

立法會

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Report of the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports (“the Panel”) during the 2025 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) session. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 22 October 2025 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007, 2 July 2008 and 26 October 2022 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to district, community and rural matters, civic education, building management, youth matters, women matters, Family Council, the provision of leisure and cultural services, the development of arts and culture, public entertainment, sports and recreation. The terms of reference of the Panel are in [Appendix 1](#).

3. The Panel comprises 20 members, with Hon MA Fung-kwok and Hon CHAN Yuet-ming elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in [Appendix 2](#).

Major Work

Implementation of Youth Development Blueprint

4. The Panel has been closely monitoring the implementation of Youth Development Blueprint (“the Blueprint”). Members noted that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (“HYAB”) and the various relevant policy bureaux had been

taking forward at full steam the more than 160 specific actions and measures set out in the Blueprint, as well as the around 60 new measures that were introduced by the Administration in 2023. Moreover, the various relevant policy bureaux had further introduced over 30 youth-related new measures over the past year under four key areas, namely: (i) promoting diversified and high-quality education; (ii) enhancing housing ladder; (iii) taking care of physical and mental well-being of youth; and (iv) expanding space and network for youths. As at end-February 2025, close to 100 measures had been completed. The various policy bureaux had been taking forward the remaining measures.

Promotion of youth internship and exchange overseas

5. Members suggested that the Administration should enhance the HYAB Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (“the Funding Scheme”), including offering additional places and subsidies under the Funding Scheme, as well as strengthening the two-way exchanges between young people from Hong Kong and overseas. Regarding overseas internship programmes, members enquired about the details of such internship placements such as the positions, industries, and geographical locations concerned.

6. The Administration advised that projects under the Funding Scheme had so far covered exchanges in six continents around the world, and efforts would continue to enhance the breadth and depth of the Funding Scheme. In 2025-2026, the number of places offered by the approved projects under the Funding Scheme had been increased, in the hope that more young people would be able to participate in overseas exchanges and learning. The Administration would also encourage partner organizations to invite overseas young people to visit Hong Kong following exchanges with our young people, thereby fostering two-way exchanges between overseas and local young people; and would actively encourage different enterprises to provide overseas internship opportunities for young people in Hong Kong, particularly in the Belt and Road countries and other places. In terms of internship placements, the more popular sectors included financial technology, traditional service industries, engineering, banking, and so on. In addition, HYAB would continue to support and encourage young people in Hong Kong to participate in various activities, such as different international conferences and volunteer services organized by voluntary organizations. The Administration had also launched the Pilot Scheme on Subsidy to Grassroots Youth for Participating in Exchange Activities Outside Hong Kong in 2024 to enable more grassroots youth to participate in overseas exchange activities.

Expanding space and network for youths

7. Members noted that HYAB would implement a series of facilities to expand space and network for youths, including making good use of the Kai Tak Community Isolation Facility for conversion into a “Youth Post” hostel and spaces for youth cultural, arts and sports exchanges; setting up a physical platform for interaction for Youth Link members in the Nam Cheong District Community Centre and the adjacent Tung Chau Street Temporary Market; and converting part of the Youth Square to establish a new interactive space for young people.

8. Members expressed concern about how the Administration would promote the “Youth Post” hostel and spaces for youth cultural, arts and sports exchanges. Noting that the Hong Kong Housing Authority had offered designated rent-free spaces in its shopping centres for young people to try running their own businesses, members suggested that the Administration should make reference to such practice and allocate spaces within the “Youth Post” hostel for youth entrepreneurship. The Administration advised that after selecting the operator for the “Youth Post” hostel, it would discuss with the operator how to enhance publicity to attract more young people from overseas, the Mainland and Hong Kong to utilize the facilities. The Administration had already expressed its expectation in the tendering document that the future operator should strongly support youth development, including entrepreneurship.

