

For discussion on
26 August 2011

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

Development of Sports, Recreation and Cultural Facilities

Introduction

This paper briefly re-states the current position as regards the development of sports, recreation and cultural facilities at district level.

Planning considerations

(a) Sports and recreational facilities

2. When planning the development of sports facilities at the district level, we make reference to the general guidance provided by the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), which set standards for the provision of facilities relative to levels of population.

3. Whilst the HKPSG serve as a benchmark for establishing basic levels of provision, we also take account of other factors when planning new facilities, such as –

- The policy objectives for sports development
- Utilisation rates of existing facilities
- The public's preferences for different types of sports, as measured by studies and surveys
- The advice of District Councils

4. When we briefed Members on the construction of sports facilities on 10 June, we advised that in consultation with the Sports Commission we had developed the following strategic approach to planning and

implementing new sports facility projects –

- (a) to give priority to providing new facilities in districts with shortfalls, having regard to the HKPSG, site availability and the factors set out in paragraph 3 above;
- (b) to give priority to developing more basketball courts in public parks and other Open Space areas, especially in districts with relatively young populations;
- (c) to support the development of football in Hong Kong by providing more 3G artificial turf 11-a-side football pitches;
- (d) to provide more jogging tracks and Tai Chi areas in parks and Open Space areas; and
- (e) taking into account other priorities, to follow up on planned projects to provide more indoor swimming pools in new or converted swimming complexes.

(b) Cultural facilities

5. In addition to the general guidelines in the HKPSG, the Government also takes into account the geographical and demographic characteristics as well as the infrastructural development of the individual district in planning the provision of public library facilities.

6. Strategically, the Administration adopts a multi-pronged approach to enhance the public library facilities through the following measures:

- (a) Increasing the standard space provision of new district and major libraries so as to provide a larger seating capacity and a more comfortable reading environment;
- (b) Reprovisioning, upgrading and renovating existing public libraries to upgrade / improve the facilities provided and, where appropriate and practicably feasible, enhance the

space provision to accommodate new facilities and a larger seating capacity;

- (c) Supporting the development of community libraries through collaborating with non-governmental organisations by providing block loans of library materials and free professional advice;
- (d) Developing a “library without walls” to enable the public to access reading materials provided by public libraries without physically visiting the public library premises through the development and on-going enhancement of the e-resources collection of public libraries, including online databases and e-books; and
- (e) Extending opening hours of major and district libraries to facilitate members of the public in making use of the library services seven days a week.

7. In planning other new cultural facilities such as civic centres and town halls, the Government takes into consideration a number of factors such as the availability and usage of existing facilities in the territory, overall planning needs of the districts, views of the cultural sector, needs of the community at large, capital investment and long-term commitment of resources.

Projects under planning and construction

(a) Sports and recreation projects

8. On 10 June, we advised Members of new projects that we have recently completed or that are scheduled for completion in 2011-12, including the Tung Chung Swimming Pool and the Siu Sai Wan Complex (which includes indoor swimming pools and a sports centre). Members also noted that a further 15 sports facilities with a total investment of over \$9.2 billion are currently under construction.

9. We also advised Members on 10 June that depending on the

availability of resources, we aimed to begin work on a number of new sports facilities that were at an advanced planning stage, including indoor sports centre projects in Area 74 Tseung Kwan O, Area 14B Sha Tin, Area 14 (Siu Lun) Tuen Mun and Area 4 Tsing Yi. We have already provided details of all these projects to Members.

10. As for projects that are at a preliminary planning stage, we will continue to pursue these projects, in consultation with District Councils and “national sports associations”, with a view to ensuring that the public has access to a wide range of good quality facilities that will encourage regular participation in sport. We will continue to plan and build new sports and recreational venues and convert and improve existing facilities in line with our strategic policy objectives for sport and taking account of the basic levels or provision set out in the HKPSG and the factors listed in paragraph 3 above.

(b) Cultural facilities

11. A number of new and reprovisioning library projects are under planning or construction for completion between late 2011 and late 2014. The projects under construction include a major library in Tin Shui Wai, two district libraries in Lam Tin and Yuen Long respectively, and a small library in Pak Tin. The construction works for a district library in Tseung Kwan O will commence by October 2011.

12. Two new performing arts facilities, namely the Yau Ma Tei Xiqu Activity Centre and the Ko Shan Theatre Annex, are currently under construction and targeted for completion in late 2011 and mid-2013 respectively.

13. Two Cross-District Community Cultural Centres (CDCCC) are under planning. The Kwun Tong and NT East CDCCCs will be located close to MTR stations, each equipped with one large and one medium scale theatres plus supporting facilities. We will continue to pursue these cultural facilities projects, subject to the availability of resources.

Implementation of sports, recreation and cultural facilities projects

14. The implementation of sports, recreation and cultural facilities projects follows similar procedures to other public works projects. After drawing up an initial proposed project scope in consultation with the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and other relevant bureaux and departments, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) consults the relevant District Council (DC) or Councils and other interested stakeholders, such as “national sports associations” (NSAs) on the project. Taking account of the feedback from the DC and other stakeholders, the department then prepares a Project Definition Statement (PDS) for approval by HAB. Based on the PDS, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) conducts a Technical Feasibility Study (TFS) to identify technical issues that might affect the implementation or design of the project and prepares an initial estimate of cost. Subject to the endorsement of the TFS by the Secretary for Development, ArchSD supervises the preliminary design of the project, on which we further consult the relevant DC and other interested stakeholders, such as NSAs. Once the consultation process is completed, we seek the resources to implement the project under the Public Works Programme. Before submitting a project funding application to the Public Works Sub-committee and the Finance Committee for approval, we consult the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs.

Home Affairs Bureau
August 2011