

**14 December 2012**

**For discussion**

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs  
Sports Policy and Objectives**

**Purpose**

This paper briefly sets out the core elements of the Government's sports policy and describes the key initiatives that we are currently implementing or planning with a view to achieving our policy objectives.

**Background**

2. The Government's strategic policy for developing sport in Hong Kong is threefold: to promote sport in the community, to support elite sport, and to make Hong Kong a centre for major international sports events. The Chief Executive's manifesto notes that these three broad directions will guide future sports policy and help realise a vision of promoting "sport for the whole community, cultivating elite athletes and making Hong Kong the place for major sports events".

3. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) formulates and co-ordinates policy for developing sport in Hong Kong. It also co-ordinates the strategic planning of sports and recreational facilities. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is responsible for promoting sport in the community and allocating funding to relevant organisations under the established sports policy.

4. Established in 2005 and chaired by the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Sports Commission (SC) advises the Government on matters pertaining to sports development. It is underpinned by three Committees, namely the Community Sports Committee, the Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sports Events Committee, which advise on measures to develop and promote sport in the community, elite sport and major sports events in Hong Kong respectively.

5. The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) is the "national" Olympic Committee for Hong Kong. It is also a member of the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Council of Asia and the East Asian Games Association. The SF&OC is responsible for

coordinating the development of local sports organisations and leading the Hong Kong, China Delegation to participate in major international games. The Government provides a recurrent subvention to the SF&OC.

## **Promoting sport in the community – the development of community sport**

### *Provision of sports facilities*

6. To promote higher levels of sports participation in the community, we need to provide sufficient venues to allow people at all levels to have regular opportunities for practice, training and competition.

7. LCSD provides sports facilities in all 18 districts. These include 42 swimming pool complexes, 94 sports centres, 256 tennis courts, 25 sports grounds and 83 turf pitches (including 51 natural turf pitches and 32 artificial turf pitches). LCSD also manages 18 cycling tracks and related facilities and 33 walking trails throughout Hong Kong. To encourage the elderly to take regular exercise, there are 908 fitness stations at 239 LCSD venues.

8. When planning the development of sports facilities at the district level, apart from making reference to the general guidance provided in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, we also take other factors into consideration, such as the utilisation rates of existing facilities, as well as the views of District Councils (DCs), “national sports associations” (NSAs) and schools sports organisations. Even taking these factors into consideration, we are aware that there is a shortage of public sports facilities, particularly indoor sports centres, sports grounds and football pitches, and we are accordingly working to reduce this facilities deficit by building more of these venues. Between 2007 and July 2012, we completed new facilities and upgraded existing facilities at a cost of over \$9 billion. Projects currently underway include the redevelopment of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool and the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex, as well as new facilities such as a town park and indoor velodrome and sports centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O, and a public library and indoor recreation centre in Area 3, Yuen Long (details are at **Annex I**).

### *Community based sports programmes*

9. In the past five years, LCSD has spent more than \$600 million on organising community recreation and sports programmes. As well as offering regular recreation and sports programmes for the public, since 2009 LCSD has organised an annual “Sport For All Day” every August. Since 2010, most sports facilities have been open for use free of charge by the public on that day. This year, the “Sport For All Day” attracted some 216 000 participants.

10. Since 2007, the SC has organised the Hong Kong Games (HKG) on a biennial basis. The HKG is a territory-wide major multi-sport event with the 18 District Councils as the participating teams. The objective of the HKG is to encourage public participation in sport, so as to improve sporting standards at the community level. The HKG also helps promote social cohesion by facilitating communication and fostering friendship among the 18 districts. The 4th HKG will take place between 27 April and 2 June 2013.

11. In July 2012, LCSD launched the Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme, with a view to: making regular swimming more affordable, particularly for the elderly; promoting sport in the community; and encouraging healthy lifestyles. By the end of October 2012, over 30 000 monthly tickets had been sold, half of which were bought by senior citizens.

### *School sport*

12. LCSD encourages school students to play sport regularly by implementing programmes under the School Sports Programme (SSP), in which over 90% of Hong Kong schools take part. In addition, for the 2012-13 school year HAB, LCSD, the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) have jointly launched the School Sports Programme Coordinator (SSPC) Pilot Scheme, under which retired athletes work in schools to help the schools organise and participate in SSP activities.

