

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance
Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

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HAB200	0462	Hon. CHAN Bernard	95	Heritage and Museums
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB199

Question Serial No.

0461

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

- 1) The Department will convert selected under-utilised facilities into sports training bases. Please provide details and the estimated expenditure involved.
- 2) Some under-utilised sports facilities were converted to other uses in the past few years, please provide their usage rates in 2006.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

- (1) To facilitate provision of training programmes by sports organisations for the long term development of specific sports in Hong Kong, we plan to convert two under-utilised sports venues, namely Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis & Squash Courts and Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts, into dedicated sports training bases for tennis and air gun shooting respectively. The sports training bases will be operated by non-profit making sports organisations on a self-financing basis. The organisations will be required to upgrade/convert the existing facilities to meet the necessary requirements at their own cost. Hence, no public expenditure is involved for the conversion projects.
- (2) To make better use of its under-utilised facilities and to meet changing community demand, the Department has converted 14 squash courts and 12 tennis courts into other uses such as activity rooms, indoor climbing room, basketball courts, tai chi garden and 5-a-side mini soccer pitch. Compared to 2005, the usage rate of the Department's squash courts was 43%, representing a 6% increase, and that for its tennis courts was also 43%, which was a slight drop by 1%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB201

Question Serial No.

1616

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will organise large-scale sports activities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details and progress of the related work as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the additional provision earmarked in 2007-08 for holding major sports activities for the 10th Anniversary Celebration is around \$25 million. The major sports activities under planning are the 1st Hong Kong Games, 2007 International Dragon Boat Races, International Soccer Exhibition Match, International DanceSport Extravaganza, Euro-Asia Snooker Masters Challenge 2007, Gymnastics Extravaganza, 2007 Federation Internationale De Volleyball World Lady Volleyball Grand Prix-Hong Kong and Mega Tai Chi Show. The Department will co-organise most of these activities with the respective National Sports Associations and discussion with them is still underway. Apart from the additional provision, the existing resources of the Department will be redeployed and commercial sponsorships will be solicited to support the organisation of the celebration activities. As the sports activities are still under planning, the detailed breakdown of the expenditure items is not available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB202

Question Serial No.

1617

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will encourage national sports associations to form community sports clubs for the organisation of sports development programmes at community level in 2007-08. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the related work, the progress and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department encourages National Sports Associations (NSAs) to set up community sports clubs (CSCs) to promote sports at the community level through the provision of technical and financial support. These CSCs are run by people with common interest in specific sports who come together to organise sports programmes for the community to foster regular social contact and encourage life-long participation in sports. This Department organises regular workshops and seminars for the office-bearers of the CSCs to familiarise them with the management of sports clubs and the technical aspects in the organisation of community sports activities. Close liaison is maintained with NSAs to assist them in the formation of new CSCs. Funding support is provided to NSAs and CSCs to meet essential expenditure items in the organisation of programmes including venue hire charges, instructor fees and publicity expenses. Since the implementation of the CSC Project in 2001, the number of CSCs has increased from 84 in 2001-02 to about 290 in 2006-07.

In 2006-07, an amount of \$7 million has been granted through respective NSAs to CSCs to organise 1 700 sports programmes for 38 000 participants. In 2007-08, we plan to increase the budget to \$8 million to further encourage NSAs to form more CSCs and to organise more sports activities at the community level.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW _____

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB204

Question Serial No.

1619

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will intensify greening work for vacant government sites in 2007-08. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the locations of the vacant sites, the types of plants to be grown and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

(a) In 2007-08, the Department will carry out greening at eight vacant government sites. Their locations are as follows –

District	Location
Yau Tsim Mong	Hoi Fai Road
Kwun Tong	Fan Wa Street
Tsuen Wan	Lo Wai Village
Islands	Tung Chung Waterfront Road in Tung Chung
Islands	Ngan Shek Street in Mui Wo
Tai Po	Junction of Kwong Wang Street and Tai Po Road
Sha Tin	Fu Kin Street opposite Lung Hang Estate
Sha Tin	Sai Sha Road near Ma On Shan Recreation Ground

(b) We plan to plant 150 trees, 70 000 shrubs and groundcovers. Species will include Bauhinia variegata (宮粉羊蹄甲), Hibiscus tiliaceus (黃槿), Ficus benjamina (垂葉榕), Brunfelsia calycina (鴛鴦茉莉), Duranta iorentzii (金連翹), Ixora stricta (龍船花), Hibiscus rosa-sinensis (大紅花), Rhododendron spp. (杜鵑), Calliandra haematocephala (紅絨球), Ervatamia divaricata (狗牙花) and Pilea cadierei (冰水花).

(c) We have budgeted \$450,000 for the implementation of the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB205

Question Serial No.

1620

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will organise celebration activities for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) by presenting major performing arts events featuring local and international artists as well as participation from the community in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details and progress of the work concerned and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is planning more than 70 performances in over 15 performing arts programmes by local, mainland and visiting art groups. The majority of these events will be organised with the existing programme resources of LCSD. The additional provision earmarked for the purpose in 2007-08 is estimated at \$18.6 million.

The major events under planning include youth concerts; outdoor festive carnivals; performances by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, western, Cantonese and other Chinese operas; as well as dance, orchestral, vocal and other musical events. Since discussion with many of the local, mainland and overseas art groups and agents is still underway, the programme details and the related expenditure have yet to be finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB207

Question Serial No.

1623

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports
 (3) Heritage and Museums
 (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved as regards the celebration activities organised by the Administration for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is planning a series of sports activities, exhibitions and performing arts activities. The major sports activities under planning are the 1st Hong Kong Games, 2007 International Dragon Boat Races, International Soccer Exhibition Match, International DanceSport Extravaganza, Euro-Asia Snooker Masters Challenge 2007, Gymnastics Extravaganza, 2007 Federation Internationale De Volleyball World Lady Volleyball Grand Prix-Hong Kong and Mega Tai Chi Show. The Department will co-organise most of these activities with the respective National Sports Associations and discussion with them is still underway.

The Department is also planning a series of blockbuster exhibitions to be staged at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum as well as more than 70 performances in over 15 performing arts programmes by local, mainland and overseas visiting art groups. Performing arts events include youth concerts; outdoor festive carnivals, performances by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, western, Cantonese and other Chinese operas as well as dance, orchestral, vocal and other musical events.

In view of the scale and significance of the celebration activities involved, on top of the existing resources of LCSD, an additional provision estimated at \$50 million has been earmarked for these activities in 2007-08. Furthermore, commercial sponsorships will be solicited. A great deal of co-ordination work among the co-organisers, potential sponsors and the Department is needed to facilitate the smooth running of the activities, and the additional work is taken up by existing staff of the Department and holders of a few additional short-term time-limited posts. Among the aforesaid additional provision of \$50 million, around \$0.9 million will be provided for creation of the additional posts for about four to six months to help coordinate the activities.

Discussion with the relevant authorities and organisations for the loan of exhibits and organisation of the celebration activities is underway. As the activities are still under planning, their detailed breakdown of the expenditure items is not available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB208

Question Serial No.

