

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

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LC Paper No. CB(4)1794/20-21  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

## **Panel on Home Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 27 September 2021, at 10:45 am**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, SBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Member absent** : Hon WONG Kwok-kin, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

**Public Officers attending** : Item III

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP  
Acting Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP  
Commissioner for Sports  
Home Affairs Bureau

Hong Kong Sports Institute

Dr Trisha LEAHY  
Chief Executive

Mr Tony CHOI  
Deputy Chief Executive

Dr Raymond SO  
Director, Elite Training Science & Technology

Dr Daniel LEE  
Associate Director, Elite Training Science & Technology

Ms Monita HO  
Associate Director (Estate Office)

Item IV

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP  
Commissioner for Sports  
Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Zorina WAN Hiu-yan  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation  
and Sport)<sup>2</sup>

Mr Horman CHAN Ming-cheong  
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)<sup>1</sup>  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Deloitte Advisory (Hong Kong) Limited

Ms Ann CHU  
Senior Manager

MVA Hong Kong Limited

Mr Wayne YEH  
Research Director

Ms YUEN Ching-man  
Senior Research Manager

Townland Consultants Limited

Ms Cindy A.L. TSANG  
Director (Planning)

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Joanne MAK  
Chief Council Secretary (4) 7

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Raymond SZETO  
Senior Council Secretary (4) 6

Miss Vivian YUEN  
Legislative Assistant (4) 8

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Action

**I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

**II. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)1551/20-21(01) and (02)]

2. The Panel agreed to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") on the Chief Executive's ("CE's") 2021 Policy Address at the next regular meeting on 11 October 2021 at 4:30 pm.

**III. Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)1551/20-21(03) and (04)]

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Acting Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA(Atg.)") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)1551/20-21(03)].

4. Mr Vincent CHENG declared that he was a director of the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") Limited.

## Discussion

5. Members in general expressed support for the Administration's proposal for the Government and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust ("HKJCCT") to finance jointly the establishment of a \$300 million Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme ("the Scheme") to enhance the competitiveness of athletes and their preparation for the major international sports events in the coming few years. Under the proposal, the Government and HKJCCT would each inject \$150 million, i.e. \$300 million in total, into the Arts and Sports Development Fund ("ASDF") (Sports Portion). Upon injection, the Administration would earmark \$300 million in ASDF (Sports Portion) to launch the Scheme. Members considered that sports science and sports medicine support services were important in enhancing the performance of athletes.

6. Mr Vincent CHENG and Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired how HKSI would strengthen collaboration with local tertiary institutions, national sports associations ("NSAs") and other related organizations on scientific research projects after the proposed injection. Mr YIU Si-wing suggested that collaboration with commercial organizations should also be considered.

7. SHA(Atg.) said that HKSI had all along collaborated with local tertiary institutions and other related organizations on specific scientific research projects. For example, HKSI had collaborated with a company to develop special fabric for the suits of the Hong Kong Cycling Team, coupled with a specialized seaming technology and facilitated by tests in the wind tunnel, to reduce drag. Chief Executive, HKSI ("CE/HKSI") said that HKSI would strengthen collaboration with the relevant institutions and make strategic investments in impact-based research projects which would help improve the performance and competitiveness of Hong Kong athletes. Director, Elite Training and Science & Technology, HKSI ("D(ETST)/HKSI") briefed members on some notable examples of collaborations, including -

- (a) the sports science project between HKSI and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on the development of aerodynamic technologies, which included wind tunnel experiments for cycling and windsurfing;
- (b) collaborative research projects on sports medicine with the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; and
- (c) development of high-performance sportswear and supportive gear in partnership with the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, such as rowing competition suits, as well as bedding textiles for improving athlete's sleeps in overseas competitions.

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8. While praising the collaborative development of special fabrics for suits used by cycling athletes, Mr Michael TIEN said that developing custom high-performance sportswear for other sports was also very important. He urged the Administration and HKSI to ensure that various elite sports were provided with custom sportswear and reckoned that development of such sportswear would be a business with great potential profitability. Mr TIEN further suggested that the Administration and HKSI should apply for patent for successful research projects funded by public money, such as the abovementioned sleep-improving bedding textiles which, in his view, would have a huge potential market. Mr TIEN and the Chairman requested the Administration to consider contractually binding future research projects funded by public money to secure the ownership of the intellectual property therein for the Government.

