

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB234

(Question Serial No. 1778)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 that 3 self-service library units will be provided on a trial basis, each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories. Please provide the following information:

1. What is the expenditure for each self-service library unit? What is the annual operating cost?
2. It is learnt that one of the self-service library units will be located in Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area which is not a location with heavy pedestrian flow. What criteria does the Government adopt in determining the locations of the self-service library units for the greatest convenience of the public? Will the Government consider providing self-service library units in MTR stations?
3. What are the expected dates of commencement of service of the other 2 self-service library units and their locations?
4. What criteria will the Government adopt in assessing the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 89)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) plans to provide on a trial basis 3 self-service library units, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at an estimated expenditure of about \$7.8 million for the procurement of equipment and related IT services, excluding the costs of site preparation. The LCSD has earmarked \$2.4 million for the daily operation and maintenance of the library units in 2017-18. The full-year operating costs for the 3 library units is about \$4.8 million.

2. With the support of the Eastern District Council, the Island East Sports Centre sitting-out area in the Eastern District has been identified as the location on Hong Kong Island for installing the self-service library unit, having regard to various factors including its convenient access, distance from existing libraries, availability for 24-hour operation, access to power supply, feasibility of providing suitable shelter and protection for the unit, technical feasibility of the installation, operation and logistics support for the library unit. MTR stations, which are not available for 24-hour operation, will not be considered under the pilot scheme.
3. The other 2 identified locations are an outdoor area near Tai Wai MTR Station in Sha Tin District and a suitable location near the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Yau Tsim Mong District respectively. The LCSD plans to launch the service in the second half of 2017-18.
4. When evaluating the effectiveness of the trial scheme, the LCSD will take account of the utilisation, cost-effectiveness, feedback of the users, sustainability and complementarity with other library services.

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