1624

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the Free Use Scheme, please provide the following information:

- (a) the list of leisure venues under the Scheme;
- (b) the usage rates of those leisure venues before and after inclusion in the Scheme;
- (c) the reduction in revenue from venue charges due to the implementation of the Scheme; and
- (d) whether the Administration will extend the Scheme to other leisure venues which are not currently under the Scheme? If so, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The required information on the Free Use Scheme is set out below –

- (a) all the squash courts, hockey grounds, outdoor bowling greens, arenas and 151 activity rooms in the sports centres managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department are covered by the Scheme;
- (b) the usage rates of these venues before and after implementation of the Scheme are set out at Annex;
- (c) the revenue forgone under the Scheme in 2005-06 was \$6.7 million. As one of the objectives of the Scheme is to promote use of facilities of low usage during non-peak hours, the revenue forgone under the Scheme is in essence notional rather than actual; and

- (d) the Department has no plan to further extend the Scheme to other sports facilities at this stage. To promote utilisation of sports facilities during non-peak hours, the Department will continue to allow schools, subvented non-government organisations (NGOs), national sports associations and district sports associations to use selected sports facilities free of charge during those hours (i.e. from opening time to 5 p.m. on weekdays from September to June next year). We will strengthen our liaison with these organisations, in particular schools and NGOs to maximise the usage of these sports facilities as well as to promote sports. We will continue to work in partnership with NGOs to promote the organisation of sports programmes. Venue managers of sports facilities will make every effort to publicise the facilities and organise tailor-made programmes to further enhance their utilisation rates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

**Usage Rates of Recreation and Sports Facilities
before and after Implementation of the Free Use Scheme**

Facilities	Usage during Non-peak Hours	
	Before Implementation of the Scheme	After Implementation of the Scheme
Arenas	45%	58.8%
Activity Rooms	39%	53.7%
Squash Courts	12.6%	30%
Hockey Grounds	17.6%	17.6%
Outdoor Bowling Greens	11.5%	21%

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB209

Question Serial No.

1625

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Will the Administration make use of the manpower of the newly created posts to extend the opening hours of all public libraries and to standardise the opening days of the public libraries in the New Territories and urban areas to seven days a week? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The additional permanent posts to be created in 2007-08 are not for extending the opening hours of the public libraries. Any extension of library opening hours would have financial implications in respect of manpower requirements at different levels and other operational expenses such as utilities charges, overtime and various contract services. It is estimated that extending the opening time of all the existing public libraries for one hour will incur an additional annual expenditure of about \$23 million. With the involvement of District Councils (DCs) in the management of district facilities including libraries, the Department will consider in conjunction with the DCs whether the opening hours of the public libraries in their respective districts should be changed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB210

Question Serial No.

2421

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the details and amounts of provision for subventing the major performing arts groups for the past 3 years (i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) by year and by group.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, ten major performing arts groups were funded by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC). For the four groups fully funded by LCSD, the subvention amounts provided were as follows –

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
HK Philharmonic Society	59,078,000	56,538,000	56,538,000
HK Chinese Orchestra	50,343,000	48,178,000	48,178,000
HK Dance Company	28,496,000	27,270,000	27,270,000
HK Repertory Theatre	27,837,000	26,640,000	26,640,000

Another six major performing arts groups received three-year grants from HKADC. In addition, they were supported by LCSD through the Department's offer of production fees for selected programmes and free or reduced rates for use of venues and ticketing services. The total support received from HKADC and LCSD, net of ticket income received by LCSD, was as follows –

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	LCSD (\$)	HKADC (\$)	LCSD (\$)	HKADC (\$)	LCSD (\$)	HKADC (\$)
HK Ballet	11,523,725	14,047,000	11,445,615	13,436,000	11,019,322	13,436,000
HK Sinfonietta	2,680,681	11,239,000	2,894,482	10,750,000	3,020,053	10,750,000
City Contemporary Dance Company	3,569,902	8,682,000	3,605,916	8,304,000	3,972,804	8,304,000
Chung Ying Theatre	1,354,299	5,514,000	2,330,739	5,274,000	2,843,866	2,650,000
Zuni Icosahedron	2,228,282	2,022,000	2,119,436	1,934,000	1,981,743	2,750,000
Theatre Ensemble	1,357,006	1,455,000	785,186	1,392,000	1,811,306	3,200,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB211

Question Serial No.

1612

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 694
Archaeological excavations
(block vote)

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The estimated provision for archaeological excavations for 2007-08 is 28% higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07, mainly due to the expected increase in requirement for the excavation works. Regarding the expected increase in requirement, please inform this Committee of the works projects involved and the amount of resources required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to a new funding requirement of \$200,000 for a rescue excavation at Tai Kwai Wan, Cheung Chau in 2007-08 as necessitated by a sitting-out area enhancement project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB212

Question Serial No.

1613

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The estimated provision for performing arts for 2007-08 is lower than the revised provision for 2006-07 by 18.1%. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Financial provision for the performing arts in 2007-08 is \$170.7 million, or 18.1% less than that for the 2006-07 revised estimate, mainly due to an administrative arrangement involving the transfer of the funding responsibilities for ten major performing arts groups from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). Following the recommendation of the Committee on Performing Arts of putting the major performing arts groups supported by LCSD and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) under one roof with a view to developing a single assessment mechanism, an amount of \$177.3 million, which would otherwise be LCSD's subvention for the four performing arts groups (namely the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and the Hong Kong Dance Company), and its support for the six HKADC 3-year grantees (namely, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Zuni Icosahedron, the Chung Ying Theatre and the Theatre Ensemble) and the related administrative expenses, will be transferred to HAB in 2007-08. This decrease in provision is partly offset by additional allocation to LCSD for the celebration activities for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB213

Question Serial No.

1672

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to this Programme, please advise us on the following:

- (a) as the attendance at holiday camps is expected to be 520 000 in 2007-08, what is the average usage rate of each holiday camp?
- (b) as the attendance at water sports centres is expected to be 112 000 in 2007-08, is the attendance rate favourable? If not, what measures can be taken to increase the attendance rate? What is the expenditure involved?
- (c) the reasons why the average usage rate of tennis courts in the past years has fallen below 50%? Is it because their hiring charges are too high? Will the Administration consider reviewing the standard of hiring charges of tennis courts? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The estimated average usage rates of individual holiday camps in 2007 are as follows-
 - i) Lady MacLehose Holiday Village : 73%
 - ii) Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village : 77%
 - iii) Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre : 97%
 - iv) Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre : 87%
- (b) In 2007, the target attendance in water sports centres is 112 000, which will represent an average usage rate of 79%. The attendance is higher than those in previous years and is considered satisfactory. The estimated expenditure for the five water sports centres in 2007-08 is \$23.9 million.

- (c) The comparatively lower usage rate of tennis courts is probably due to the declining popularity of the sport in recent years. To enhance the usage of existing tennis courts, the Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport and to make more use of the facilities. We also have a plan to convert Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis and Squash Courts into a dedicated sports training base for tennis to promote the sport and to increase utilisation of the venue. The Department will review the hiring charges of tennis courts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB214

Question Serial No.

1673

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under this Programme:

- (a) On enhancing utilisation of existing sports facilities and converting selected under-utilised facilities into sports training bases, will the Administration inform this Committee of the details on what facilities have been selected for the conversion projects, the expenses involved in the conversion, the progress of the conversion works and what types of training bases the facilities will be converted to ?
- (b) On expanding the School Sports Programme, please provide data on the school participation rate at present, in 2004, 2005 and 2006; the amount of public money spent on implementing the programme; whether extra manpower is required to take forward the Administration's plan to raise the school participation rate to over 90% in three years' time; and the expenditure required for carrying out the related work.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) To facilitate sports organisations to provide training and promotional programmes for the long term development of specific sports in Hong Kong, we plan to convert two under-utilised sports venues, namely Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis & Squash Courts and Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts, into dedicated sports training bases for tennis and air gun shooting respectively. The sports training bases will be operated by non-profit making sports organisations on a self-financing basis. The organisations will be required to upgrade/convert the existing facilities to meet the necessary requirements at their own cost. Hence, no public expenditure is involved for the conversion works. The Sports Commission and the relevant District Councils have been consulted on the proposal and they support the conversion. We are now working on the logistic arrangement for the tenders.
- (b) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has, since 2001, been actively promoting sports in primary and secondary schools through the School Sports Programme (SSP). The SSP consists of seven subsidiary programmes, namely, Sports Education Programme, Easy Sport Programme, Sport Captain Programme, Outreach Coaching Programme, Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, Badges Award Scheme and sportACT Award Scheme.

