

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3254)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech that additional resources will be allocated to enhance recreational facilities. These enhancements will improve people's quality of life when the epidemic is over and may also appeal to our visitors. Will the Government inform this Committee of the specific details of the plan? Is there an implementation timetable? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

The Government will allocate additional resources to upgrade recreational facilities, including transformation of public play spaces, enhancement of football pitches and outdoor fitness equipment.

The Government announced in the 2019 Policy Address that it would launch a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) across the territory. The total estimated expenditure for the entire programme is about \$686 million. The LCSD has been implementing the transformation projects for the first 2 years as planned and planning for projects for the subsequent 3 years, with a view to smoothly implementing the transformation projects for more than 170 venues by 2026.

Regarding the implementation of a five-year plan for upgrading football pitches, the LCSD is actively exploring, with the relevant works departments, the technical feasibility of carrying out improvement works, having regard to various factors including the actual conditions of football pitches, usage rates of existing football pitches, views from national sports associations and local community, etc. in drawing up the details of the improvement works, including the priority, estimated expenditure involved, etc. More than 70 venues under the management of the LCSD are expected to be involved.

Besides, the LCSD will also introduce novel outdoor fitness equipment suitable for young users on a pilot basis to meet the keen public demand for fitness equipment. Depending on

the effectiveness and public response, the LCSD will consider the provision of fitness equipment in more outdoor venues. The LCSD will implement this project with existing resources and the provision for construction of new parks, thus there is no need to apply for additional provision.

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