13. To complement schools' training and competitions, LCSD allows schools to reserve facilities one academic year in advance. NSAs and other organisations may also reserve such facilities 3 to 12 months in advance to host international events, championships, leagues and training events in Hong Kong.

### **Supporting elite sport – the development of elite sport**

#### *Recent achievements by Hong Kong athletes*

14. Hong Kong athletes excelled in the London 2012 Olympic Games. Cyclist Lee Wai-size won a bronze medal in the Women's Keirin event, which is not only Hong Kong's first Olympic medal in cycling, but also the third Olympic Games medal after Lee Lai-shan's gold medal in windsurfing in 1996, and Li Ching and Ko Lai-chak's silver medal in the men's table tennis doubles in 2004. In addition, Yip Pui-yin and Jiang Tian-yi reached the quarterfinals of the women's badminton singles and the men's table tennis singles respectively. Hong Kong's men's table tennis team reached the semi-finals of their event and the women's team reached the quarterfinals.

15. Our disabled athletes also achieved impressive results at the London 2012 Paralympics, winning 12 medals (3 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze). Wheelchair fencer Yu Chui-yee won gold medals in both the women's individual foil and women's individual epee, making her the first Hong Kong athlete to win seven Paralympic gold medals. Both Wong Ka-man and Yeung Chi-ka contested the final of their women's table tennis singles event and won gold and silver medals respectively.

#### *The HKSI elite training programme*

16. The HKSI provides elite athletes with a high quality training environment and support services with the aim of grooming athletes to achieve good results in international sporting events. To consolidate its position as a base for elite sports training and development, in March 2009 the HKSI began a major redevelopment project. The main facilities are scheduled for completion by the end of 2013, and will provide a state-of-the-art training environment for elite athletes.

17. To help elite athletes to focus on developing their sporting career, the HKSI has put in place four financial support schemes: the Elite Training Grant, the Sports Aid Grant, the Sports Aid Grant for Athletes with Disabilities and the Individual Athlete Support Scheme. These schemes address the needs of the athletes and are conducive to the objective of expanding the elite squads.

18. In August 2009, the SC agreed that the HKSI should increase the levels of incentive awards for medalists at major games (i.e., the Olympic, Paralympic, Asian and Asian Paralympic Games), with a view to encouraging our athletes to achieve greater excellence. In addition, the HKSI has initiated the “Young Athletes Scholarship Award” to provide scholarships to athletes aged 18 or below who win medals in major international youth games.

19. To meet the financial and other needs of athletes with disabilities, the Arts and Sports Development Fund (ASDF) provides disabled elite athletes and the two sports associations for athletes with disabilities with financial, coaching, and technical support to assist their preparation for and participation in competitions. Also, in 2012-13, the LCSD granted \$12.71 million in funding support to disabled athletes’ sports associations. After redevelopment, the HKSI will feature integrated facilities to allow more athletes with disabilities to train there.

#### *Athlete education and career planning*

20. In the areas of education and career planning, EDB’s policy is to help students to balance high-level sports participation with study and other needs.

To this end, tertiary institutions help student athletes with their admission applications, course work, financial needs and accommodation arrangements, taking into account their individual backgrounds and circumstances.

21. To help retired athletes pursue new careers, the Hong Kong Athletes Fund (HKAF) provides financial support to enable athletes to take up certificate, diploma and degree courses run by designated institutions. Athletes can also participate in the HKSI's Enhanced Athletes Educational and Vocational Development Programmes or enrol in the five-year part-time programme – "Bachelor of Education in Sports Training" jointly offered by the HKSI and the Beijing Sport University. In the 2012-13 academic year, 15 serving and retired athletes received financial support from the HKAF to take up studies at local tertiary institutions. In addition, the SF&OC runs the Hong Kong Athletes Career & Education Programme, which gives grants to athletes who enrol in English and other courses, and helps retired athletes and those who are about to retire to plan for a "second career".

22. In order to nurture junior athletes, 42 NSAs and two sports associations for athletes with disabilities have implemented feeder programmes to identify and train young athletes with the potential to reach the highest level. To help Hong Kong's representative teams engage in sustained training, LCSD has provided NSAs with designated training venues, at which NSAs are accorded a high priority to make long-term block bookings.