By 2004, 875 schools had joined the SSP, representing 68% of the total number of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. The number of schools joining in 2005 and 2006 increased to 905 and 955 respectively, representing 70% and 76% of the total number of primary and secondary schools. Our target is to increase the school participation rate to 90% in three years' time. To achieve the target, more promotional and publicity activities as well as school visits will be conducted to boost the participation rate of schools. The sportACT Award Scheme is introduced to give recognition and further encouragement for schools to actively promote sports to students as well as for students to participate regularly in sports activities.

In financial year 2006-07, \$14 million was spent on SSP. In order to further promote sports to students and increase the school participation rate, we will work through National Sports Associations and provide them with additional subvention of \$3 million to organise more SSP activities. The additional administrative work of the increased activities will be carried out using the existing manpower of the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Thomas CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB215

Question Serial No.

1718

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to this Programme, the number of sports centres will be increased by one whereas the number of swimming pool complexes remains unchanged when comparing the estimate for 2007 with that for 2006. Will the Administration consider increasing these facilities in 2007 for densely-populated districts such as Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai where such facilities are still lacking? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Four public works projects with a total cost of some \$1,030 million are being implemented in Tung Chung New Town. These include the Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung (construction commenced in December 2006 for completion in late 2009) and a Swimming Pool Complex in Area 2 (Phase I), Tung Chung (construction to commence in end-2007 for completion in mid-2010). Six projects with a total cost of some \$903.9 million are also being implemented in Tin Shui Wai New Town. These include an Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 17 Tin Shui Wai (construction expected to complete by early 2007) and Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre (with a 25-meter indoor heated pool) (construction will be advanced to commence in late 2007 for completion by mid-2011).

We will review in conjunction with the Islands District Council the need for an additional sports centre and the construction of Phase II of Swimming Pool Complex in Tung Chung New Town in the light of the future population growth and the aspiration of local residents. A Sports Centre and Community Hall in Area 101, Tin Shui Wai and the feasibility of inclusion of a public swimming pool complex in Phase II of District Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai are also under active planning in consultation with the Yuen Long District Council. We will bid for the necessary funding to take the projects forward according to the established resource allocation procedures with reference to the priority accorded by the relevant District Councils in the implementation of the projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB216

Question Serial No.

0568

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

At present, performing arts venues managed by the Government are often fully booked. It is difficult for performers or performing groups to book these venues for use. However, it is learnt that many venues booked are not actually used for performing or arts activities. Does the Administration have the intention to separately process venue booking applications of performing arts use and non-performing arts use so that performing or arts groups can have priority use of the venues, making it more in line with the original intention of building such venues?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

In the existing booking arrangement for the 13 performing arts venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, all facilities are open for public hiring but priority is already accorded to arts-related activities. Generally, ordinary booking applications for arts-related activities are accepted at the earliest from four to 12 months in advance of the month of hire, while booking applications for non-arts activities are only accepted at the earliest three months in advance with the exception of applications by government departments, District Councils or registered schools. For non-arts bookings by these three types of hirers, time restriction is imposed on venues with keen competition, e.g. for the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre, non-arts bookings are only accepted four months in advance while the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall and Studio Theatre, the City Hall Theatre and Concert Hall will only accept such bookings for the morning sessions from Monday to Thursday (except public holidays). For competing bookings, arts-related activities are always accorded priority over non-arts events. Statistics show that in 2005-06, non-arts activities at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall and Grand Theatre accounted for only 6% out of 96% of usage based on bookings by session and 2% out of 98% of usage respectively. At the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, non-arts activities accounted for only 6% out of 92% of usage. At the Sha Tin Town Hall Auditorium, non-arts activities accounted for 10% out of 87% of usage.

The Department reviews the booking arrangement from time to time in consultation with stakeholders in order to meet with the changing needs and aspirations of the community.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB217

Question Serial No.

0864

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the conservation of heritage buildings, what is the expenditure involved in conserving historical buildings that are on the verge of demolition or in a state of dilapidation for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) is committed to conserving buildings of significant heritage value not restricted to those on the verge of demolition or in a state of dilapidation. The projected expenditure of AMO in 2006-07 on restoring and maintaining privately-owned monuments that are open for public visitation is \$11 million. For 2007-08, an estimated provision of \$21.447 million is earmarked for the purpose based on the AMO's work plan.

As for Government-owned monuments managed by other government departments, the restoration/maintenance works required will be carried out by them. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department does not have information on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB218

Question Serial No.

1933

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy to encourage community-wide participation in sports activities in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the relevant details of this strategy and the estimated expenditure to be incurred.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department, in consultation with the Sports Commission and its Community Sports Committee and the 18 District Councils, formulated a set of strategies to further the promotion of sports to the community in 2006. The strategies are -

- (a) formulating systematic and objective indicators to measure the effectiveness of the Sports for All policy;
- (b) coordinating and strengthening liaison and collaboration among the major partners involved in promoting community sports;
- (c) staging the Hong Kong Games to promote public participation in sports and a sense of belonging to the community;
- (d) intensifying the scope of School Sports Programme and better utilising school sports facilities;
- (e) developing district sports activities with local characteristics; and
- (f) introducing suitable sports activities to people of different age groups in order to encourage them to participate in sports suitable to them.

The six strategies will be implemented step by step from 2007 onwards with the ultimate objective of building up a strong sporting culture in Hong Kong in the long run. The implementation of the strategies will include work such as the formation of various committees and working groups to oversee the formulation of indicators for measuring the effectiveness of the Sports for All policy, the organisation of the first Hong Kong Games in April this year, the setting up of a communication platform for the major partners involved in community sports, and the organisation of more activities with district characteristics and for people of different age groups and abilities. The work will be carried out as part of the Department's ongoing programmes with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB220

Question Serial No.

0581

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the Administration will mount a series of blockbuster exhibitions. When will these exhibitions be held? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is planning a series of blockbuster exhibitions to be staged at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum between the second and fourth quarters of 2007. On top of the existing resources of LCSD, an additional provision estimated at \$6.6 million has been earmarked for these exhibitions in 2007-08. Furthermore, commercial sponsorships will be solicited. Since discussions with relevant authorities and organisations for the loan of exhibits and other logistical arrangements are still underway, the exact dates and details of the expenditure for individual exhibitions have yet to be finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB221

Question Serial No.

1628

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In connection with the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region this year, it is anticipated that a number of recreational and sports celebration activities will be organised. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) whether the related expenditure possibly so incurred has been calculated and included in the 2007-08 Estimates? If yes, please provide the detailed expenditure breakdown and the amount for individual items; if no, the reasons for that; and
- (b) whether the Administration will consider organising a cross-boundary marathon race as one of the celebration activities in view of the growing popularity of the marathon sport? By so doing, the habit of doing more exercise can be promoted and more people will participate in the 10th anniversary celebration. If yes, what is the expenditure involved? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :.

- (a) For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the provision earmarked in 2007-08 for holding major sports activities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary is around \$25 million. The major sports activities under planning are the 1st Hong Kong Games, 2007 International Dragon Boat Races, International Soccer Exhibition Match, International DanceSport Extravaganza, Euro-Asia Snooker Masters Challenge 2007, Gymnastics Extravaganza, 2007 Federation Internationale De Volleyball World Lady Volleyball Grand Prix-Hong Kong and Mega Tai Chi Show. The Department will co-organise most of these activities with the respective National Sports Associations and discussion with them is still underway. Apart from the additional provision, the existing resources of the Department will be redeployed and commercial sponsorships will be solicited to support the organisation of the celebration activities. As the sports activities are still under planning, the detailed breakdown of the expenditure items is not available at this stage.

- (b) We do not plan to organise a cross-boundary marathon as part of the celebration programme. There are already a number of sports activities in the celebration programme that will encourage members of the community to do more exercise to maintain a healthy living.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB222

Question Serial No.