Taking care of physical and mental well-being of youth

9. Members noted that the Administration was committed to promoting the 4Rs Mental Health Charter and the “Whole School Health Programme” (“WSHP”) to foster the physical and psychological well-being of students in a more holistic manner. However, members were concerned that WSHP covered only approximately 65% of all the primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. In addition, members noted that the “18111—Mental Health Support Hotline” (“MHSH”) provided by the Health Bureau had handled approximately 139 100 calls from December 2023 to February 2025, with only approximately 414 cases (about 0.3% of the total) required referral to the relevant departments for follow-up. Members enquired how to determine which cases required referral.

10. The Administration advised that the 4Rs Mental Health Charter applied to all schools. While some schools did not join the 4Rs Mental Health Charter, they had included in their school curricula the objective of adopting a healthy lifestyle, and thematic training courses targeting students with mental illness had currently been offered to teachers to provide focused training. In addition, multi-disciplinary teams were formed in schools to provide support for students

with mental health needs. Regarding the one-stop service of MHSB, the Administration pointed out that the hotline aimed to support individuals experiencing emotional distress. For callers deemed at risk of suicide, MHSB would provide immediate referrals to the relevant departments or organizations offering suicide prevention counselling services. For callers assessed as cases without immediate danger, MHSB would provide the callers with service information or refer them to the appropriate service providers based on their needs. At the request of members, the Administration provided supplementary information after the meeting on whether there were plans in place to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of student suicide.¹

The Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area

11. Members noted that about 60 member organizations had joined the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (“the Alliance”) since its establishment, and over 160 activities supporting youth entrepreneurship had been organized. Members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Alliance in assisting young people in resolving issues in relation to starting businesses in the Mainland. The Administration advised that government officials had visited the partners from different innovation and entrepreneurial bases under the Alliance over the past year to understand their situations, and noted that young entrepreneurs starting their own businesses in different cities were satisfied with the support provided by these innovation and entrepreneurial bases. The Administration had also established a website called “We Venture” to provide information on member organizations of and activities organized by the Alliance for young entrepreneurs starting businesses in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Preparatory Work for the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Month

12. The Panel was deeply concerned about the preparatory work for the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Month (“Hong Kong ICH Month”). Members noted that the inaugural “Hong Kong ICH Month 2025” would be launched on the theme of “ICH Around Town”, and presented a series of diversified activities to enable the public and tourists to feel for themselves the cultural essence of Intangible Cultural Heritage (“ICH”) in Hong Kong and the pleasure it brought.

¹ Please refer to LC Paper No. [CB\(3\)505/2025\(01\)](#).

Publicity for and appeal of the event

13. Members noted that the Hong Kong ICH Month 2025 featured a rich array of activities. To assist the public and tourists in selecting items for participation, members suggested that ICH items which were well-known worldwide (such as Dragon Boat Race, Che Kung Festival or Wong Tai Sin Belief and Customs) should be selected for targeted publicity. Some members pointed out that the Dragon Boat Festival in 2025 fell on late May, and suggested highlighting the ICH characteristics of dragon boat races to enhance attractiveness by organizing the International Dragon Boat Races as the opening event of the Hong Kong ICH Month 2025 for more focused promotion.

14. The Administration advised that it would collaborate with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (“HKTB”) to promote the Hong Kong ICH Month 2025, with more focused publicity efforts to follow. The Administration planned to arrange special guided tours for visitors, in conjunction with the initiative of ICH in every district. Activities of the Hong Kong ICH Month 2025 included events of the key ICH items (including dragon boat races) to be held at the end of May. The Administration would strengthen promotion efforts to reach more local people and visitors.

Transmitting intangible cultural heritage and nurturing talents

15. Members suggested that the Administration should improve the system for ICH bearers in Hong Kong to nurture talents in a more systematic manner, and should also strengthen connections with the Mainland in nurturing ICH bearers or talents. Noting that there were slight differences between the systems for ICH bearers in Hong Kong and in the Mainland in terms of institutional arrangements, members suggested reviewing the regulations and standards of the system for ICH bearers in Hong Kong.

16. The Administration advised that it was drawing reference from the selection and assessment systems for ICH bearers in the neighbouring areas, such as Guangdong and Macao, with a view to expeditiously developing a mechanism and criteria for recognizing the bearers of the ICH items on the Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong.

