up community libraries in</p>	<p>The population of Kwun Tong District now stands at around 610 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 2 district libraries, 4 small libraries, and 7 mobile library stops to provide library services to local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Reprovision of Lam Tin Public Library</i></p> <p>Construction of this district library is expected to commence in late 2009 for completion in mid-2012. The existing small library in Lam Tin will cease operation upon the commissioning of the new district library.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
		<p>collaboration with community organisations to provide reading and lending services to local residents. At present, there are a total of 14 community libraries in Kwun Tong District.</p> <p>The current weekly schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight. Any new stops or extra visits to an existing stop will require consequential adjustments to the timetables of other stops in the district. It is not possible to increase the service frequency of the mobile library at Po Tat Estate for the time being. Apart from the provision of a mobile library stop at the estate, LCSD has also set up a community library there in collaboration with community organisations.</p> <p>The Education Bureau is responsible for coordinating the provision of study room services. At present, LCSD operates students' study rooms in Ngau Tau Kok Public Library and Shui Wo Street Public Library.</p>	

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
Sai Kung	---	---	<p>The population of Sai Kung District now stands at around 420 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 2 district libraries and 6 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p>To enhance the provision of library services in the district, LCSD is planning the provision of a second district library in Tseung Kwan O. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2010 for completion in early 2013.</p>
Kwai Tsing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up a library at Cheung Wang Estate, Tsing Yi. ➤ To reallocate one half-day mobile library visit from Kwai Shing West Estate to Kwai Shing East Estate. ➤ To increase the number of visits paid to the mobile library stop at Cheung Wang Estate. 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Kwai Tsing District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. There is presently no plan to provide additional public libraries. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 6 community libraries in Kwai Tsing District.</p> <p>LCSD has obtained funds from DC for the</p>	<p>The population of Kwai Tsing District now stands at around 520 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 3 district libraries and 9 mobile library stops to provide library services to local residents.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
		<p>provision of a mobile library stop at Kwai Shing East Estate, which commenced service in May 2009. As the schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight, it is presently not possible to increase the number of visits to the mobile library stop at Cheung Wang Estate for the time being.</p>	
Tsuen Wan	---	---	<p>The population of Tsuen Wan District now stands at around 290 000. LCSD currently operates a major library built for a population of 400 000, a small library, and 6 mobile library stops to provide library services to local residents.</p> <p>To further enhance library services in the district, LCSD is now at the initial planning stage for the renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library. Tsuen Wan District Council will be consulted when the plans are ready.</p>
Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To expand Butterfly Estate Public Library. ➤ To build a complex in Area 29, Tuen 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Tuen Mun District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. To</p>	<p>The population of Tuen Mun District now stands at around 510 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a major library</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	<p>Mun (adjacent to Po Tin Estate) and to provide a library in the complex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To increase the service frequency of mobile libraries in Tuen Mun District. ➤ To provide a new mobile library stop at Kin Sang Estate. 	<p>address the strong demand for library services from local residents, LCSD has obtained DC funds for the reprovision and expansion of the existing Butterfly Estate Public Library. Construction is expected to complete before the end of March 2010.</p> <p>As the current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight, any new stops or extra visits to an existing stop will require consequential adjustments to the timetables of other stops in the district. It is therefore not possible to enhance the mobile library services in Tuen Mun District for the time being.</p> <p>HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 9 community libraries in Tuen Mun District.</p>	<p>built for a population of 400 000, a district library, a small library, and 7 mobile library stops to provide library services to local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Reprovision of Butterfly Estate Public Library</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to complete before the end of March 2010. The existing Butterfly Estate Public Library will cease operation upon the commissioning of the new library.</p>
Yuen Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To commence the public library project in Area 3, Yuen Long as soon as possible. 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Yuen Long District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>.</p>	<p>The population of Yuen Long District now stands at around 560 000. In this district LCSD currently operates 2 district libraries,</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To retain the existing Tin Shui Wai Public Library at Kingswood Ginza after the commissioning of the major library in Tin Shui Wai. ➤ To provide a new mobile library stop at Tin Yan Estate, Tin Shui Wai. 	<p>LCSD is actively planning the reprovision and expansion of the existing Yuen Long Public Library in Area 3, Yuen Long, and the setting up of a major library in Tin Shui Wai for a population of 400 000. Upon the commissioning of the major library in Tin Shui Wai, LCSD will review the provision and utilisation of library facilities in the district.</p> <p>The current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight. Any new stops or additional visits to an existing stop will require consequential adjustments to the timetables of other stops in the district. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”, under which community libraries are set up in collaboration with community organisations to provide reading and lending services to local residents. At present, there are a total of 7 community libraries in Yuen Long District.</p>	<p>a small library, and 10 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Reprovision of Yuen Long Public Library</i> Commencement and completion dates are now under review.</p> <p><i>Reprovision of Tin Shui Wai Public Library</i> The existing Tin Shui Wai Public Library (a district library) will be replaced by a major library built for a population of 400 000. Construction of the major library commenced in late 2007 and is expected to complete in mid-2011.</p>
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To include a library, a study room, and a youth centre in the government 	LCSD has been providing public library facilities for North District with reference to	The population of North District now stands at around 300 000. In this district LCSD