2159

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the recreation and sports facilities listed under the Indicators of this Programme, would the Administration advise on the following:

- (a) Whether more specific indicators will be developed, such as the ratios of the number of sports centres to population in each district, and of the number of sports facilities for the elderly?
- (b) Whether it will consider using the government land with uncommitted land use as temporary leisure grounds after simple land formation?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin- kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) Chapter 4 of the 'Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines' (HKPSG) provides a standard of provision for sports centre with reference to the population of a district. The standard is one centre per 50 000 to 65 000 persons. The Chapter also highlights the growing need to provide exercise facilities for the aged in Hong Kong and recommends integrated design principles in planning exercise facilities to cater for such need. The Department makes reference to the HKPSG in planning the provision of its recreation and sports facilities.
- (b) The Department will consider making use of uncommitted government sites as temporary leisure grounds where justified. The factors we take into consideration include the views of the District Council concerned, the socio-economic structures of the population, the utilisation rate of the existing leisure and recreation facilities and the cost effectiveness of such temporary use.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **15 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB223

Question Serial No.

2160

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

I have received complaint(s) from member(s) of Tuen Mun District that the leisure facilities, including a swimming pool near Tin King Estate and a sports ground at Area 16, which the former Municipal Councils have undertaken to construct are still outstanding. With regard to the recreation and sports facilities listed under the Indicators of this Programme, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) what are the work progress of these facilities, the total estimated funds required, the expenditure estimated by the Administration and the commencement and anticipated completion dates of the construction works?
- (b) whether the District Council concerned has been consulted so as to speed up the construction progress?

Asked by : Hon FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Swimming Pool Complex in Area 1 (Sun Wai Court), Tuen Mun, which is near Tin King Estate, has already reached an advanced stage of planning. The estimated cost of the project is about \$392 million. It will comprise a 50m outdoor main pool, a 25m indoor heated pool, a teaching pool, a training pool cum warm-up pool, and a children pool with Jacuzzi facility and water play equipment. The conceptual design of the swimming pool complex is being prepared for consultation with the Tuen Mun District Council in mid-2007. The current plan is advance the construction works to start in late 2008 for completion by 2011, which will be about two years earlier than originally planned.

The sports ground in Area 16 is not in the list of outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former Municipal Councils. It has not been included for priority implementation by the Tuen Mun District Council, and there is no development programme for it at present.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB224

Question Serial No.

2161

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the indicator “static libraries” listed under this Programme, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) whether more specific indicators will be developed, such as the ratios of libraries to population and of study rooms to the youth population in each district?
- (b) of the number of outstanding library facilities of the former municipal councils, their geographical distribution and the commencement dates of these projects?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) In planning new library facilities, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will draw reference from the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) which stipulate that one district library should be provided for each district and that there should also be a district library for every 200 000 persons. The Department will also take into account the geographical environment and the pattern of population distribution in a district and consider, in consultation with the District Council concerned, the provision of supplementary library services such as small libraries and mobile library stops. Study rooms are provided in the major and district libraries to supplement those provided by other organisations.
- (b) The current implementation plans for the eight ex-Municipal (ex-MC) projects with library facilities are as follows: –
 - (i) Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung: works already started in end 2006 for completion in late 2009;
 - (ii) Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre: works to start in late 2007 for completion in mid-2011;
 - (iii) Small public library at the Siu Sai Wan Complex, Chai Wan: works to start in early 2008 for completion in early 2011;
 - (iv) Public libraries at Yuen Long town centre and at Tseung Kwan O: works to start in early 2009 for completion in late 2011;

- (v) Public library at Lam Tin North Municipal Services Building (Kwun Tong): works to start in late 2009 for completion in late 2012;
- (vi) Indoor Recreation Centre-cum-Library Area 14B, Sha Tin: works to start in late 2010 for completion in mid-2013; and
- (vii) Public Library at Tung Chau Street (Sham Shui Po): works to start in late 2010 for completion in late 2013.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB225

Question Serial No.

2199

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

I have received complaint(s) from member(s) of the public that the operation of the new ticketing system for the Urban Ticketing System (URBTIX) in Paragraph 23 under this Programme takes a long time. Would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the system upgrade project together with the expenditure and manpower involved;
- (b) of the details regarding the time required by the new system to process each ticket booking and failure rates as compared with the old system; and
- (c) of the number of complaints about the new system received and the reasons for the complaints, as well as measures to be taken to improve the operation of the new system?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The new URBTIX backend system is owned, operated and maintained by the contractor CityLine at no capital cost to the Government. The contractor is paid a fee by programme presenters for each ticket sold. The system was launched in October 2006 and has completely and successfully replaced the old system since late December 2006.
- (b) The new system can issue up to 20 000 tickets per hour as compared to 16 000 for the old one. Transaction time at the box office varies, and depends on the complexity of the customer's requirements. For a simple purchase through the Internet, the transaction could be completed in less than a minute. The old system recorded three system failures in its last operating period of 12 months, totaling 195 minutes' down time, while the new system has not encountered any system failure since launching. The new system has passed the acceptance test with a serviceability level of 99.47%.

- (c) Up to 12 March 2007, records show that only four complaints on ticket selling service had been received since the new system was launched. None of them was related to the system's performance. The subject of two of the complaints was that the 'day of the week' was not displayed next to the 'date of performance' on the ticket. That shortfall has been rectified subsequently. The third complaint was about a 15-minute delay at an outlet in Tai Po due to failure of the outlet terminal caused by human error. The box office operator concerned has been advised to follow the standing procedures in future to avoid similar problems. The fourth complaint was about long waiting time at an outlet in Tuen Mun in the morning of 9 December 2006 when counter sale for the HK Arts Festival commenced causing long queues at many URBTIX outlets in that morning. We will further promote the use of Internet ticketing as an alternative and a more convenient channel for purchasing tickets to reduce the number of people queuing at URBTIX outlets.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB226

Question Serial No.

2614

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the work of “providing subvention to national sports associations to meet part of their administration and personnel expenses” as mentioned in the Brief Description, will the Department inform this Committee of the amount of subvention which the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association has received from the Government in the past three years (i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07), and whether there is any monitoring mechanism in place to ensure the effective and proper use of the subvention by the HKAAA? If so, what is it? If not, what are the reasons? Was there any case of improper use of the subvention found in the past?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The amounts of sports subvention that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provided to the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association (HKAAA) in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were \$3,656,310, \$3,593,498 and \$3,866,218 respectively. The subvention included personnel, administration and programme expenses.

The HKAAA, like all National Sports Associations (NSAs) receiving subvention from LCSD, has entered into a subvention agreement with the Government. Under the subvention agreement, the subvented organisation is required to exercise proper internal controls to ensure the cost-effectiveness and accountability in the use of the subvention. It is required to report expenditure position and activity progress to LCSD at quarterly intervals, submit annual audited report and adopt ethical code of conduct and declaration practice to prevent conflict of interests. The subvented organisation is obliged to act upon any corruption prevention advice rendered by the Independent Commission Against Corruption as well as other accounting and administrative procedures proposed by the Government to improve public transparency and accountability.

LCSD assumes a monitoring role to oversee the implementation of the subvented activities. LCSD keeps in close liaison with the NSAs in programme planning and carries out site inspection of the subvented activities for progress monitoring and assessment of the results achieved. The Quality Assurance Section of LCSD also carries out inspections and checks of the funding records to ensure that proper accounting procedures are adopted and the terms of the subvention agreement are complied with. LCSD will follow up any irregularities found and seek rectification as appropriate.

Based on our observation and the information gathered from the HKAAA, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a breach of the subvention agreement nor contravention of the law during the past years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW _____

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB227

Question Serial No.

