

**For discussion on  
23 October 2017**

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

**2017 Policy Address  
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

**Introduction**

The policy responsibilities of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) cover youth development, sport, culture and arts, and district administration. The 2017 Policy Address proposes a series of policy initiatives on these aspects. This paper presents our visions, new initiatives and major ongoing initiatives.

**Our Vision**

2. For youth development, our vision is to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and create opportunities for our young people to develop their potential. The target of the current-term Government is to work on relevant policy aspects to respond to young people's needs in education, employment and housing, as well as encourage them to participate in policy discussion, with a view to giving our younger generation opportunities for upward mobility. Our young people should also be provided with more opportunities to participate in public affairs so that the Government can understand and adopt their views more effectively.

3. Our young people should develop a positive outlook to life, and inculcate in themselves a commitment to society, a sense of national identity, an affection for Hong Kong and an international vision. The Government will strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organisations to enhance youth's participation in community affairs and services. Moreover, we will continue to conduct exchange and internship schemes of various forms and themes in the Mainland and overseas to expose our young people to the prevailing economic, social and cultural landscape at both the national and international levels, and enhance their inclusiveness of different cultures through exchanges with Mainland and overseas youth.

4. The SAR Government has been actively promoting the three objectives of its sports policy, i.e. promote sports for all, support elite sports and maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. We will strive to enhance the hardware and software to support sports development with a view to better promoting sports in the community and in schools, strengthening support to athletes and attracting major international sports events to Hong Kong.

5. On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. We support the freedom of artistic expression and creation and foster the vibrant development of our cultures. We have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and the arts; providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation; and supporting the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures.

6. We will continue to work closely with District Councils (DCs) so that DCs could play an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participate in the management of district facilities, and implement District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

## **New Initiatives**

### Youth Development

#### *Youth Development Commission*

7. The Youth Development Commission (YDC), to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will be set up in the first half of 2018 to boost policy co-ordination within the Government to enable more holistic and effective discussions of policy issues of concern to young people, as well as promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration for implementing policy initiatives agreed by the commission. The current Commission on Youth under HAB will also be incorporated into the higher level YDC. The Chief Executive will also chair youth summits, the first of which will be held in 2018-19, to jointly examine the outcome of the work of the commission with stakeholders and listen to the views of the youth.

## *Participation of Young People in Policy Discussion*

8. To provide more opportunities for our youth to participate in policy discussion, we will appoint more young people to various government advisory bodies. As a start, we will allow young people (aged between 18 and 35) to become members of specified committees through a pilot member self-recommendation scheme (“the pilot scheme”). We have already identified five advisory committees as the first batch for recruiting self-recommended young members. These committees, covering different policy areas, include the Youth Development Commission to be established, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Re-industrialisation, the Environmental Campaign Committee and the Action Committee Against Narcotics. We believe that the work of the above committees cover policy areas which youth members are of more interest and concern (relevant information of the committees is detailed at **Annex I**).

9. HAB plans to launch an open recruitment exercise for this batch of advisory bodies by end of this month. We will, through various channels (including newspaper and government website), publish the details of the pilot scheme, including application method and selection procedures, to ensure that the pilot scheme is open, fair and just. We uphold the simple principle of meritocracy in recommending youth members. Young people who possess the passion and ability to serve the people of Hong Kong, and have interest and aspirations in the work of the five committees mentioned above will stand a chance to be recommended for relevant bureaux for appointment. For this purpose, a committee, comprising the Secretary for Home Affairs, non-officio chairmen or representatives of the relevant committees and representatives from the bureaux concerned, will be set up to conduct interviews with the self-nominated candidates. Subject to the actual number of applications received, we target to complete the recruitment exercise in the first quarter of 2018 so that the bureaux concerned could follow up with the relevant appointment process.

10. We will also create favourable conditions to recruit youth to participate in committees under different policy bureaux. Our target is to increase the overall ratio of youth members of various government committees to 15% within this current-term Government.