Proposed amendments to the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules (Cap. 1112A)

17. The Administration sought the Panel’s views on the proposed amendments to the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules (Cap. 1112A). The

legislative proposal aimed to: (i) introduce the extendable niches arrangement in projects of the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (“BMCPC”), by modelling on the existing arrangement of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”); (ii) prescribe fees relevant to the operation of BMCPC; (iii) establish Family Gardens for Ashes to optimize the use of vacant land resources; and (iv) provide for other matters relevant to the operation of BMCPC’s cemeteries.

The power to dispose of unclaimed ashes

18. Noting that the proposed amendments empowered BMCPC to scatter the ashes cremated from human remains exhumed from mass exhumation (such as scattering of ashes in gardens of remembrance), members expressed concern that some families might be unable to handle the ashes in a timely manner due to special circumstances (such as residing overseas or facing financial difficulties). In this connection, members raised concern about whether the Administration would allow a buffer period for claiming ashes or introduce an appeal mechanism. In addition, members asked how the legislation could protect the rights and interests of the relevant parties if the families did not apply for renewal upon the expiry of the interment period and sought compensation after BMCPC had disposed of the ashes.

19. According to BMCPC, the disposal of ashes cremated from human remains exhumed from mass exhumation would be conducted six years after the expiry of term of the relevant burial lots. As for extendable niches, written notifications would be sent to families in phases two years, one year, and six months prior to the expiration dates of the niches, with notices posted at the cemetery as well. BMCPC would also accept renewal applications from persons who were not permittees (e.g. other relatives or friends of the deceased). For both burial lots and extendable niches, prior to formal disposal of ashes, BMCPC would make every effort to contact families through mail, newspaper notices, on-site announcements, and other available contact methods. Also, emergency contact information would be retained for communication purposes. BMCPC would allow sufficient buffer time for families to claim the ashes. The Administration advised that reference had been made to the practice of FEHD before putting forward the proposed amendments to ensure that BMCPC had adequate authority to dispose of the ashes, so as to prevent future disputes.

Financial position of the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries and implementation of the revised fee schedule

20. Members expressed concern about the proposed substantial increase in the relevant fees charged by BMCPC, such as the approximately 50% hike in the fees for family niches (permanent), and enquired about the financial position of BMCPC and information on the cost of the relevant niches. BMCPC advised that it incurred an average annual operating loss of more than HK\$80 million and had persistently relied on investment income to cover deficits, and therefore it necessitated fee adjustments to maintain service and financial sustainability. BMCPC added that the latest construction cost per niche under the Tsuen Wan Columbarium project was approximately HK\$30,000, and BMCPC would bear the routine maintenance expenses for the niches and would not charge any management fees on the niche permittees.

21. The Administration advised that BMCPC had not adjusted its fees for niches over the past 30 years. The currently proposed pricing for BMCPC's niches remained significantly lower than that of the private market. The Administration had re-examined the positioning of BMCPC in providing niches and considered a basket of factors, including the latest construction costs of niches, the long term supply of niches and the pricing of BMCPC's facilities as compared with other operators offering comparable facilities. The Administration considered that BMCPC should be positioned between public niches provided by FEHD and niches offered by other private cemetery operators, thereby complementing existing services and public needs while aiming for cost recovery, so as to ensure BMCPC's long term financial sustainability, with sufficient revenue to support its charitable work.

Enhancing the balloting mechanism for allocation of burial lots

22. Noting that first-time and frequent applicants had the same successful rate under the existing balloting mechanism for allocation of burial lots, some members suggested that the Administration should enhance the balloting mechanism by introducing an arrangement where "the higher the frequency of applications, the higher the successful rate in the ballot". The Administration advised that BMCPC would be asked to study the feasibility of enhancing the balloting mechanism.

