

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1062)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

As far as the pet facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and their planning are concerned, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the implementation of the trial scheme of "Inclusive Park for Pets" by the LCSD in 2019, there have been, as at 2022, 117 "Inclusive Parks for Pets" (parks) completed. How many additional parks are planned for construction in the coming 3 years? What will be the estimated expenditure involved?
2. Since neither booking nor registration is required for members of the public using the parks, the LCSD does not hold any information on the number of users of, and the animal species having been brought into, such parks. What measures are put in place to assess the usage rates of, and the animal species having been brought into, the parks?
3. The original purpose of setting up the parks is to meet the public's aspiration for provision of recreation facilities and spaces for pet owners to enjoy. However, there have been public concerns that the areas for various animals were not separated from one another, thus posing potential dangers to weaker animals. What were the LCSD's staffing arrangements for enhanced site inspection and issue of reminders to pet owners about proper use of the parks in 2023?
4. What review has the Government made of the planned improvements to the parks over the past 3 years? Has it solicited feedback from park users on how to enhance the park facilities and create a more inclusive environment for them and their pets?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the trial scheme of "Inclusive Park for Pets" by opening up 6 LCSD parks in January 2019 for the public to visit with their pets. As the trial scheme was well-received, the LCSD has regularised the arrangement at the 6 parks under the scheme, and continues to identify suitable venues for

opening up as “Inclusive Parks for Pets”. At present, there are more than 170 “Inclusive Parks for Pets” in total across Hong Kong to meet public demand.

The LCSD has been taking an open and proactive approach towards the enhancement of the “Inclusive Parks for Pets” scheme. However, given the mixed public views on the scheme, the LCSD will continue to review the usage of “Inclusive Parks for Pets”, give due consideration to various practical needs of the public and issues such as facilities management, and will designate suitable sites as additional “Inclusive Parks for Pets” after consulting the District Councils concerned.

The concept of “Inclusive Parks for Pets” is to open up existing parks for the public and their pets to enjoy the facilities together. To keep in line with the concept of enabling the shared use of park facilities among different users, members of the public are required to keep their dogs on a leash and under proper control in the venues so as to avoid causing nuisance to other dogs and users. In addition, the Users’ Code for Inclusive Park for Pets will be displayed in the venues to remind pet owners to keep their pets under proper control to avoid causing nuisance to others. The LCSD staff will also conduct inspections at venues to remind pet owners to follow the users’ code.

The LCSD currently provides different channels, including telephone, email and 1823 government hotline, to collect public views on the implementation of the “Inclusive Parks for Pets” scheme. In addition, venue staff will observe the use of the “Inclusive Parks for Pets” and collect the views of users and pet owners on the use of facilities during site inspections to enhance the venue facilities.

The LCSD has implemented the “Inclusive Parks for Pets” scheme with existing resources and manpower, and the cost and daily operation of the relevant facilities are part of the overall operation of the venues. Therefore, it does not compile a breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for the scheme.

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