## *Space Sharing Scheme for Youth*

11. In order to support start-ups of emerging industries, youth entrepreneurship and the development of arts and culture, we will implement the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth through “community-business-government” tripartite partnership. The scheme will serve as a platform for owners of revitalised industrial buildings as well as commercial buildings to contribute floor areas for the operation of co-working space or studios. Rental of no more than one third of the prevailing market rental will be charged to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Property owners may also operate the space directly on their own. The operators will provide a wide range of leasing options and supporting services for start-ups, young entrepreneurs and artists at a concessionary rental of not more than 50% of comparable market rental. We are currently liaising with property owners of revitalised industrial buildings and commercial buildings who have indicated interest in participating in the scheme to discuss implementation details. We will announce details of the scheme shortly, and expect to launch the first batch of about 60 000 square feet of “shared space for youth” in the first half of 2018.

12. HAB’s on-going initiatives on youth development, including strengthening communication with young people, enhancing youth internship and exchange, youth hostels, Youth Development Fund, youth volunteerism and promotion of civic education, are set out in paragraphs 1 to 9 in **Annex II**.

## Sports

### *Support for Disability Sports*

13. Following the completion of the Consultancy Study on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong and the public consultation on the study, the HAB developed a detailed work plan in collaboration with stakeholders which includes the following key measures –

- the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will launch a pilot scheme on advance booking services for people with disabilities (PWD). Relevant organisations will enjoy priority in booking specified LCSD sports venues for non-peak-hour sessions for the organisation of sports activities for the disabled such as training courses and competitions.

- the LCSD will strengthen the liaison network with special schools and provide additional subvention to “national sports associations” (NSAs) for disability sports to encourage more PWD to participate in sports.
- working with relevant NSAs and sports organisations for PWD to provide outreach services, including centre-based sports activities, so as to help PWD develop healthy sporting habits and save transportation time and arrangements

14. Another key measure is to introduce a full-time athlete system and implement a Pilot Scheme for Elite Vote Support System for disability sports, with the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games as the testing ground. We will draw on the experience gained from the pilot scheme when devising a long-term elite support scheme.

#### *Support for the Development of Team-only Sports*

15. Ball games played by teams have always been the most popular sports among students and young people. However, given the larger number of players involved in team sports, more resources are required to organise training in order to enhance their chance of achieving good results in major international games. To promote the development of team ball games, we will launch a five-year development programme to provide additional funding to eight NSAs (i.e. Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Water Polo, Ice Hockey, Hockey, Baseball and Softball<sup>1</sup>) to formulate and implement training programmes for Hong Kong representative teams to compete in the Asian Games. Funding support will also be offered to members of the Hong Kong representative teams, with the aim of enhancing the performance of team sports progressively and increasing their chances of attaining elite sports status in future.

#### *Elite Sports*

16. In recent years, Hong Kong athletes have been attaining great achievements in international competitions. Elite training has to be supported by scientific research for further enhancing the performance of athletes. We will continue to support the Hong Kong Sports Institute in studying the strategy for enhancing the training of elite athletes and the supporting measures, particularly on sports science and sports medicine.

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<sup>1</sup> Rugby Sevens is already supported by the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a Tier A sport and HAB has been providing special funding to support the implementation of the “Five-Year Strategic Plan” of the Hong Kong Football Association.

We also propose that the Research Grants Council and local universities encourage the undertaking of applied research relating to sports development so as to help enhance the performance of local athletes.

17. The Hong Kong Athletes Fund (the HKAF) was established in 1996 to provide financial support to current and retired elite athletes for pursuing individual education programmes, as well as to provide subsidies to retired athletes during their studies. Over the years, 210 athletes have benefited from the HKAF. The HKAF also supports the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme, which was launched in 2015 and has awarded one-off cash grant to 17 retired athletes. We will inject \$9 million into the HKAF to continue to provide support for retired athletes.