### **Making Hong Kong a centre for major international sports events – the promotion of major sports events**

23. Every year, Hong Kong plays host to major international sports events. Examples include the Hong Kong Marathon, the FIVB World Grand Prix (volleyball), the Hong Kong Open (badminton), and Hong Kong Open Championship (golf). The SC helps NSAs to stage these events under the "M" Mark System, through which we have increased funding support to strengthen support for existing events and to attract new events to Hong Kong. Hong Kong stages an average of 8 to 10 "M" Mark events every year, and the 11 "M" Mark events staged in 2012 attracted the participation of over 730 000 athletes and spectators (details are at **Annex II**). To November 2012, we had provided over \$55 million in funding support for "M" Mark events.

24. The Major Sports Events Committee under the SC encourages commercial organisations and event organisers to sponsor free tickets for people from less privileged backgrounds to attend major sports events. We secured 3 100 and 3 880 such tickets in 2011 and 2012 respectively (see Annex II).

25. We also allocate funding from the ASDF to help NSAs and sports organisations stage local international events, thereby providing opportunities for the public to enjoy high level international competitions. In 2012-13, NSAs and sports organisations hosted 76 local international events with some \$15.5 million in funding support from the Government.

#### *Venues for international events*

26. Most local venues have insufficient seating capacity and lack appropriate supporting facilities for staging major international sports events. The planned Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak will provide high quality sports facilities that will alleviate Hong Kong's shortage of venues suitable for hosting major international sports events and will help achieve the goal of making Hong Kong a centre for such events. The proposed facilities for the MPSC include -

- a 50 000-seat stadium with a retractable roof;
- a public sports ground with permanent seating for 5 000 spectators;
- an indoor sports arena with a main arena with permanent seating for 4 000 spectators;
- a public park with sports and leisure facilities;
- office space; and
- commercial space to accommodate retail and food and beverage outlets.

#### **Governance and monitoring of and funding for the “national sports associations”**

27. In 2012-13, LCSD will provide a recurrent subvention of some \$250 million to NSAs under the Sports Subvention Scheme (SSS) to help them promote their sports. Whilst respecting the autonomy and independence of the NSAs, we will monitor their use of this subvention to ensure that public money is properly and effectively used to promote sports development.

28. LCSD has established mechanisms to manage and monitor the use of subvention, and in 2012 completed a review of the SSS and implemented a series of measures to improve its overall efficiency and effectiveness. To help

enhance the monitoring of the use of the subvention as well as the internal controls and governance of the NSAs, these measures include simplifying reporting requirements; developing a computer system to improve LCSD's monitoring capability; raising the standard for the NSAs' annual audited accounts to the level of providing assurance on NSAs' compliance with the relevant guidelines and requirements; providing additional resources to NSAs to strengthen their manpower in order to enhance their administrative and accounting capabilities; and continuing to brief NSAs on a regular basis to help them comply with the subvention agreement and improve internal governance. Since 2011-12, LCSD has been conducting mid-year assessments to review the NSAs' achievement of performance targets and compliance with subvention requirements and has provided appropriate assistance when necessary.

29. In addition, in December 2011, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) issued a Best Practice Reference for Governance of NSAs to provide guidance on the principles and standards of good governance and internal controls for adoption by NSAs. In November 2012, the ICAC completed a round of visits to NSAs to provide tailor-made advice according to the associations' individual needs and mode of operation.

## **Conclusion**

30. In line with the above policies and objectives, we will continue to deploy resources to implement new initiatives and improve existing practice in consultation with the sports sector and related stakeholders.