9. SHA(Atg.) advised that other than cycling, the Administration and HKSI had also taken forward other research projects for the specific improvement of a sport, such as research on real-time technical analysis for para badminton and fencing. Five of such projects had been patented and, hopefully, another one would also be patented next year. SHA(Atg.) added that members' suggestions would be considered.

10. Members in general considered that the Government should robustly drive further the development of sports and the sports industry. Mr MA Fung-kwok opined that the Administration should encourage the injection of private resources to promote the development sports as an industry, which would foster more diversified development in sports and commercial opportunities. He added that there were ample business opportunities to be explored in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area for the sports industry.

11. SHA(Atg.) said that recognizing the importance of the sports industry on the local economy, CE announced in August 2021 a series of initiatives to further promote sports development, including the development of the sports industry. It was envisaged that the commissioning of major projects such as the Kai Tak Sports Park ("KTSP") in 2023 and the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games to be co-hosted by the Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao in 2025 would create good opportunities for the development of the sports industry.

12. In reply to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiries, the Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") said that the average funding requirement of ASDF (Sports Portion) per year was over \$100 million. Upon injection, the \$300 million would be a dedicated fund used exclusively for launching the Scheme. Mr KWOK Wai-keung asked how it was determined to inject \$300 million. C for S said that the amount was determined upon consultation with HKSI and taking into consideration the preparation needed for the international sports events in the next few years.

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13. Mr KWOK Wai-keung further enquired about the Administration's scrutiny of the operation of the Scheme in ensuring that the appropriate key performance indicators ("KPIs") were achieved. SHA(Atg.) and CE/HKSI assured members that multiple levels of scrutiny of projects would be put in place. In considering project proposals to be funded by the Scheme, HKSI's Elite Training Science and Technology Division would first consult the relevant expert committee of HKSI. With support from the expert committee, HKSI would submit the proposals to the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") for approval. Moreover, the board of directors of HKSI, which included Government representatives, and the Elite Sports Committee under the Sports Commission would also oversee the operation of the Scheme.

14. Referring to the five sports science and sports medicine facilities and support services centres under HKSI in paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper, Mr SHIU Ka-fai asked how the \$300 million would be distributed amongst them. SHA(Atg.) and C for S explained that for the \$300 million earmarked for the Scheme, there was no fixed percentages for the five areas and funding allocation would be determined by merits of project proposals. HKSI would consult the relevant stakeholders on their needs in order to determine how the funding provision should be distributed. The Administration would work out with HKSI appropriate guidelines on the use of funding under the Scheme. CE/HKSI explained that a multidisciplinary approach would be adopted for the research work to pursue impact-based outcome.

15. Citing recent press reports on the loss of talents in sports medicine due to a lack of career prospect, members expressed concern about whether HKSI could retain adequate medical professionals (e.g. physiotherapists). Members suggested that the Administration should provide more career opportunities, relevant training and certification courses to build a talent pool of professionals in sports medicine.

16. SHA(Atg.) advised that HKSI's services related to sports science and sports medicine were sufficiently staffed and had provided about 81 000 service counts to athletes in 2020. That said, HKSI could always increase its staffing on this front, and the Scheme could provide funding to employ relevant medical professionals. CE/HKSI supplemented that the turnover rate of professionals in sports medicine at HKSI was generally comparable with other types of staff. Nevertheless, HKSI was reviewing the provision of such staff, and additional funding would be sought if necessary.

17. Mr Kenneth LAU remarked that the number of elite athletes in Hong Kong was rather small and might not yield enough data for proper big data analysis in sports science. He urged the Administration to consider strengthening collaboration with the Mainland in this regard.

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18. SHA(Atg.) and D(ETST)/HKSI advised that the Administration had been collaborating closely with renowned Mainland sports institutes, e.g. the China Institute of Sports Science and Beijing Sports University, on areas such as research projects in sports science and the sharing of athletes' data. Besides, HKSI had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Preparation Office for the Olympic Games of General Administration of Sport of China in 2017 on collaborating and optimizing resources for preparation for Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, which also facilitated the sharing of athletes' data.