18. Ongoing sports-related initiatives under HAB are set out in paragraphs 10 to 18 of the **Annex II**.

## Culture and the Arts

### *Arts Space*

19. We have been actively exploring opportunities to provide space for young artists and budding arts groups to support their artistic creation. Apart from reserving space in the future development of a site in Aberdeen for the provision of arts space and facilities for local artists and arts groups, and supporting the Tai Po District Council and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to retrofit the former Tai Po Government Secondary School into an arts centre, the HKADC is looking into the possibility of opening new arts space in revitalised industrial or commercial buildings offered by private owners under the “Space Sharing Scheme for Youth” for use by young artists at below market rent based on the mode of operation of the “ADC Artspace” in Wong Chuk Hang. On the other hand, the HKADC will foster further collaboration between arts groups and schools. This will help promoting the better use of school premises as arts space as well as nurturing students’ interest in arts, thereby laying a foundation for future cultural development in Hong Kong. We will earmark funding to support the HKADC in its work on promoting collaboration between arts groups and schools.

### *Cultural Exchanges*

20. Our arts sector has gradually earned a fine reputation outside

Hong Kong with years of hard work. To consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international cultural metropolis and to create more opportunities for our young artists, we will allocate more resources to support the local arts and cultural sector, including increasing the subvention to the HKADC and nine major performing arts groups<sup>2</sup> to support arts groups of various sizes. In the next few years, we will increase the resources support for local artists and arts groups to perform and stage exhibitions outside Hong Kong and for hosting Hong Kong Week in some of the major Mainland cities.

### *Grooming of Arts Administrators*

21. To encourage our young artistic talents to study and exchange experience with their counterparts outside Hong Kong and cater for the opening of major cultural facilities in the next few years, we will provide a total of \$216 million in the coming six years for continuing the training scheme for arts administrators with a view to grooming more artistic talents.

### *Revamping the Facilities in the Hong Kong Science Museum and Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education*

22. We will revamp the permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) of the LCSD and strengthen its efforts on promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. To nurture talents for the innovation and technology industry, the HKScM will renew the exhibition galleries on a regular basis, further develop the highly successful science culture programmes and launch a series of new initiatives to bring about youth achievement through learning, involvement, volunteering and engagement in STEM subjects.

### *Promoting the Development of Public Museums in Hong Kong*

23. To reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international cultural metropolis, we will enhance co-operation with renowned Mainland and overseas museums and cultural institutions, including Palace Museum, National Museum of China, Dunhuang Research

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<sup>2</sup> The nine major performing arts groups include the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, the Hong Kong Dance Company, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the Hong Kong Ballet, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Chung Ying Theatre Company and the Zuni Icosahedron.

Academy, American Museum of Natural History and Science Museum, London etc., in organising more major exhibitions as well as education and professional exchanges. Activities include specially designed roving exhibitions, tailor-made education and extension programmes / activities for kids, students and the youths. Interactive and interesting topics with different themes to be presented in various forms will be explored in collaboration with partners in various places with a view to delivering more attractive and creative programmes to enable the appreciation of Chinese culture and awareness of the importance of culture inheritance. We will also explore the opportunity to extend some of the thematic exhibitions and exchange programmes to the Mainland and overseas.

### *Construction of a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre*

24. We will construct a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre in Tin Shui Wai, tentatively to be completed in 2025, to enhance the institutional capacity and status of museums in the acquisition, preservation, research and display of collections. The Centre would provide about 19 000 square meters of net floor area for the storage of different categories of museum cultural relics and art collections, collection items of the Hong Kong Film Archive and archaeological finds managed by the Antiquities and Monuments Office. In addition to the museum collection rooms, there are collection study room and other cultural and museum facilities for public use, including thematic exhibition galleries, multi-purpose activities rooms and lecture halls; some collection rooms and conservation studios will be open for public's visit.