2615

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the work of “administering subsidies to national sports associations/sports organisations for organising leisure and sports activities” as mentioned in the Brief Description, will the Department inform this Committee of the amount of subsidies which the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association has received from the Government for organising the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon in each of the past 5 years, and whether there is any monitoring mechanism in place to ensure the proper use of the subsidies? If so, what is it? If not, what are the reasons? Was there any case of improper use of the subsidies found in the past?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has not provided any cash subvention to the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association (HKAAA) for organising the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon in the past years. The operation of the Marathon has been financed by HKAAA's own resources and commercial sponsorship.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB228

Question Serial No.

0562

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide information on the respective ranks and numbers of the 493 permanent posts to be created in 2007-08, as well as the expenses involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The net creation of 493 posts is the result of the creation of 520 posts and the deletion of 27 posts. These posts cover the Leisure Services Manager, Librarian, Manager (Cultural Services), Curator, Amenities Assistant, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Cultural Services Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary, Artisan and Workman II grades. The estimated salary provision for the net addition of these 493 posts is \$138 million per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **15 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB229

Question Serial No.

0563

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As regards the conversion of under-utilised facilities into other uses, please provide:

- (a) a list of the facilities which have been converted into other uses, the expenses involved and their usage rates before and after conversion; and
- (b) a list of the facilities to be converted to other uses in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) To make better use of under-utilised facilities, this Department has converted 14 squash courts and 12 tennis courts into other uses to meet the changing community demand. The total expenditure for the conversion works is about \$12.1 million. Details are at Annex I. Compared to 2005, the usage rate of the Department's squash courts in 2006 was 43%, representing a 6% increase, and that for its tennis courts was also 43%, which was a slight drop by 1%.
- (b) In 2007-08, we plan to convert Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis and Squash Courts and Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts into dedicated sports training bases for tennis and air gun shooting respectively. The sports training bases will be operated by non-profit making sports organisations on a self-financing basis. The organisations will be required to upgrade/convert the existing facilities to meet the necessary requirements at their own cost. Hence, no public expenditure is involved for the conversion works. We have also identified some less popular squash courts for conversion into landscaped open space with elderly fitness stations to meet the need of the districts. The total expenditure is about \$12.2 million. Details are at Annex II.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

16 March 2007

**List of Under-utilised Squash Courts and Tennis Courts
Converted into Other Uses**

(a) Squash courts converted into other uses:

District	Venue	Squash Courts converted	Other Uses	Cost involved
Southern	Aberdeen Tennis and Squash Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 10)	2	a fitness room	\$0.4 M
Central and Western	Smithfield Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 7)	2	2 small activity rooms cum indoor archery rooms	\$0.1 M
Wan Chai	Harbour Road Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 8)	1	a dance room	\$0.4 M
	Wong Nai Chung Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 3)	1	a children's playroom	\$0.1 M
Eastern	Java Road Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 7)	2	a large activity room	\$1.8 M
Kowloon City	To Kwa Wan Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 3)	1	a dance room	\$0.3 M
Wong Tai Sin	Kai Tak East Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 3)	1	a climbing room	\$1.1 M
	Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 6)	2	a large activity room	\$1.0 M
Islands	Cheung Chau Sports Centre (Total No. of Squash Courts: 2)	2	a children's playroom	\$0.6 M
Sub-total :		14	Sub-total:	\$5.8 M

(b) Tennis Courts converted into other uses:

District	Venue	Tennis Courts converted	Other Uses	Cost involved
Tuen Mun	Tsing Wah Lei Tennis Court (Total No. of Tennis Court: 1)	1	a basketball court	\$0.6 M
Kwai Tsing	Mei King Playground (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 4)	2	a basketball court	\$2.9 M
	Tsing Yi Park (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 8)	1	a basketball court	\$0.3 M
	Tai Wong Ha Playground (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 2)	2	a Tai Chi garden	\$0.5 M
	Shek Lei Street Tennis Courts (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 3)	1	a basketball court	\$0.4 M
Yuen Long	Tin Shui Wai Park (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 7)	2	a basketball court	\$0.6 M
		3	a 5-a-side mini soccer pitch	\$1.0 M

Sub-total: 12

Sub-total: \$6.3 M
Grand Total: \$12.1 M

Annex II

Plans to Convert Under-utilised Leisure Facilities into Other Uses in 2007-08

District	Venue	Courts to be converted	Plan	Estimated Expenditure
Kowloon City	Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis and Squash Courts	8 tennis courts, 2 tennis practice courts and 5 squash courts	To establish a Tennis Training Centre. Facilities, such as fitness rooms, lecture rooms, audio-visual rooms will also be provided to meet training needs.	0 (The future operator will bear the cost of conversion)
Kwai Tsing	Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts	6 squash courts	An Air-gun Shooting Training Centre will be established. An administration office and 20 ten meters shooting lanes will be provided.	0 (The future operator will bear the cost of conversion)
Wong Tai Sin	Morse Park Squash Courts Building	3 squash courts	To demolish the squash courts building and convert the site into landscaped open space with elderly fitness stations.	\$5.8 M
North	Fanling New Town Squash Courts Building	2 squash courts	To demolish the squash courts building and convert the site into landscaped open space with elderly fitness stations.	\$4.2 M
Tsuen Wan	Shing Mun Valley Park Tennis Courts (Total No. of Tennis Courts: 5)	3 tennis courts	To convert three tennis courts into a 5-a-side mini soccer pitch cum archery practice range	\$2.2 M

Total expenditure: \$12.2 M

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB230

Question Serial
No.

0564

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please provide the number of cultural and entertainment programmes held in 2004, 2005 and 2006 with a breakdown by civic centres in the districts.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The cultural and entertainment programmes presented or sponsored by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) can be categorised as :

- (a) Cultural performances and audience building activities held at the 13 civic centres and non-LCSD venues; and
- (b) Free entertainment activities and carnival events held at various parks and playgrounds, housing estates and other community spaces.

The total number of cultural and entertainment programmes organised are :

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
(a) Cultural performances and audience building activities	3 415	3 466	3 518
(b) Free entertainment activities	<u>661</u>	<u>647</u>	<u>651</u>
Total:	4 076	4 113	4 169

Among these, the number of activities organised at the 13 civic centres for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 1 952, 2 010 and 2 019 respectively. A detailed breakdown by civic centres is listed in the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

康樂及文化事務署在文娛中心舉辦的文化活動

Cultural Activities Organised by Leisure and Cultural Services Department at Civic Centres

場地 Venue		表演# Performance#		
		2004	2005	2006
香港大會堂	Hong Kong City Hall	137	172	190
香港文化中心	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	648	625	670
高山劇場	Ko Shan Theatre	124	83	73
牛池灣文娛中心	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	112	134	122
西灣河文娛中心	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	121	113	64
上環文娛中心	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	19	139	131
荃灣大會堂	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	118	174	124
屯門大會堂	Tuen Mun Town Hall	143	115	118
北區大會堂	North District Town Hall	25	32	30
大埔文娛中心	Tai Po Civic Centre	49	39	35
沙田大會堂	Sha Tin Town Hall	237	205	174
葵青劇院	Kwai Tsing Theatre	141	98	170
元朗劇院	Yuen Long Theatre	78	81	118
合計	Total	1 952	2 010	2 019

註: # 數字不包括租用者舉辦的節目。

Note: # Figures exclude programmes organised by hirers.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB231

Question Serial No.

2414

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will intensify greening work for vacant government sites in 2007-08. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the related work and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

(a) In 2007-08, the Department will carry out greening at eight vacant government sites. Their locations are as follows –

District	Location
Yau Tsim Mong	Hoi Fai Road
Kwun Tong	Fan Wa Street
Tsuen Wan	Lo Wai Village
Islands	Tung Chung Waterfront Road in Tung Chung
Islands	Ngan Shek Street in Mui Wo
Tai Po	Junction of Kwong Wang Street and Tai Po Road
Sha Tin	Fu Kin Street opposite Lung Hang Estate
Sha Tin	Sai Sha Road near Ma On Shan Recreation Ground

We plan to plant 150 trees, 70 000 shrubs and groundcovers. Species will include Bauhinia variegata (宮粉羊蹄甲), Hibiscus tiliaceus (黃槿), Ficus benjamina (垂葉榕), Brunfelsia calycina (鴛鴦茉莉), Duranta iorentzii (金連翹), Ixora stricta (龍船花), Hibiscus rosa-sinensis (大紅花), Rhododendron spp. (杜鵑), Calliandra haematocephala (紅絨球), Ervatamia divaricata (狗牙花) and Pilea cadierei (冰水花).