**Home Affairs Bureau  
December 2012**

**List of sports facilities projects under construction**  
正在興建的康體設施工程項目

	<b>Project Code</b> 工程編號	<b>Project Title</b> 工程名稱	<b>Approved Project Estimate (\$M)</b> 核准工程預算 (百萬元計)	<b>Works Start Date</b> 動工日期	<b>Anticipated Completion Date</b> 預計完工日期
1	8017QJ	Redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute - preparatory works 香港體育學院重新發展計劃 - 籌備工作	52.90	10/2007	03/2014
2	3266RS	Redevelopment of Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex 維多利亞公園游泳池場館重建工程	1,197.70	08/2009	Phase 1 第一階段： 12/2012  Phase 2 第二階段： 12/2014
3	3051RG	Redevelopment of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool Complex and Kwun Tong Recreation Ground 重建觀塘游泳池場館及觀塘遊樂場	1,323.80	11/2009	Phase 1 第一階段： 12/2012  Phase 2 第二階段： 12/2014
4	3054RG	Town Park, indoor velodrome-cum-sports centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O 將軍澳第45區市鎮公園、室內單車場及體育館	1,129.70	03/2010	Q3 2013
5	8015QJ	Redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute 香港體育學院重新發展計劃	1,707.50	03/2009	09/2014
6	3049RG	Public library and indoor recreation centre in Area 3, Yuen Long 元朗第3區公共圖書館及體育館	704.10	07/2010	2015
7	3050RG	District open space, sports centre and library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O 將軍澳第74區地區休憩用地、體育館及圖書館	749.20	09/2011	10/2014
8	3429RO	Open space in Area 117, Tin Shui Wai 天水圍第117區休憩用地	232.30	08/2012	08/2014
9	34209RO	Local open space at Chung Yee Street, Kowloon City 九龍城忠義街鄰舍休憩用地	88.80	08/2012	03/2014



	<b>Project Code</b> 工程編號	<b>Project Title</b> 工程名稱	<b>Approved Project Estimate (\$M)</b> 核准工程預算 (百萬元計)	<b>Works Start Date</b> 動工日期	<b>Anticipated Completion Date</b> 預計完工日期
10	3055RG	Sports centre, community hall and district library in Area 14B, Sha Tin 沙田第14B區體育館、社區會堂及分區圖書館	1,084.00	12/2012	02/2016
11	3443RO	Runway Park at Kai Tak, Kowloon City District - Phase 1 九龍城區啟德跑道公園 - 第一期	169.70	08/2012	12/2013

**“M” Mark Events in 2011 and 2012**

**Annex II**

Item	Event name	Organiser	No. of participants		Total no. of tickets for the less privileged groups	
			Athlete	Spectator		
<b>2011</b>						
1	Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2011	Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association Limited	65 000	5 000	Note 1	
2	Cathay Pacific/Credit Suisse Hong Kong Sevens 2011	Hong Kong Rugby Football Union	200	120 000	100	
3	Watson 2011 FIVB World Grand Prix – Hong Kong	Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China	260	24 000	1 320	
4	World Tenpin Bowling Championships for Women 2011	Hong Kong Tenpin Bowling Congress Limited	250	350	20	
5	Karp Group Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2011	Hong Kong Cricket Association	120	14 800	640	
6	Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Squash Open 2011	Hong Kong Squash	100	4 000	Note 2	
7	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2011 part of the OSIM BWF World Superseries	Hong Kong Badminton Association Limited	250	23 000	820	
8	UBS Hong Kong Open Championship 2011	Hong Kong Golf Association Limited	100	38 000	200	
			Sub-total	66 000	229 000	3 100
			Total	295 000		
<b>2012</b>						
1	Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2012	Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association Limited	70 000	5 000	Note 1	
2	Hong Kong BMX Golden League	Hong Kong Cycling Association	100	3 000	300	
3	Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2012	Hong Kong Rugby Football Union	240	120 000	100	
4	HKFC Citibank International Soccer Sevens	Hong Kong Football Club	300	7 500	300	
5	8th IDBF Club Crew World Championships and Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races	Hong Kong Dragon Boat Association	8 700	426 600	385	

Item	Event name	Organiser	No. of participants		Total no. of tickets for the less privileged groups
			Athlete	Spectator	
6	The 6th Hong Kong DanceSport Festival - 2012 WDSF World Cup Standard	Hong Kong DanceSport Association	800	8 200	1615
7	New World Harbour Race 2012 & 5th Asian Open Water Swimming Championships	Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association	1 700	-	Note 1
8	Karp Group Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2012	Hong Kong Cricket Association	100	15 000	100
9	UBS Hong Kong Open Championship 2012	Hong Kong Golf Association Limited	140	36 000	280
10	YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open 2012 part of the OSIM BWF World Superseries	Hong Kong Badminton Association Limited	300	25 000	800
11	Cathay Pacific Sun Hung Kai Financial Hong Kong Squash Open 2012	Hong Kong Squash	100	4 000	Note 2
			<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>82 000</b>	<b>650 000</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>730 000</b>	
					<b>3 880</b>

Note 1: The public may watch the race for free from the sidelines.

Note 2: The public may watch the semi-finals and finals for free from the staircase (which can accommodate more than 300 people) at the Cultural Centre Piazza.