Regulating basketball betting activities

23. The Administration sought views from the Panel on the outcome of the public consultation on the regulatory regime on basketball betting and the

proposed amendments to the Betting Duty Ordinance (Cap. 108). Members noted that the Administration conducted a one-month public consultation on the proposed regulatory regime on basketball betting activities from April to May 2025. Among the 1 063 written submissions received by the Administration, 94% of respondents supported the Government to regulate basketball betting activities. Noting the outcome of the public consultation, the Panel supported the Administration's introduction of the Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2025 into LegCo.²

The problem of youth gambling and the preventive measures concerned

24. According to the information from the Administration, in the past five years, the number of people aged 18 or below seeking help consistently accounted for 1% to 2% of the total number of persons receiving counselling or treatment from the four counselling and treatment centres ("counselling centres") funded by the Ping Wo Fund ("PWF"). Members were concerned whether the Administration had underestimated the actual situation, and pointed out that there had all along been cases in which juveniles borrowed accounts from adults to place bets. Members were concerned that The Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC") relied on users to declare their age without effective identity authentication when placing online bets. Members suggested that application of biometric authentication technology should be made mandatory to stop juveniles from borrowing accounts from adults to place bets. Some members also suggested setting a ceiling on the amounts of bets (e.g. HK\$500 or HK\$1,000 per month) for youth groups aged between 18 and 25.

25. The Administration advised that as a matter of policy, the Government did not encourage gambling. To address gambling-related problems, the Government adopted a multi-pronged strategy, including law enforcement against illegal gambling activities, public education on the harms of gambling addiction, provision of counselling and support services for people in need of assistance and regulation of gambling activities through legislation. The policy objective of authorization of basketball betting was to combat illegal betting activities. In the course of authorization of basketball betting, the Government would continue to adopt the existing multi-pronged strategy to minimize the negative impact of basketball betting on the public, especially on young people. The Administration pointed out that juveniles were prohibited from placing bets under the existing legislation, and offenders would be subject to criminal liability (and be liable to a maximum penalty of a HK\$50,000 fine and imprisonment for nine

² The House Committee agreed on 4 July 2025 to form a bills committee to scrutinize the Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2025 ("the Bill"). The Bill was passed at the LegCo meeting of 10 September 2025.

months). The Administration also pointed out that it might not be possible to completely eliminate the problem of youth gambling since young people might still borrow accounts from others even if a ceiling on the amounts of bets had been set. The Administration was of the view that publicity and education efforts should be made at source, so that awareness about the harms of gambling, gambling addiction and illegal gambling would take root in the heart of young people.

26. Members were concerned whether the service coverage of the four existing counselling centres funded by PWF was adequate for young people, and suggested that publicity in schools and family education should be strengthened. The Administration advised that PWF would set up a new counselling and support service centre for promotion and education as well as providing outreach services and supporting counselling services targeting young people. PWF would also strengthen its collaboration with other stakeholders to bring the message of preventing and combating gambling activities to different groups in the community. The Government would also continue to work closely with the PWF Advisory Committee to step up publicity and counselling services for young people. The Administration would also request HKJC to increase the donation to PWF for further enhancement of PWF's work.

Determining duty rate and allocating proceeds

27. Some members supported the Government's proposal to adopt the existing approach on calculation and collection of betting duty for football betting, and charge from the operators a basketball betting duty at the rate of 50% on their net stake receipts. However, they suggested that the Administration should constantly keep in view the competitiveness of the basketball betting duty, so as to prevent bettors from turning to the illegal market due to excessive duty rate which would affect the odds of basketball matches. Some other members were of the view that the Government should consider increasing the duty rate to alleviate fiscal deficit. Members were also concerned about the estimated amount of proceeds that HKJC planned to allocate for supporting sports development and youth training after obtaining the licence to conduct basketball betting. Members requested HKJC to undertake to earmark dedicated funding from the proceeds for supporting sports development and youth training.

28. According to the Administration, the rate of basketball betting duty was determined with reference to that of the football betting duty. It sought to strike a balance between efforts to combat illegal gambling and market competitiveness, and any increase in the duty rate might affect the attractiveness of the authorized betting activities. The Administration stressed that the objective of authorization

of basketball betting was to combat illegal gambling, instead of increasing tax revenue. The Administration would request HKJC to allocate more resources to help promote sports development.

Preparatory work for the 15th National Games

29. The Panel discussed the progress of Hong Kong's preparation for hosting the 15th National Games ("the 15th NG"), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games ("NGDSO").