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	<p>complex project in Area 44, Fanling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up additional mobile library stops at Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui and Fanling South. ➤ To relocate Sha Tau Kok Public Library to an adjacent vacant shop with a larger area so as to enhance the library services in Sha Tau Kok. 	<p>the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. There is presently no plan to set up or to re-provision public libraries save for the provision of additional mobile library stops. LCSD has set up additional mobile library stops at Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui and Wah Sum Estate, Fanling this April with funding from DC. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 4 community libraries in North District.</p>	<p>currently operates 2 district libraries, a small library, and 4 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p>
Tai Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up a new mobile library stop at Wan Tau Tong Estate. 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Tai Po District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. With the consent of DC to redeploy the mobile libraries within the district, LCSD is actively planning to set up a new mobile library stop at Wan Tau Tong Estate.</p>	<p>The population of Tai Po District now stands at around 300 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a district library of 3 600 sq m and 7 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p>The new mobile library stop at Wan Tau Tong Estate is expected to complete in the second half of 2009.</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
Sha Tin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To expedite the construction of a new library in Sha Tin. ➤ To shelve the plan of constructing a post-secondary college atop Tai Wai MTR Station and to reconsider building community facilities comprising a free standing library at the site. ➤ To increase the duration of visits of the mobile library to Chevalier Garden from half a day every alternate week to one day every alternate week. 	<p>LCSD has been providing public library facilities for Sha Tin District with reference to the standards set out in the <i>HKPSG</i>. LCSD is actively planning to set up a district library in Yuen Chau Kok, Sha Tin. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2011 for completion in mid-2014.</p> <p>The current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight. Any new stops or additional visits to an existing stop will require consequential adjustments to the timetables of other stops in the district. As such, it is not possible to increase the number of visits to the mobile library stop at Chevalier Garden for the time being. HKPL has launched the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”. At present, there are a total of 8 community libraries in Sha Tin District.</p>	<p>The population of Sha Tin District now stands at around 630 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a major library built for a population of 400 000, a district library, a small library, and 12 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Yuen Chau Kok Public Library</i></p> <p>Construction of this district library is expected to commence in mid-2011 for completion in mid-2014.</p>
Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To increase the number of visits made by the mobile library to Tung Chung North and to deploy a large mobile 	<p>The current schedule of the mobile libraries is already tight. Any new stops or additional visits to an existing stop will require</p>	<p>The population of Islands District now stands at around 150 000. In this district LCSD currently operates a district library, 6</p>

District	Proposals from the District Council on Library Facilities	Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Existing Library Facilities/New Library Projects
	<p>library to serve the local residents prior to the commissioning of the new Tung Chung Public Library.</p>	<p>consequential adjustments to the timetables of other stops in the district. As the roads on Lantau Island are mainly narrow and winding mountain roads, the Transport Section of LCSD considers it infeasible to use large vehicles on those roads. The library materials on the mobile library are changed and replenished regularly to cater for the needs of users at different stops.</p>	<p>small libraries, and 6 mobile library stops to provide library services to the local residents.</p> <p><u>New library projects</u></p> <p><i>Reprovision of Tung Chung Public Library</i></p> <p>This district library will replace the existing small library. Construction commenced in late 2006 and is expected to complete in late 2009.</p>

Note:

LCSD provides public library services for all districts with reference to the standards set out in the *HKPSG* issued by the Planning Department, which stipulate that there should be a district library for every 200 000 persons and that planning should be made on a district basis so that at least one district library is provided for each district.

Panel on Home Affairs

Relevant documents on development of public library services

Committee	Date of meeting	Minutes/Paper/ Council question or motion	LC Paper No.
Panel on Home Affairs	17.4.2009	Administration's paper on development of public library services	CB(2)1301/08-09(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0417cb2-1301-3-e.pdf
		Background brief on development of public library services	CB(2)1301/08-09(04) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0417cb2-1301-4-e.pdf
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1789/08-09 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha20090417.pdf
Council meeting	17.6.2009	Written question raised by Hon Abraham SHEK on provision of computers in Government venues for Internet browsing by public	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0617-translate-e.pdf (page 97)
	24.6.2009	Written question raised by Hon Andrew CHENG on books on 4 June incident in public libraries	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0624-translate-e.pdf (page 96)
		Written question raised by Hon Abraham SHEK on book donation and sale campaign	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0624-translate-e.pdf (page 127)

Committee	Date of meeting	Minutes/Paper/ Council question or motion	LC Paper No.
	8.7.2009	Oral question raised by Hon Margaret NG on assistance for school children in using computers and accessing the Internet	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0708-translate-e.pdf (page 91)

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