

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB184**

**(Question Serial No. 0452)**

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:

In paragraph 150 of the Budget speech, the Financial Secretary has mentioned that "The Government has launched a five-year plan to modify more than 170 public play spaces managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) across the territory since 2019 with a view to providing children's play equipment which incorporate more elements of fun, creativity and challenge. To cater for people's diverse needs for fitness equipment, the LCSD will install some novel outdoor fitness equipment as appropriate when constructing new parks or renovating existing ones, such as the Yat Ming Road Park in North District which is near completion and the Butterfly Beach Park in Tuen Mun." In this regard, will the Administration inform this Council:

1. the details, timetable, manpower and resources allocated for the policy initiative;
2. the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the programme policy initiative;
3. regarding the playgrounds have be criticized as "super-safe" and "boring" , will the Administration consider making reference to overseas examples to offer innovative, challenging and interesting play spaces, so as to serve as a tool for children to learn through play, (i.e.: interactive panel, roller slide, etc).

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. It was announced in the 2019 Policy Address that the Government would launch a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces (PPS) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) across the territory. The estimated total expenditure of the entire programme is \$686 million and involves the creation of 15 posts. The LCSD has been launching transformation projects for the first 2 years as planned and planning for projects for the subsequent 3 years. It is hoped that transformation works for more than 170 PPS will have been launched by 2026. Moreover, the LCSD will introduce more novel outdoor fitness equipment suitable for youths on a trial basis in response to the keen public demand for fitness equipment.

Depending on the effectiveness and public response, the LCSD will consider providing additional fitness equipment in more outdoor venues. As the LCSD will implement the programme on a trial basis with existing resources and the funding for construction of new parks, there is no need to seek additional funding or create new posts.

2. The LCSD will evaluate the effectiveness of the programme by collecting statistics on the number of users, as well as the feedback and opinions of the stakeholders.
3. In order to make the PPS more innovative and fun, the LCSD will offer the play spaces with different degrees of challenges and fun, and introduce more natural elements to provide innovative, challenging and interesting play spaces. In transforming the PPS, the LCSD will encourage and promote community participation and engagement through different means, such as workshops and opinion surveys to engage different stakeholders and invite them to offer opinions, with a view to meeting the needs of residents.

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