Publicity efforts

30. Members considered that the National Games brought an opportunity to enhance the sense of national identity, promote sports in the community and drive the "host city economy", while showcasing to the international community the vitality of Hong Kong. Members expressed concern about the Administration's publicity efforts on the 15th NG and how to promote it to the international community. Members suggested that publicity efforts on the 15th NG and NGDSO should be made earlier to tie in with the summer activities and other major local sports events, so as to attract visitors to come to Hong Kong again to attend the Games.

31. The Administration advised that the third stage of promotion³ would start from August 2025 to significantly boost the popularity and participation of the 15th NG and NGDSO, including the organization of the 100-day countdown, torch relay and Sport For All Day, as well as other enhanced efforts like city dress-up initiatives. In addition, publicity efforts would be stepped up by launching photo-taking spots featuring the mascots "Xiyangyang" and "Lerongrong", selling franchised products and implementing other initiatives. The Administration would also launch promotion in the Mainland and overseas through the Information Services Department. Furthermore, broadcast production for the competitions would be centralized under China Media Group, with plans to authorize local free-to-air television stations to live broadcast or relay the competitions.

³ The Government's publicity strategies were rolled out in three stages. The first stage started in the end of 2024 to enhance public awareness of the 15th NG and NGDSO. The second stage, running from January to July this year, aimed to foster a welcoming atmosphere for the Games in Hong Kong.

Sports event management and ticketing arrangements

32. Members expressed concern about the Administration's efforts in sports event management and whether elements of local innovative technologies would be integrated into the sports events and relating efforts to enhance management efficiency. The Administration advised that technologies would be applied to facilitate implementation of the sports events, such as developing information systems to support information management and arrangements in terms of accreditation, etc., of various competitions. In addition, innovative technologies (including positioning systems and facial recognition technologies) would be applied when holding cross-border sports events, so as to enable athletes and supporting staff to undergo immediate and seamless border clearance during competitions.

33. Members raised concern about the ticketing arrangements for the sports events, and urged the Administration to announce the details of the ticketing arrangements as soon as possible, so as to facilitate the industry to develop the relevant travel packages; and suggested reserving tickets for young people and the underprivileged groups to attend the Games on-site. In addition, members expressed concern about the measures in place to prevent ticket scalping on the centralized ticket sales platform for Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao.

34. The Administration advised that it was discussing the ticketing policies with the Guangdong authorities and would announce the ticketing arrangements and measures to prevent ticket scalping later. Regarding the allocation of the tickets, the Administration would take into account the needs of both the visitors and local residents, while striving for encouraging young people and persons with disabilities to attend the Games. Once the ticketing arrangements were finalized, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau ("CSTB") would encourage the tourism sector to develop various travel packages, with a view to attracting Mainland and overseas visitors to attend the Games and explore Hong Kong.

Government's efforts on facilitating building management and property management

35. The Administration briefed the Panel on the Government's efforts in facilitating building management and property management.

Pilot Scheme on Joint Property Management

36. Members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme on Joint Property Management (“the Pilot Scheme”) and whether it required 100% owners’ consent to commence joining the Pilot Scheme. Members also raised concern about how the Administration would encourage owners to participate in the Pilot Scheme and how to address difficulties, for example, in handling owners who did not actively participate or refused to participate in property management, and in contacting owners and identifying property management companies (“PMCs”). Members enquired about how to create complementary synergy between the Pilot Scheme and the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (“BMPASS”).

37. The Administration advised that the Pilot Scheme received positive initial responses, with some buildings indicating intention to join the Pilot Scheme; and it did not require 100% owners’ consent to commence joining the Pilot Scheme. In respect of the buildings with an owners’ corporation (“OCs”) established in accordance with the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) (“BMO”), owners of such buildings would only be required to convene a management committee (“MC”) meeting or a general meeting of OC according to the requirements under BMO to pass a resolution to join the Pilot Scheme; as for the buildings with OCs not yet established, the owners might also convene a meeting of owners in accordance with the requirements under the deed of mutual covenant to join the Pilot Scheme. Joint property management was a model providing significant incentives under which the management needs of multiple buildings were consolidated to enable their owners to jointly engage the same PMC to provide joint property management services. By sharing the management costs, owners of the participating buildings could obtain basic building management services at a more affordable price and improve their living environment. The non-governmental organizations engaged by the Administration would assist owners in identifying additional source of revenue, such as displaying advertisements in common areas or installing solar panels on rooftops with owners’ consent to generate additional revenue to be used to cover the overall building management expenses.