19. In response to Mr Vincent CHENG's concern, SHA(Atg.) said that the construction of the new facilities building for HKSI would commence shortly subject to the approval by the Finance Committee ("FC") to be obtained in October 2021. Mr CHENG considered that HKSI should enhance its facilities and equipment to better support elite athletes. SHA(Atg.) said that the new facilities building would reserve about 5 100 m<sup>2</sup> of net operating floor area for the development of sports science and sports medicine, which was a substantial increase from the current provision of about 2 200 m<sup>2</sup>. Also, HKSI could utilize part of the funding received from the Elite Athletes Development Fund to procure state-of-the-art equipment if required.

20. Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that support services for non-elite sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, should also be enhanced. He pointed out that local football clubs generally lacked financial resources for strengthening support in areas including sports medicine.

21. SHA(Atg.) explained that owing to resource limitations, the Administration's present plan was that the Scheme would cover certain areas pertaining to elite sports development as set out in paragraph 10 of the Administration's paper. C for S said that to support football development, the Administration had provided additional funding under separate schemes to the Hong Kong Football Association ("HKFA") to roll out various initiatives to support promotion of local football and nurturing of young players.

22. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the submission of the Administration's proposal to FC for consideration.

**IV. Consultancy study on provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong**  
[LC Paper No. CB(4)1551/20-21(05)]

23. With the aid of PowerPoint, C for S, Senior Manager, Deloitte Advisory (Hong Kong) Limited, and Research Director, MVA Hong Kong Limited briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)1551/20-21(05)].

## Discussion

### *Findings and methodology of the consultancy study on provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong ("the Consultancy Study")*

24. Members considered that the Consultancy Study was able to highlight the shortfalls in the supply of various sports facilities in Hong Kong. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the Administration should improve planning on the short-, mid- and long-term needs for sports facilities in the territory to dovetail with the development of new residential areas. Mr Holden CHOW considered it necessary to update the existing planning standards on sports facilities in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG") based on the findings of the Consultancy Study. C for S noted members' views and advised that the Consultancy Study helped derive a scientific method to better assess the supply and demand of different sports facilities, which was an improvement to the existing method.

25. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that the Consultancy Study did not address the current shortage of sports facilities, in particular, courts for popular sports such as badminton, basketball and volleyball. He further raised that the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme ("the Scheme") had not been as effective as expected and there was room to encourage more schools and sports organizations to participate. Mr LUK Chung-hung raised similar concern, and said that some of the findings, such as the point that there were more than enough swimming pools in the territory, seemed to contradict with the actual shortage situation. Members queried that the Consultancy Study might not have considered fluctuations in usage between peak hours and low-demand hours during a day, as well as seasonal factors.

26. C for S noted members' concerns and comments on data collection and analysis of the Consultancy Study. He advised that consideration had been given to fluctuation in usage between peak hours and non-peak hours. For immediate relief to the shortage of sports facilities, C for S said that the Administration had enhanced the Scheme by extending the Scheme from public sector schools to cover Direct Subsidy Schools and expanding the list of eligible sports organizations, etc. It was believed that the operation of the Scheme had been hampered by the COVID-19 epidemic, and HAB would continue to work with the Education Bureau to further enhance the Scheme.

27. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether the study took into account the provision of sports facilities by private organizations. C for S advised that as distinct from the way that the Administration only considered facilities provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") at present, this study had considered



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the provision of non-government sports facilities, including those provided by the Housing Department, universities, clubhouses, venues of NSAs, etc.

28. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether some of the sports facilities reserved for elite athletes' training and major sports events were counted by the Consultancy Study, as they could be opened for public use after major sports events.

29. C for S advised that the sports facilities for elite athlete's training were designed for and fully utilized by elite athletes. As such, there was no plan to open these facilities for public use. C for S added that the sports venues in KTSP would be open to public and school events when they were not used for holding major sports events.

30. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that there were discrepancies in design dimensions of Government sports facilities between the standards set out in HKPSG and respective international federations and/or NSAs as cited in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Administration's paper. He enquired about the extent of the situation and the Administration's strategies on how to reconcile the discrepancies.

31. In response, C for S advised that the Administration would first consider whether the relevant sports facility was a territorial facility or a regional/community facility. For territorial facilities, the Administration would ensure that their design dimensions complied with the latest standards set out by the respective international federations. For regional/community facilities, greater flexibility would be allowed for their design dimensions to best meet local needs.

32. Mr Holden CHOW noted that the Consultancy Study successfully surveyed 76 NSAs, while 26 others did not respond. He expressed worry that this could affect the accuracy of the study, and enquired about the reasons of their non-participation. He also urged the Administration to continue reaching out to those unresponsive NSAs to update them with the latest progress of the Consultancy Study and elicit their input.