25. The on-going initiatives of HAB in supporting the development of arts and culture, including the on-going support for local arts groups, the development of West Kowloon Cultural District and other cultural facilities, are set out at paragraphs 19 to 29 of **Annex II**.

### District Administration

#### *Coordinating the efforts of the relevant departments in improving public cleanliness, putting land into good use and beautifying the environment*

26. The Government will adopt a “bottom-up” approach to seek the views of the DCs and local communities regarding their long-standing concerns, and propose improvement measures. In this connection, the



Steering Committee on District Administration<sup>3</sup> has already coordinated the efforts of the relevant departments, with a view to facilitating them in implementing a series of improvement measures, including –

- increasing the frequency of cleansing in respect of hygiene black spots in all the districts, and conducting large-scale cleanup operations regularly at coastal areas and typhoon shelters;
- strengthening the inter-departmental collaboration and law enforcement efforts targeting blackspots of littering, illegal dumping of waste, illegally-parked bicycles and shop front extension in the districts concerned;
- using automated cleansing machines or technology to enhance efficiency;
- opening up and landscaping undeveloped idle government sites, for leisure and recreational purposes as far as possible in accordance with recommendations of the DCs, or allocating such sites for use by non-governmental organisations or art groups; and
- collaborating more closely with the DCs in encouraging local communities to participate in public education and publicity activities on educating the public to keep Hong Kong clean and protect the environment.

27. We will continue to coordinate and follow-up with the relevant departments on the drawing up and implementation of their specific action plans through the platform of the Steering Committee on District Administration. Relevant departments will invite for the views of DCs on subjects such as the work priority concerning hygiene black spots, as well as the public education and publicity activities.

#### *Visits by Principal Officials to 18 Districts*

28. In order to enable the Government to have a better grasp on

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<sup>3</sup> The Steering Committee on District Administration, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, comprises representatives from relevant departments. It provides a platform for interdepartmental discussion and consultation to enable the departments to make concerted efforts to address district issues such as street management.

district affairs and public opinions, the Home Affairs Department will help arrange Principal Officials to visit all 18 districts in the coming two years to meet with District Council members and people in the local communities, and understand districts' needs for various facilities. These exchanges will allow the Government's policies and projects to better respond to the district needs and help the Government to formulate policies that can address district problems.

### *Building Management*

29. To assist owners in proper building management and to address public concerns, we will implement multi-pronged initiatives, including the submission of proposed amendments to the Building Management Ordinance to Legislative Council for deliberation, releasing new Codes of Practice to set out the best practices of building management, and launching the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, to be steered by a retired judge, on a pilot basis to provide objective opinions on dispute cases.

30. HAB's on-going initiatives on district administration and building management, including the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme, are enclosed in **Annex II** paragraphs 30 to 34.

### **Advice Sought**

31. Members are invited to note the initiatives of HAB as set out above.

Home Affairs Bureau  
October 2017

**Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme  
Terms of Reference of the Five Participating Committees**

**1. Youth Development Commission**

The Youth Development Commission will be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. It aims to enhance policy co-ordination within the Government, so as to enable more holistic and effective discussions of issues of concern to young people, as well as to promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration for implementing policy initiatives agreed by the Commission. The Youth Development Commission will be set up and terms of reference will be announced in the first half of 2018.

**2. Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education**

Having regard to the existing programmes and activities in promoting civic awareness and responsibility:-

- Study, discuss and make proposals on the objectives and scope of civic education and its ways of implementation, including mapping out the strategy and plans on promotion of national education and encouraging cooperation amongst the Government, voluntary agencies, youth organizations, district and community organizations in promoting national education;
- Liaise with and assist in the efforts of various Government departments and community organizations in promoting civic education;
- Encourage all sectors of the community to actively promote civic and national awareness, the respective responsibilities and to participate in associated activities, as well as to provide the necessary guidelines and support for this purpose.