38. The Administration agreed that it did face challenges arising from difficulties in contacting the owners, and would continue to strengthen communication with the relevant owners through district networks, such as members of District Councils (“DCs”). Regarding creation of complementary synergy between the schemes, BMPASS primarily assisted owners in establishing OCs, while the Pilot Schemes promoted subsequent management by encouraging

and assisting OCs in engaging professional PMCs to assist with day-to-day building management.

Measures to support the “three-nil” buildings and inactive owners’ corporations

39. Members expressed concern that, following establishment of OCs, some MCs might become defunct or inactive as a result of vacancies in such MCs arising from changes concerning the owners, or failure of the MC members to fulfill their duties. They also enquired about the measures in place to re-activate the MCs concerned. Members suggested offering incentives such as tax concessions to encourage PMCs to participate in the management of “three-nil” buildings. In addition, some members suggested that a government-led approach be adopted to form teams of lawyers, accountants and DC members to assist owners of “three-nil” buildings, and that technologies be introduced to support building management and resources be provided for assisting in repair and maintenance of buildings. Members are also concerned about the role and effectiveness of the Resident Liaison Ambassador, who were not professionals, in mediating disputes among owners.

40. The Administration advised that it was not easy to re-activate defunct or inactive MCs. Under the existing legislation, if vacancies occurred in the offices of all MC members, an application was required to be made to the Lands Tribunal for an order to dissolve the MC concerned, appoint an administrator, and appoint new MC members. In this regard, the Government would study amending the legislation to streamline the process and consider empowering the Administration to expedite intervention. Regarding the offering of incentives, given the fact that it was the owners’ responsibilities to participate in building management, the Government would not provide direct financial support (such as tax concessions) for the participating buildings to carry out their day-to-day management. At this stage, the Administration would focus on reducing management costs through the joint property management model. In addition, the Home Affairs Department offered free professional advisory services (such as services provided by engineers and lawyers) and mediation services, while providing training for DC members to assist in handling disputes. Furthermore, application of technologies could also help PMCs reduce costs in terms of joint property management, including the use of remote surveillance cameras to facilitate management operations. In urgent cases, assistance might first be provided by the Buildings Department or the Fire Services Department to owners in carrying out repair and maintenance of buildings before collecting fees, and relevant support was also available under building maintenance grant scheme provided by the Urban Renewal Authority.

Hong Kong Week 2025@Seoul

41. The Administration briefed the Panel on the latest progress of the preparatory work for “Hong Kong Week 2025@Seoul”.

Promoting collaboration among industries

42. Members enquired about the reasons for choosing Seoul in Korea to hold Hong Kong Week and the estimated expenditure of the event, as well as the estimated attendance for the film programmes and the direct benefits to the local industry. In addition, members were concerned about how the Administration would integrate cultural activities with tourism promotion, such as whether it would organize exchange visits to Korea for the local industry.

43. The Administration advised that Seoul was the second overseas venue after Bangkok, with the aim of expanding into the Northeast Asian market. For future events, priority would be given to countries along the Belt and Road, such as Middle Eastern countries. The event focused mainly on cultural exchange, but would indirectly promote economic cooperation through organizations such as HKTb, for example by promoting Hong Kong tourism and mega events. The total budget for the event was about HK\$23 million, covering expenses for programme production, travel, publicity and the opening ceremony. The Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council would provide additional resources in support of the event. The film programmes were expected to attract an attendance of 3 000, and would promote Hong Kong-Korea collaboration opportunities through industry seminars and other extension activities. In addition, the Administration would coordinate the participation of the tourism industry in the event to attract Korean visitors to Hong Kong.