33. Research Director, MVA Hong Kong Limited advised that those that did not participate in the Consultancy Study were mainly (i) non-users of the core sports facilities (e.g. the Hong Kong Aviation Club and the Hong Kong Go Association); (ii) NSAs with their own facilities; and (iii) NSAs with their activities mainly outdoor-based (e.g. the Hong Kong Wakeboard Association). It was believed that their non-participation would not have a significant impact on the Consultancy Study as they were not major users of the Core Sports Facilities covered by the study.

*The Five Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities ("the Five-Year Plan")*

34. Mr Wilson OR said that the Five-Year Plan was an important initiative for bolstering the provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong and enquired about the implementation progress. Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed dissatisfaction that the construction of some sports facilities (e.g. swimming pool complex and open space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai) under the Five-Year Plan had been delayed for many years, which had undoubtedly exacerbated the overall shortage of the provision of sports facilities.

35. C for S advised that in response to public demand, the Government announced the Five-Year Plan in the Policy Address in January 2017 to enhance the provision of sports facilities. To this end, the Administration had implemented 20 projects out of 26 projects in the past four years. Another 15 projects had been selected for conducting technical feasibility studies, and would be taken on board as soon as practicable. He added that all relevant Government departments had been fully engaged in taking forward the relevant work.

36. To alleviate the supply shortfall of sports facilities, Mr Vincent CHENG called on the Administration to add more construction projects of sports facilities to the Five-Year Plan, or provide more sports facilities in aging districts by redeveloping existing Government facilities. He also urged the Administration to expedite the progress of the proposed development of a sports park in Whitehead, Ma On Shan.

37. C for S concurred that more sports facilities could be provided by redeveloping existing Government facilities. He added that the proposed sports park at Whitehead was one of the 15 projects for conducting a technical feasibility study, the construction of which would take a few years to complete as the sports park was very large in area and would provide a variety of sports facilities. To fully utilize the site in the interim, the Administration had invited eligible sports organizations to submit proposals for the development and operation of sports facilities on two strips of land there. Subject to the approval of the short term tenancy application, the sports facilities to be provided would be open to the general public.

*Touting activities relating to Government sports facilities*

38. Mr Vincent CHENG said that the persistent shortage of Government sports facilities had led to touting activities. He opined that this issue could only be resolved by increasing the provision of sports facilities to make up for the shortfall. Mr Wilson OR urged the Administration to devise measures to eliminate touting activities.

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39. Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1, LCSD ("AD(LS)1/LCSD") advised that the Administration had accorded a high priority to curbing touting activities relating to the booking of Government sports facilities, and had put in place a host of administrative measures, namely:

- (i) shortening the advance booking period for individual hirers;
- (ii) requiring all users of Leisure Link (LCSD's venue booking system) to register with their Hong Kong Identity Card ("HKID") to prevent hirers from booking venues with multiple identity documents;
- (iii) cancelling the "stand-by" arrangement (i.e. a non-hirer would be granted free of use of a booked facility that was paid for but not taken up by the original hirer) for turf soccer pitches;
- (iv) posting information of cancelled sessions on LCSD website before releasing the available sessions for re-booking on the next day;
- (v) tightening the peak period booking quota for individual users;
- (vi) imposing new penalty for hirers found to have used the facilities together with partners not eligible for concessionary rates;
- (vii) discontinuing telephone booking service;
- (viii) requiring users to scan his/her original HKID for bookings made at the Leisure Link Self-service kiosk;
- (ix) disallowing users from booking on behalf of another person with a copy of his/her identity documents at the Leisure Link booking counters;
- (x) using a ballot system for allocating bookings of turf soccer pitches;
- (xi) requiring the hirer to produce the original of his/her identity document for registration and verification at the check-in counters before using the booked session; and
- (xii) requiring cancellation of booking of a sports facility at least one day prior to the day of use when the hirer is unable to take up the booked session. A "no-show" record would otherwise be filed on the hirer for imposing penalty.

*(Post-meeting note: the PowerPoint presentation materials were issued vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1575/20-21(01) on 27 September 2021.)*

Action

*(At 12:42 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended to allow sufficient time for members who had requested to speak to raise their questions and for the Administration to respond to those questions.)*

**V. Any other business**

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:46 pm.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
15 December 2021