**3. Committee on Innovation, Technology and Re-industrialisation**

To advise the Government on:-

- the directions, focus areas, priorities and key performance

indicators for developing innovation and technology (“I&T”) in Hong Kong;

- strategies and measures to enhance the local I&T ecosystem;
- strategies and measures to enhance cooperation and coordination with key stakeholders to create synergy in driving I&T development in Hong Kong; and
- strategies and measures to promote re-industrialisation in Hong Kong.

#### 4. Environmental Campaign Committee

- To campaign for the environment with the objectives of instilling the sense of environmental responsibility and motivating attitude and behavioural change towards environmental protection;
- To advise the government on publicity and educational programmes related to the environment with a view to contributing to the government’s formulation of relevant policy initiatives and measures;
- To collaborate with stakeholders of the community in promoting public environmental awareness and encouraging community environmental actions for a sustained and society-wide impact;
- To implement publicity and educational programmes related to the environment, and to monitor and review the programmes with a view to improving their impact and effectiveness in a manner contemporary to societal need;
- To encourage and facilitate communication, collaboration and capacity building among stakeholders of the community in maximising programme synergy and their knock-on effects; and
- To administer resource granted under the delegated authority of the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee judiciously and in a publicly accountable manner.

#### 5. Action Committee Against Narcotics

- To advise the Government on the policies to be adopted to

interdict the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs into and through Hong Kong and to keep these policies under regular review.

- To advise the Government on the measures necessary to eradicate drug abuse from the community.
- To these ends, to be the channel for advice to the Government on the appropriate allocation of resources to ensure the implementation of Government's policies.
- To ensure co-ordination and co-operation between government departments and voluntary agencies in Hong Kong working towards the implementation of these policies and to enlist public support for them.
- To keep under review programmes and projects being undertaken by government departments and voluntary agencies directed at implementing Government's policies to ensure that they are effective.
- To draw the attention of the Government to those policies, programmes, projects, laws and procedures which in the opinion of the committee should be changed in order to implement Government's policies more effectively.
- To advise on any matter referred to it by the Government, or from any other appropriate source, which may be concerned either directly or indirectly with the implementation of Government's policies.

## **On-going Initiatives**

### **Youth Development**

#### *Strengthening Communication with Young People*

We strive to strengthen communication with young people. HAB will launch a “Youth Ambassadors” scheme and strengthen the district youth networks of the 18 districts, and continue to step up promotion of youth development and enhance liaison and communication with young people at different levels.

#### *Enhanced Youth Internship*

2. In the coming five years, we will continue our efforts to allocate additional resources to take forward and enhance various youth development programmes. In particular, we will provide young people with more internship opportunities in the Mainland, Belt and Road countries and other parts of the world, so as to enable them to understand the work culture and career prospects in different places, establish interpersonal networks, broaden their horizons and facilitate their planning for future career. The Youth Internship Programme at the Palace Museum, Beijing and the Youth Internship Programme at the Wolong National Nature Reserve, Sichuan, both held for the first time and completed in August this year, are good examples. Both programmes attracted Hong Kong young people who are interested in cultural and nature conservation. Through the programmes, participants strengthened their knowledge in the relevant disciplines and professional fields, and acquired a better understanding of the development of our country on various fronts. Looking ahead, we will provide more unique and enhanced internship opportunities for Hong Kong young people to deepen their understanding of the latest developments and opportunities in our country.

#### *Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange*

3. Following the additional funding allocation of \$100 million for international youth exchange announced under the 2017-18 Budget by the Financial Secretary, we launched the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange in June this year, with a view to providing more exchange opportunities for our young people, encouraging them to

increase their global exposure and broadening their horizons. The Scheme aims to provide funding support to non-profit-making organisations, statutory bodies or charitable organisations to organise international exchange tours for local young people aged between 15 and 29. Assessment of the applications received is in process.