Programme content

44. Members were concerned about whether the programme adequately covered cultural contents with Hong Kong character (e.g. Cantonese opera and ICH items), how the Administration would attract Korean visitors to subsequently visit Hong Kong through the event, and how to make use of Korean pop culture (e.g. Korean TV dramas and social platforms) to amplify the publicity effect. In addition, members were concerned about whether the six films screened in the event could reflect the characteristics of Hong Kong in different eras.

45. The Administration advised that the event would feature dance, Chinese and Western music, films and pop culture as the main elements. While there

would be no Cantonese opera, other ICH elements would be incorporated. Interactive experiences (e.g. milk tea workshops) would be considered for future events. The Administration would promote the mega events subsequently held in Hong Kong (e.g. the Hong Kong Fashion Design Week) during the event, and would collaborate with HKTb to attract visitors to Hong Kong. Promotion would be carried out through Korean social media (e.g. Naver) and key opinion leaders in the local cultural sector. Classic films screened in the programme “Movie-to-Go” would include both the 1967 film “The Story of a Discharged Prisoner” and its 1986 remake “A Better Tomorrow”, as well as black-and-white films such as “Special agent X-7”. Another programme, “Making Waves — Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema”, would showcase Hong Kong films produced in recent years to demonstrate the diverse spectrum of Hong Kong cinema.

Progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District development

46. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (“WKCDa”) briefed members on the work focus of WKCDa and the latest developments of the West Kowloon Cultural District (“WKCD”) project.

Financial sustainability and operational model

47. Members expressed concern about how WKCDa could enhance its cost recovery rate and achieve financial self-sustainability,⁴ as well as the measures for revenue generation and cost control. Regarding the Government’s permission for WKCDa to sell residential developments to supplement its income, some members were concerned about whether WKCDa could realize cash from property sale as early as possible. Members suggested that WKCD should collaborate with other cultural, sports and tourism facilities such as the Kai Tak Sports Park to launch joint tickets and “one-trip-multi-experience” tourism products. They also suggested promoting the night-time economy in WKCD, developing pet-friendly spaces, and making better use of idle space for organizing bazaars and outdoor concerts, so as to further enhance the space utilization efficiency and overall vibrancy of WKCD.

48. WKCDa advised that despite the continued increase in visitation and the number of events in 2024-2025, it was constrained by challenges such as prevailing global geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties, evolving consumption patterns among both local and international visitors, and subdued

⁴ The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority recorded operating deficits for six consecutive years, with underlying income for 2024-2025 down 18% year-on-year to \$871 million, and underlying operating deficit increasing from \$578 million to \$769 million.

market sentiment, resulting in a decrease in income during the period. The deficit in 2024-2025 increased by nearly \$200 million year-on-year due to several one-off incomes in 2023-2024, including the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund and the Anti-epidemic Fund. In 2024-2025, in the absence of the aforesaid one-off incomes, coupled with the imminent exhaustion of the Government's one-off upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion, interest income decreased and the deficit increased.

49. WKCDA supplemented that the cost recovery rates of WKCD were on par with those of other world-class museums, and similarly, those museums could not achieve financial self-sustainability and required support from other sources. Upon the commissioning of the WestK Performing Arts Centre ("WestK PAC"), which was targeted for completion in 2026, WKCDA would leverage the venue to promote Hong Kong as a centre for dance, drama and musicals, and to stage more long-run programmes. WestK PAC would also provide catering and banquet facilities, thereby improving the cost recovery rate. In addition, by the end of 2026, three Artist Square Towers would be completed, providing 65 000 square metres of commercial space, which would generate more stable income to offset the deficits of arts and cultural facilities. In addition, the Southern Landing Facility, which would be completed in the fourth quarter of 2025, would improve waterborne transport to and from WKCD and help boost visitor flow.

50. On night-time activities, WKCD successfully organized "M+ At Night", Christmas markets and museum nights, and would continue to enhance night-time programmes in the future. As a pet-friendly space, WKCD was willing to introduce concepts such as pet-friendly restaurants. In addition, WKCD would make better use of its space to stage more activities to enhance attractiveness, for example, organizing medium-sized concerts at the Wonderland, which could accommodate 8 000 spectators.

