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SPORTS COMMISSION

Progress Report of the Community Sports Committee

INTRODUCTION

This paper reports on the work of the Community Sports Committee (CSC) since the last update to the Sports Commission (SC) in January 2013.

PROGRESS UPDATE

2. At the CSC meeting on 1 March, Members discussed the following issues.

Follow-up on the Survey of the Physical Fitness Test for the Community (PFT)

- 3. Based on the findings of the PFT, a follow-up action plan¹ was mapped out with the objective of enhancing awareness of the benefits of regular participation in sport and other physical activities. Relevant elements have been incorporated in the upcoming series of "Glamour of Sport", which will focus on student athletes.
- 4. Given the similarity between the PFT and the earlier Study on "Sport for All: Participation Patterns of Hong Kong People in Physical Activities" which was completed in 2008, the two studies will in future be combined into one. This study will track Hong Kong people's participation patterns (in terms of extent and frequency) in sport and other physical activities, their preference for such activities as well as their levels of physical fitness so as to provide a database for a continual evaluation of the effectiveness of the community sports promotion work and the further action required to build up an active and healthy community.

The 4th Hong Kong Games (HKG)

5. The Standing Committee and the Organising Committee (OC) of the 4th HKG met in January. The OC agreed to add a new award - "District with the Strongest Cheering Squad" - to recognise the district which provides the strongest support and encouragement to its athletes. The 18 District Councils (DCs) have selected over 3 000 athletes to compete in the games. Publicity and community involvement programmes are being implemented and sponsorships of \$5.23 million in cash and \$3.46 million in kind have been raised to support the games.

¹ The follow-up work included promoting the PFT findings and recommendations; strengthening the framework for participation in student sport from kindergarten to secondary level, and organising more diverse recreation and sports programmes to meet the needs of different target groups.

Proposals to improve arrangements for booking and allocating Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) recreation and sports facilities

6. In response to a report by the Office of the Ombudsman, LCSD has reviewed the booking and allocation mechanism for its sports and recreation facilities and has proposed improvements. LCSD completed consultation with DCs, "national sports associations", sports organisations, the general public and facility users on the proposed improvements in late 2012. LCSD will progressively implement the improvements in the light of actual operation and upon completion of the necessary enhancement of the Leisure Link System. The department will also assess the effectiveness of the improvements and review the need to introduce further measures.

Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme

7. Following the launch of the Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme in July 2012, some 44 000 monthly tickets had been sold by the end of January 2013, about half of which were bought by people aged 60 or above at concessionary rates.

"Sport for All Day" 2013

8. LCSD will organise a "Sport for All" Day on 4 August 2013. Free programmes will be held at sports centre in the 18 districts, and many facilities will be open for free public use. "Lifestyles in Sport" and "Parent-child and Family in Sport" will be the themes of the event with the aim of encouraging healthy lifestyles and a sporting culture in families.

Alignment of fees and charges for LCSD leisure facilities and services

9. In his 2013 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced the plan to align the fees and charges for recreation and sports facilities and services in the urban area and the NT at the lower of the two levels. We plan to table legislation in the Legislative Council in May 2013. Subject to LegCo's approval and the completion of the re-setting of fees and charges in the computerised booking system, we will start aligning the fees this year.

KEY ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

- 10. The items that the CSC will address in the coming months include -
 - (a) following up on the action plan of the PFT;
 - (b) overseeing the staging of the 4th HKG;
 - (c) following up on improvements to booking of recreation and sports facilities;

- (d) overseeing the preparation of the "Sport for All" Day 2013; and
- (e) following up on the alignment of the fees and charges for LCSD leisure facilities and services.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to note the update and key action items above.

Sports Commission Secretariat April 2013