(b) We have budgeted \$450,000 for the implementation of the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB232

Question Serial No.

2415

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the target of “the average usage rate of tennis courts”, the average usage rate under 2005 (Actual), 2006 (Actual), and 2007 (Plan) was only about 40%. What measures will be taken by the Administration to further promote public use of the facilities or will there be any financial provision for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

To enhance the usage rate of tennis courts, the Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport and to make more use of the facilities. In addition, we will explore the feasibility of converting less popular tennis courts into other uses to meet the changing community demand. In 2007-08, we plan to convert three tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park into a 5-a-side mini soccer pitch cum archery practice court. The total expenditure for the conversion works is about \$ 2.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW _____

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB234

Question Serial No.

2417

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the indicator of publications under “Museums”, please provide detailed information on the titles and the quantity of the publications actually printed in 2006, the expenditure involved as well as the quantity of publications distributed. How does the Administration dispose of the publications which have not been successfully distributed?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Details of the museums' publications printed in 2006 are as follows:

Types of Publication	No. of Items	Quantity Printed	Quantity Issued/Sold	Printing Cost (\$ million)
Exhibition Catalogues	13	46 000	23 740	1.30
Educational Materials	57	1 059 900	981 000	1.07
Programme Pamphlets and Promotional Materials	49	747 600	648 000	1.07
Newsletters	26	643 000	639 000	1.30
Total	145	2 496 500	2 291 740	4.74

The majority of the programme pamphlets and promotional materials are related to the standing exhibitions and activities organised at the museums. Most of the educational materials contain information that are relevant not only to the activities already held at the museums and would continue to be useful reference for members of the public including school teachers and students. We will continue to make them available at our museums. As regards exhibition catalogues, most of them are for sale and we will continue to make them available at our shops. In addition, we will continue to organise special book sales annually to boost the sale of these catalogues. The printing volume for newsletters is reviewed from time to time and adjusted as necessary to avoid wastage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB235

Question Serial No.

2418

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please inform this Committee of the number of visits made by mobile libraries in 2006 and the costs per visit, as well as the estimated expenditure for the mobile library van service in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2006, the ten mobile libraries made a total of 2 657 visits. The average cost per visit was \$4,158. The estimated expenditure for provision of the mobile library service in 2007-08 is \$11 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB236

Question Serial No.

2419

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please inform the Committee whether there will be provision for the construction of new libraries in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Funding approval from the Finance Committee will be sought in 2007-08 for the provision of a major library under the Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre Project and a small library in the Siu Sai Wan Complex Project.

The estimated costs of the projects are \$596 million and \$385 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB237

Question Serial No.

2420

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Please explain why the estimated provision for “Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions” under Other Charges for 2007-08 is lower than the revised provision for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The estimated provision for “Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions” for 2007-08 is \$22.1 million lower than that for the 2006-07 revised estimate. The decrease is mainly due to the administrative arrangement involving the transfer of the funding responsibilities relating to the six Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) 3-year grantees from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). LCSD has been giving support to six HKADC 3-year grantees, namely, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Zuni Icosahedron, the Chung Ying Theatre and the Theatre Ensemble, through subsidising their programme production fees, marketing and publicity costs, etc. Following the recommendation of the Committee on Performing Arts of putting the major performing arts groups supported by LCSD and HKADC under one roof with a view to developing a single assessment mechanism, the allocation to LCSD for supporting the six HKADC 3-year grantees will be transferred to HAB in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB238

Question Serial No.

0539

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In the financial year of 2007-08, will the Administration make additional provision for the enhancement of information technology equipment such as computers in the libraries to meet the needs of the public? If yes, please list:

- (a) the amount of the additional provision;
- (b) the types and quantities of the information technology equipment to be installed; and
- (c) the libraries to be benefited.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

- (a) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to enhance the use of information technology for delivering public library services. For 2007-08, a total allocation of \$19.82 million will be provided to further improve library automation services.
- (b) The breakdown of the provision is as follows -
 - (i) \$1.36 million as the first-year expenditure of the project for replacing the existing Library Automation System (LAS) at a total estimated cost of \$196.47 million under the Capital Works Reserve Fund as approved by the Finance Committee in February 2007;
 - (ii) \$5.80 million for upgrading 548 Multimedia Information System (MMIS) workstations in 27 branch libraries;
 - (iii) \$4.70 million for conducting a feasibility study on the future development of the MMIS;
 - (iv) \$4.96 million for the installation of 82 Internet Express Terminals in 57 branch libraries; and
 - (v) \$3.00 million for the installation of the Octopus payment system for the collection of library fines and charges.

- (c) The replacement of the LAS and the installation of the Octopus payment system will benefit all public libraries. With the upgraded MMIS workstations, 27 libraries would be able to provide a more effective multimedia information service to the public. The addition of 82 Internet Express Terminals would further enhance the provision of Internet service at 57 libraries.

In addition, as announced in the Financial Secretary's 2007-08 Budget, WiFi networks will be provided in public libraries for free use by the public, as part of the plan to facilitate public access to the Internet in government venues.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB240

Question Serial No.

0550

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will create 493 permanent posts in 2007-08. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the titles of the new posts, the respective Programmes that they come under and their annual salary provision.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The net creation of 493 posts is the result of the creation of 520 posts and the deletion of 27 posts. It involves creation of 199 and deletion of 11 posts under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports"; creation of 124 and deletion of 7 posts under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities"; creation of 20 posts under Programme (3) "Heritage and Museums"; creation of 47 and deletion of 7 posts under Programme (4) "Performing Arts"; and creation of 130 and deletion of 2 posts under Programme (5) "Public Libraries".

These posts cover the Leisure Services Manager, Librarian, Manager (Cultural Services), Curator, Amenities Assistant, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Cultural Services Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary, Artisan and Workman II grades. The estimated salary provision for the net addition of these 493 posts is \$138 million per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **15 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB241

Question Serial No.

0551

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will create 493 permanent posts in 2007-08. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the reasons for the creation of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The net creation of 493 posts is to provide leisure and cultural services as well as management, accountancy, clerical and support services in the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB242

Question Serial No.

0552

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will create 493 permanent posts in 2007-08. In this connection, please inform this Committee whether all the 493 permanent posts are converted from the existing Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) posts and temporary posts. If yes, what are the respective numbers of staff members to be appointed on transfer from NCSC posts and from temporary posts? If no, what types of candidates will be appointed to fill the 493 posts?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The net creation of 493 new civil service posts in 2007-08 include those for replacing Non-Civil Service Contract positions involving work that should more appropriately be performed by civil servants and for providing new services. The majority of these new civil service posts are at recruitment ranks and they will be filled through open recruitment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB243

Question Serial No.

0553

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will create 493 permanent posts in 2007-08. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the number of staff who are currently occupying Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) posts or temporary posts that are needed on a long-term basis. Will the Administration appoint all of them to permanent posts? When will all of them be offered such appointments?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The special review conducted jointly with the Civil Service Bureau in 2006 established that the duties of 803 Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff in the Department should more appropriately be performed by civil servants. Their positions will be replaced by filling existing and anticipated vacant civil service posts and, as necessary, creating new posts. When there is open recruitment for civil service posts, NCSC staff will have to apply in response to vacancy advertisement in the same manner as outside candidates in accordance with the established government policy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 15 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB244

Question Serial No.