51. The Administration supplemented that given the Town Planning Board's permission for residential developments at WKCD, it hoped that the implementation could be expedited, and noted that WKCDA would step up preparatory work with a view to launching the projects when the property market recovered.

Promoting performing arts, local cultural brand development and industrialization, and art trading ecosystem

52. Members were of the view that WKCD should take the lead in developing a cultural industry chain for Hong Kong, thereby bringing benefits to the overall cultural ecosystem. Members expressed concern about the measures

of WKCDA to develop local cultural brands and promote the industrialization of performing arts. Some members suggested that WKCDA should develop cultural and creative products incorporating pop culture (e.g. trendy toys), as well as develop an art trading ecosystem to attract international galleries, auction houses and family offices to establish a presence in WKCD.

53. WKCDA advised that following the success of “The Impossible Trial”, an original musical which had toured to Beijing and Shanghai, WKCD would launch more original productions and developments in the future, thereby shaping the unique cultural positioning of WKCD. It would also continue to invest in more co-production projects. On the development of cultural and creative products, WKCDA had launched such products in exhibitions of artists including Picasso and Yayoi Kusama, and would strengthen collaboration with local designers in the future. On the development of an art trading ecosystem, the internationally renowned Phillips Auctioneers had established a presence in WKCD in 2023. WKCD would strive to attract more Mainland and international art institutions to set up in WKCD. Upon completion of the Artist Square Towers, more space would be available for leasing by relevant industries.

Talent nurturing and youth participation

54. Members were concerned about the measures of WKCDA to nurture local artistic talent, as well as whether it had co-organized internship programmes with Mainland institutions.

55. WKCDA advised that the Hong Kong Palace Museum (“HKPM”) strived to nurture local artistic talent for promoting the inheritance of Chinese culture. The museum had two flagship youth talent nurturing initiatives, namely the “HKPM Student Ambassador Programme” and the “Bi-city Youth Cultural Leadership Programme”, providing students from Hong Kong and Beijing with opportunities to engage in in-depth training, internship and cultural exchange. Since 2022, the two programmes had nurtured over 470 secondary school and university students.

Other issues

56. During the current legislative session, the Panel received briefings from the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs and the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism respectively on the major initiatives in the Chief Executive’s 2025 Policy Address relating to home affairs as well as culture and sports. In addition, the Panel discussed:

- (a) the proposed project of Hoi Ting Road Joint-user Complex;

- (b) the proposed project of reprovisioning Pok Fu Lam Public Library in the Pok Fu Lam South public housing developments;
- (c) the proposed retention of one time-limited supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post under the Youth Affairs Branch of HYAB;
- (d) the proposed retention of a supernumerary directorate post in the Sports and Recreation Branch of CSTB to continue to oversee the operation of the Kai Tak Sports Park and head the Sports and Recreation Division (2) of Sports and Recreation Branch for the implementation of sports policy initiatives; and
- (e) the Community Care Fund.

Meetings held

57. During the period from January to September 2025, the Panel held a total of nine meetings.

Council Business Divisions
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 October 2025

Legislative Council

Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to district, community and rural matters, civic education, building management, youth matters, women matters, Family Council, provision of leisure and cultural services, development of arts and culture, public entertainment, sports and recreation.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports

Membership list for the 2025 session

Chairman	Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon CHAN Yuet-ming, MH
Members	Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, SBS, MH, JP Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon Johnny NG Kit-chong, MH, JP Hon LAM So-wai Hon Nixie LAM Lam Hon YIU Pak-leung, MH, JP Hon Kenneth LEUNG Yuk-wai, MH, JP Hon Rock CHEN Chung-nin, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Yung, SBS, JP Hon Maggie CHAN Man-ki, MH, JP Hon CHAN Hoi-yan Hon JoePHY CHAN Wing-yan Hon Benson LUK Hon-man Revd Canon Hon Peter Douglas KOON Ho-ming, SBS, JP Prof Hon LAU Chi-pang, BBS, JP Hon Kenneth FOK Kai-kong, BBS, JP Hon Adrian Pedro HO King-hong (Total: 20 members)
Clerk	Ms Joanne MAK
Legal Adviser	Ms Clara WONG