#### *“People-to-people Bond” under the Belt and Road Initiative*

4. Under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, we will continue to step up our efforts to facilitate “people-to-people bond”. For youth exchanges, HAB and the Commission on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) launched the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries in 2016-17 and 2017-18, which provides funding support to NGOs to organise exchange programmes to the Belt and Road countries. The scheme aims at promoting in-depth exchange between young people in Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries to foster “people-to-people bond”. The 2017-18 funding scheme supported a total of 1 000 Hong Kong young people to visit 18 Belt and Road countries.

#### *Youth Development Fund*

5. In July 2016, the Government formally set up the \$300 million Youth Development Fund (YDF). We will collaborate with NGOs, in the form of matching grants, to assist young people in starting their own business and subsidise innovative youth development projects which are not covered by existing schemes. We received 68 applications and, after vetting, result was announced in February 2017. Matching funding has been approved for nine NGOs to implement young entrepreneurship programmes. In addition, funding support has been granted to an NGO for its innovative youth development activities.

#### *Youth Hostels*

6. The six projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme are under way. The three projects in Tai Po, Yuen Long and Sheung Wan are in a more advanced stage with the technical feasibility studies completed and various statutory and administrative procedures, such as lease modification, land exchange and town planning applications, being undertaken. For the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group’s project in Tai Po and the Po Leung Kuk’s project in Yuen Long, funding approval have been obtained from the Legislative Council and they have

commenced main construction works and detailed design respectively. It is expected that Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' project in Sheung Wan could also commence detailed design in 2018. For the two projects in Mongkok and Jordan, the pre-construction consultancy studies are at the final stage and they have both secured support from the Yau Tsim Mong District Council.

### *Youth Volunteerism*

7. With a view to promoting positive values among young people, the Government has endeavoured to foster the development of youth volunteerism. We have partnered with three local volunteer bodies (i.e. Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong Volunteers Association and The Peace and Development Foundation) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in launching UNV – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme in 2015, to support local university students to work in various UN agencies in the Southeast Asia for about 6 months. With the successful experience of the 2-year pilot scheme, we have doubled the volunteer places from 10 to 20 each year starting from this year, so that more university students may participate in overseas voluntary work. Besides, we will continue to implement the Service Corps and the Guangdong – Hong Kong Youth Volunteer Service Programme to provide more opportunities for young people to work as volunteers in underprivileged areas in the Mainland to serve those in need.

### *Promotion of Civic Education*

8. We will continue to work with CPCE to promote civic education outside schools, focusing on the core values of “Respect and Inclusiveness”, “Responsibility” and “Love”. This would enhance social harmony by promoting mutual respect and accommodating people with diverse cultural background, and different views and perspectives.

### *Youth Square*

9. We will continue to make use of the Youth Square to serve as a focal point for youth development activities by providing venues and facilities to young people and youth organisations at affordable prices.



## Sports

### *Promotion of School Sport*

10. It has been the Government's policy to encourage schools to open up their school facilities and hire out their school premises to social organisations as a means to foster collaboration between schools and the community. According to a territory-wide survey conducted by the Education Bureau (EDB) in the 2015/16 school year, more than 80 per cent of schools had opened up their school facilities during weekends or weekdays after school hours in the 2014/15 school year to various groups or organisations, including parent-teacher associations, alumni associations, school sponsoring bodies and non-profit making organisations, for organising different activities.

11. Starting from this school year, EDB and HAB have launched the “Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme”, which provides additional subsidies to public sector schools to encourage them to open up their school facilities to sports associations, with a view to encouraging students to develop good sporting habits and promoting different sports activities. At this stage, about 30 squad training programmes, young athletes training programmes and district sports activities have been scheduled to be conducted in schools. EDB and HAB will further enhance the Scheme to encourage more schools and sports organisations to participate.

### *Major Sports Events*

12. Major sports events hosted in Hong Kong has been increasing in number and scale over the years. The level of participation has also significantly increased. Hong Kong staged the first ever UCI Track Cycling World Championships in April and the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships will be held in November this year. We will continue to enhance the current funding framework to better support the hosting of various types of major international sports events in Hong Kong.