0520

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In the 2007-08 Estimates, the previous indicator “buildings/structures preserved” is converted to the indicator “cumulative total of buildings/structures declared as monuments”. However, as in the 2006-07 Estimates, the heritage target is to have one more preserved building/structure only. Please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the name of the building/structure to be declared as a monument;
- (b) of the itemised details of the manpower resources and actual expenditure required in total for the preservation of the building/structure; and
- (c) whether the Administration will consider speeding up the assessment process in 2007-08 so as to increase the number of heritage buildings/structures to be preserved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) In 2007-08, we plan to declare Chik Kwai Study Hall at Pat Heung, Yuen Long as a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.
- (b) The declaration of monuments is a legal process under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance and the work is undertaken by the Antiquities and Monument Office (AMO) with its existing resources. However, additional capital expenditure will be required for renovating the historical buildings after they have been declared as monuments and before they can be opened to the public. The cost of restoring and maintaining a monument varies according to its individual physical condition and the conservation and maintenance requirements specified by conservation experts. For 2007-08, an estimated provision of \$21.447 million has been earmarked for the AMO to carry out about 60 projects.

AMO has eight professional staff responsible for restoration and maintenance projects. The total staff cost in 2006-07 was \$3.1 million.

- (c) In March 2005, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) appointed an expert panel to assess the heritage value of 1 440 buildings constructed before 1950. Upon completion of the assessment, the expert panel will submit the assessment results to the AAB which will then identify buildings for grading or for declaration as monuments, and submit recommendations to the Antiquities Authority for consideration. We will discuss with the expert panel and the AAB on the possibility of speeding up the assessment and related work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB245

Question Serial No.

1717

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration has planned to create 493 non-directorate posts in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the relevant details, the posts involved and their related expenditure. How many of these posts will be converted from Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) or temporary posts to permanent ones?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The net creation of 493 posts is the result of the creation of 520 posts and the deletion of 27 posts. These posts cover the Leisure Services Manager, Librarian, Manager (Cultural Services), Curator, Amenities Assistant, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Cultural Services Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary, Artisan and Workman II grades. They are created to provide leisure and cultural services as well as management, accountancy, clerical and support services in the Department. The estimated salary provision for the net addition of these 493 posts is \$138 million per annum.

Among the net creation of 493 posts, some 400 posts will be created to replace the Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff whose work was identified, in the special review of employment situation of NCSC staff conducted jointly with the Civil Service Bureau in 2006, to be more appropriately performed by civil servants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB248

Question Serial No.

1721

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will organise large-scale sports activities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the relevant details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the additional provision earmarked in 2007-08 for holding major sports activities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary is around \$25 million. The major sports activities under planning are the 1st Hong Kong Games, 2007 International Dragon Boat Races, International Soccer Exhibition Match, International DanceSport Extravaganza, Euro-Asia Snooker Masters Challenge 2007, Gymnastics Extravaganza, 2007 Federation Internationale De Volleyball World Lady Volleyball Grand Prix-Hong Kong and Mega Tai Chi Show. The Department will co-organise most of these activities with the respective National Sports Associations and discussion with them is still underway. Apart from the additional provision, the existing resources of the Department will be redeployed and commercial sponsorships will be solicited to support the organisation of the celebration activities. As the sports activities are still under planning, the detailed breakdown of the expenditure items is not available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB250

Question Serial No.

1723

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, what detailed work will be undertaken by the Administration to support the activities of local performing arts organisations and artists? What will be the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) supports local artist / arts groups by providing them with performance opportunities in the following manner -

- (a) presenting them at year-round cultural programmes at civic centres and in festivals organised by LCSD, including the International Arts Carnival in summer and the thematic arts festival every autumn, as well as the Programme Partnership Scheme organised at the various civic centres;
- (b) engaging them in audience building and arts education activities at schools, in the community venues, museums and civic centre facilities including foyers and open spaces; schemes offered included the Cultural Ambassador Scheme, the District Cantonese Opera Parade, the School Arts Animateur Scheme and the School Culture Day Scheme etc; and
- (c) featuring them in free entertainment programmes at various outdoor and indoor venues, in the districts and during festive carnivals.

In 2006-07, a total of 3 446 cultural performances featuring local artists with an expenditure of \$84,252,000 were organised. For 2007-08, the estimated number of such cultural performances will be 3 114, at an estimated expenditure of \$80,917,500. A detailed breakdown on activities supporting local artists/ arts groups is listed in the Annex. The decrease in the number of cultural performances in 2007-08 is mainly attributable to the number of performances by the six 3-year grantees supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council being taken out upon the transfer of their funding responsibilities to the Home Affairs Bureau following the recommendation of the Committee on Performing Arts.

From 2007-08 onwards, a Committee on Programme and Development, set up upon the advice of the Committee on Performing Arts comprising 13 members from six art form panels and the chairman of the Venue Partnership Committee will make recommendations to LCSD on the strategies for performing arts programmes, especially on formulating structured and sustainable strategies for supporting the development of local budding and small-scale performing arts groups.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

LCSD's support to Local Artists / Arts Groups

Local performances	2006-07 (Note 2)			2007-08		
	No. of performances	Direct production cost	Attendance	No. of performances	Direct production cost	Estimated attendance
Local cultural programmes (Note 1)	751	\$48,865,000	289 627	502	\$44,755,000	196 881
Audience building / arts education activities	2 050	\$16,487,000	692 558	1 938	\$15,352,500	665 194
Free district entertainment programmes	645	\$18,900,000	1 240 091	674	\$20,810,000	1 481 300
Total	3 446	\$84,252,000	2 222 276	3 114	\$80,917,500	2 343 375

Note 1

Local cultural programmes include festivals, and year-round and Programmes Partnership activities.

Note 2

2006-07 figures included 256 performances by the six major local groups receiving 3-year grants from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, namely the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the Hong Kong Ballet, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Chung Ying Theatre, the Theatre Ensemble and the Zuni Icosahedron. From 2007-08 onwards, their support will come under the Home Affairs Bureau.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB251

Question Serial No.

1626

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the net creation of 188 posts under this Programme in 2007-08, please list these posts by rank.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The net creation of 188 posts under Programme (1) “Recreation and Sports” is the result of the creation of 199 posts and the deletion of 11 posts. These posts cover the Leisure Services Manager, Amenities Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary and Workman II grades.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB252

Question Serial No.

2408

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

There will be a net creation of 493 permanent posts in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2007-08. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the detailed breakdown of the above posts by rank, function and terms of appointment;
- (b) as it is indicated that some of the posts to be created are for the purpose of organising celebration activities for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, what will the Government do in regard to these staff upon completion of all the celebration activities; and
- (c) as LCSD is a department which has a substantial number of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff and outsourcing contracts, will it consider allocating additional resources to strengthen junior staff training and reduce the number of outsourcing contracts in order to resolve the problem of succession gap and enhance the consistency of service quality in the department?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The net creation of 493 posts is the result of the creation of 520 posts and the deletion of 27 posts. These posts cover the Leisure Services Manager, Librarian, Manager (Cultural Services), Curator, Amenities Assistant, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Cultural Services Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary, Artisan and Workman II grades. They are created to provide leisure and cultural services as well as management, accountancy, clerical and support services in the Department. The majority of these posts are at recruitment ranks, which will be filled through open recruitment and the new recruits will be appointed on civil service terms.
- (b) Only a few time-limited posts will be created for organising the celebration activities for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These posts will be filled by internal redeployment of staff on a short-term basis. Upon completion of the celebration activities, the staff concerned will resume their original duties.

- (c) The department will not have any succession problem because the posts will be filled within 2007-08 by either open recruitment or promotion as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB254

Question Serial No.

0032

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the implementation of the Community Garden Programme in all 18 districts, what was/will be the expenditure involved in implementing the Programme in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08? What are the specific details of the Programme?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Community Garden Programme (the Programme) aims to encourage the public to participate in greening activities at the neighbourhood level. The Programme is organised in the form of gardening courses. Each participating unit (comprising five persons) will be allotted a planting plot of 2.25 square metres to practise gardening under the guidance of part-time horticultural instructors. The duration of each gardening course is four months. The course fee per participating unit is \$400.