### *Increase and Enhance Sports and Recreation Facilities*

13. We will continue to take forward the 26 projects under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities, amounting to \$20 billion, to develop new or improve existing sports and recreation facilities

in response to the public demand and to encourage members of the public to participate in sports. In addition, we will also conduct technical feasibility study for another 15 sports and recreation facility projects within the next five years to prepare for their implementation in the future.

14. We plan to consult the Public Works Subcommittee and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in the fourth quarter of this year for the following four projects which received support of the relevant Panels: Pre-construction Works for Sports Ground and Open Space in Area 16, Tuen Mun; Avenue Park at Kai Tak; Waterfront Promenade adjacent to the Hong Kong Children's Hospital; and Improvement of Hoi Bun Road Park and Adjacent Area, Kwun Tong.

15. Besides, we also plan to consult the Legislative Council on another six projects in the current legislative year, including Station Square at Kai Tak; Swimming Pool complex and Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai; Provision of Heated Pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex, Wong Tai Sin; Pre-construction Works for Redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium; Open Space in Area 47 and 48, North District; and Open Space in Area 6, Tai Po. After seeking support of the Home Affairs Panel, we will consult the Public Works Subcommittee and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee.

#### *Kai Tak Sports Park*

16. The Government is forging ahead with the Kai Tak Sports Park project to provide modernized and multi-purpose facilities for promoting holistic sports development and hosting more world class sports events. Having completed the pre-qualification process, we will invite qualified tenderers to submit tenders within this year. The construction works are expected to commence in the second half of 2018 and be completed in 2022 - 2023.

#### *Others*

17. We will continue to support the NSAs in further enhancing their corporate governance and organising more international sports events and competitions, as well as launching more community sports programmes. We will also continue to support the long-term development of football by provide funding for the Hong Kong Football Association for the implementation of its Five-Year Strategic Plan.

18. To enhance the manpower support in HAB so as to take forward the various sports infrastructure related projects and reviews, we consulted the Panel in January 2017 on the proposed creation of a Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) post for 3 years, from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. We hope to consult the Establishment Subcommittee in November this year and then seek funding approval from the Finance Committee.

## Culture and the Arts

### *On-going Support for Local Arts Groups*

19. We will continue to support the development of the nine major performing arts groups and small and medium arts groups through the support schemes implemented by the HAB, the HKADC and the LCSD, including the continued implementation of the Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme, the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme, as well as grant schemes and proactive projects implemented by HKADC to provide local artists and arts groups with opportunities to pursue their creative works and showcase their talents.

### *Cultural Exchanges*

20. To strengthen our cultural exchange with other places in the Asian Region, we organise the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) in alternate years to facilitate experience sharing on cultural co-operation. More Asian countries along the Belt and Road will be invited to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> ACCF to be held in November 2017 which is also one of the important celebration events to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

21. We will continue to enhance cultural exchange and co-operation with other countries (especially countries along the Belt and Road) through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation and other channels with a view to promoting the cultural and art development of Hong Kong.

### *Cultural Facilities*

22. We endeavour to provide more cultural facilities in support of the cultural and art development of Hong Kong. To meet the

needs of the communities and arts sector for performing arts venues, the construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre is underway and its main superstructure is expected to be completed in 2020.

23. The Hong Kong Public Libraries will continue to plan and enhance its library facilities and services to meet the community needs and promote reading culture by organising educational activities in partnership with schools and community organisations.

24. We are dedicated to promoting the appreciation of culture, art, history and science, and to encouraging more visits to the museums to widen the audience base. Since 1 August 2016, we have made free admission to permanent exhibitions of designated museums<sup>4</sup> of the LCSD a standing practice. The permanent exhibitions of the HKScM and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM) have also offered free admission to full-time students. After implementation of the new initiative, except the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the exhibition halls of the HKSpM which have been closed for renovation, the total attendance of the aforesaid museums has shown a rise of around 70% in one year during August 2016 to July 2017 when compared to the total attendance during the same period in 2015 and 2016. In light of such encouraging results, the LCSD will maintain the status quo on the admission arrangements for the public museums.

25. We will continue to launch major exhibitions and extended educational activities at public museums, and renew their permanent exhibitions. The expansion and renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art is expected to be completed by end-2018. After the museum is re-opened by mid-2019 in phases, additional gallery space will be provided for displaying the works of local and international artists.

### *Intangible Cultural Heritage*

26. In August 2017, the Government announced the first Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong (the Representative List), which comprises 20 items of high cultural value and with urgent need for preservation. We will continue to actively safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH), particularly those items

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<sup>4</sup> The designated museums include the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum.

included in the Representative List, by strengthening various aspects of work, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage, and through encouraging public engagement.

27. The promotion of the sustainable development of Cantonese opera, a world ICH, will remain one of the major areas of work. Continuous efforts will be made to nurture new talents and support projects/activities relating to the preservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera. Upon the opening of the Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) in late 2018, this world-class arts venue will further enhance vibrancy of the Cantonese opera culture in Hong Kong.

#### *West Kowloon Cultural District*

28. The WKCD is now progressing to the operational phase. Various major arts and cultural facilities will be gradually commissioned. In particular, the Xiqu Centre will open next year; Freespace, scheduled to open in 2019, has been topped out; the M+ Building will also open by late 2019. Furthermore, the Lyric Theatre Complex will be completed around 2021, while the Hong Kong Palace Museum is scheduled for completion in 2022.

29. To dovetail with the completion of the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) will continue to strengthen the cultural software. The WKCDA will continue to enrich people's cultural life, build audiences, nurture local talents and promote professional development through organising a variety of quality arts and cultural programmes and broadening Hong Kong's cultural exchange with other places with arts groups, education institutions and local communities. We will also facilitate the WKCDA in preparing for the opening of the arts and cultural facilities. To support the continual development of the WKCD project, the Government will seek funding from the Finance Committee of LegCo in phases to construct infrastructure works and the integrated basement in the WKCD and implement the Enhanced Financial Arrangement.

## District Administration

### *Community Involvement Programme*

30. To further enhance the implementation or sponsorship of community involvement projects by DCs, we have provided an additional \$100 million for the Community Involvement Programme starting from 2017-18, bringing its annual funding to \$461.6 million. The projects include community building activities, district sports activities, arts and culture programmes, greening activities and volunteer activities, etc. DCs are responsible for identifying suitable projects for implementation and sponsorship and examining the funding applications to ensure the use of funds will meet the needs of the districts and benefit more people in the community.

### *District-led Actions Scheme*

31. Since 2016-17, we have provided an annual funding of \$63 million for 18 districts to implement the District-led Actions Scheme. The 18 District Offices, in collaboration with DCs, local communities and related government departments, are forging ahead with 45 projects under the scheme to improve environmental hygiene, enhance management of public space and capitalise on opportunities in the district in 2017-18.

### *Signature Project Scheme*

32. A one-off allocation of \$100 million has been earmarked for each district to initiate one to two projects under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) which would address local needs, and have a visible and lasting impact on the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the DCs following consultation with local residents and organisations before they are put to implementation. Of the 23 projects which have obtained funding approval from Finance Committee, 3 projects are already in service. The construction works of the remaining 20 projects are underway.

33. We will continue to support DCs in implementing the SPS projects and taking forward project proposals, with a view to bringing benefit the soonest to the local residents.

### *Building Management*

34. The Home Affairs Department will also continue to

implement Phase 3 of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme. Under the Scheme, professional property management companies will be engaged to provide owners of old buildings aged 30 years or above and with a low rateable value with professional support, and to assist owners of “three-nil” buildings in forming owners’ corporations and discharging their responsibilities in building management.