The Programme was first launched in February 2004 and was well received by the public. It has been extended to all 18 Districts by the end of 2005. The estimated expenditure for each gardening course is \$50,000 which is mainly used to employ part-time horticultural instructors and staff to man the community garden. In 2006-07, a total of 40 gardening courses were organised for around 1 400 participating units (7 000 persons). The estimated expenditure was about \$2 million and revenue was about \$0.56 million. In 2007-08, we plan to maintain the scale of the Programme with the same level of provision (i.e. \$2 million) as in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Leisure and Cultural Services _____

Date _____ 15 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB255

Question Serial No.

0033

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Administration will create 493 non-directorate posts in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the respective Programmes or Policy Areas that the posts to be created come under and of the ranks and duties of these posts (please list by the types of duties the number of staff in different ranks involved and their respective salaries).

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The net creation of 493 posts is the result of the creation of 520 posts and the deletion of 27 posts. It involves creation of 199 and deletion of 11 posts under Programme (1) "Recreation and Sports"; creation of 124 and deletion of 7 posts under Programme (2) "Horticulture and Amenities"; creation of 20 posts under Programme (3) "Heritage and Museums"; creation of 47 and deletion of 7 posts under Programme (4) "Performing Arts"; and creation of 130 and deletion of 2 posts under Programme (5) "Public Libraries".

These posts cover a number of grades including the Leisure Services Manager, Librarian, Manager (Cultural Services), Curator, Amenities Assistant, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Cultural Services Assistant, Executive Officer, Accounting Officer, Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Personal Secretary, Artisan and Workman II grades.

The posts are created to provide leisure and cultural services as well as management, accountancy, clerical and support services in the Department. The estimated salary provision for the net addition of these 493 posts is \$138 million per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

THOMAS CHOW

Title _____

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB257

Question Serial No.

2269

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the item “plan for the replacement of the library automation system”, please inform this committee:

- (a) of the timetable for the above planning work, whether a consultancy firm will be commissioned to provide assistance and, if so, of the expenditure involved;
- (b) whether the Administration will consider introducing innovative technologies, e.g. RFID technology, to the new library automation system for better system efficiency and user-friendliness of the services to be provided; and
- (c) of the estimated expenditure involved, with a breakdown of the expenses for the entire replacement project.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (a) The tentative timetable for the replacement of the library automation system (LAS) is as follows -

Work	Target Completion Date
Tender preparation and invitation	June 2007
Tender evaluation, negotiation and award of contract	May 2008
Launch of the new LAS - Phase 1	December 2009
Launch of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Pilot	June 2010
Review of RFID Pilot	January 2011
Launch of the new LAS - Phase 2	July 2011

Note: Phase 1 will mainly consist of the core library functions and Phase 2 will consist of the new or enhanced functions.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will procure hardware, software and implementation services through an open tender so as to engage a contractor with good reference and experience in implementing projects of a similar magnitude. LCSD will form a project team to monitor the performance of the contractor in order to ensure that the project is completed as planned. The total estimated non-recurrent expenditure for the procurement of hardware, software and implementation services is \$156,451,000. Since a consultancy study has been conducted before working out the roadmap for the replacement of the LAS, the implementation phase will not require the service of another consultancy firm.

- (b) The project to replace the LAS includes a pilot run of a RFID sub-system in six public libraries. In addition, the new LAS will provide the public with a high quality digital reference service through the introduction of virtual reference utilities that will enable the libraries to handle online enquiries more effectively and efficiently with a knowledge base of reference questions and answers. The new system will also introduce innovative electronic resources management utilities to enable readers to effectively access various types of electronic resources such as e-books, online databases and e-journals.
- (c) The entire replacement project will incur an estimated non-recurrent expenditure of \$196,467,000 over a period of six years with breakdown as follows:

	\$'000
(i) Hardware	86,121
(ii) Software	24,559
(iii) Implementation services	45,771
(iv) Contract staff services	14,938
(v) Miscellaneous (site preparation, data lines installation, training, consumables, etc.)	6,466
(vi) Contingency	18,612
Total	196,467

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB258

Question Serial No.

2370

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With regard to the item “continue to provide additional Internet express terminals in libraries”, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many additional Internet express terminals will be installed by the Administration in 2007-08? What is the estimated expenditure involved? Please list out by district the existing number of such terminals and the proposed number of terminals to be added.
- (b) What are the criteria adopted by the Administration for determining the regional distribution of Internet express terminals. Has consideration been given to the varied requirements of individual community for public Internet facilities?
- (c) What is the amount of expenditure for all the Internet express terminals in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (a) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department plans to install 82 additional Internet express terminals (IETs) in 57 branch libraries in 2007-08. The total estimated non-recurrent cost is \$4.96 million. Distribution of the terminals by district is shown at Annex 1.
- (b) In determining the distribution of IETs at the libraries, we have taken into consideration a number of factors including the existing usage of Internet services, the overall provision of Internet workstations, the physical constraints of individual library and the local community demand for Internet service as estimated by library staff based on their day-to-day contact with the library users.
- (c) In 2006-07, the recurrent expenditure for operating 11 IETs at nine libraries is about \$80,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Provision of Internet Express Terminals

District	No. of Internet Express Terminals		
	Existing Provision	Planned Additional Provision in 2007-08	Total
<i>Hong Kong Island</i>			
Central & Western	1	4	5
Eastern		7	7
Southern	2	4	6
Wan Chai		6	6
<i>Kowloon</i>			
Kowloon City	1	3	4
Kwun Tong		7	7
Sham Shui Po		5	5
Wong Tai Sin		7	7
Yau Tsim Mong	2	7	9
<i>New Territories</i>			
Islands		6	6
Kwai Tsing		5	5
North		4	4
Sai Kung		3	3
Sha Tin	2	1	3
Tai Po	1	2	3
Tsuen Wan	1	4	5
Tuen Mun	1	2	3
Yuen Long		5	5
Total:	11	82	93

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB259

Question Serial No.

1614

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The average usage rate of tennis courts is only 43%. Please state in details whether there are any measures to enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities and list the estimated expenditure involved. Will the Administration consider shutting down those under-utilised tennis courts?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

To enhance the usage rate of tennis courts, the Department will continue to work in partnership with sports organisations to promote the sport and to make more use of the facilities. In addition, we will explore the feasibility of converting less popular tennis courts into other uses to meet the changing community demand. In 2007-08, we plan to convert three tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park into a 5-a-side mini soccer pitch cum archery practice court. The total expenditure for the conversion works is about \$ 2.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB262

Question Serial No.

1963

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to support the East Asian Games Planning Committee. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the specific support provided by the Administration to the East Asian Games in 2006-07 and the expenditure involved in various items of work?
- (b) the specific support the Administration will continue to provide to the East Asian Games in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved in various items of work?
- (c) the present progress of the upgrading projects of the venues for holding the competitions of the East Asian Games and the anticipated dates of completion of all the upgrading projects of the venues?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) In 2006-07, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department supported the East Asian Games (EAG) Planning Committee in launching the 2009 EAG Slogan Competition and EAG venue thematic design competition; liaising with the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and National Sports Associations on the selection of sports programmes for the Games; setting up the EAG Association secretariat; and presenting the progress of EAG preparation work to the EAG Association Council and Committees. We have also continued our ongoing efforts to promote EAG to students through the Department's School Sports Programmes and to launch EAG exhibitions at major events and venues of the Department. These have been carried out as part of the Department's overall work on sports promotion and development.
- (b) In 2007-08, the Department will continue to support the EAG Planning Committee in the planning and preparation for the 2009 EAG, including promoting EAG to students through the Department's School Sports Programme; organising an EAG Mascot competition, staging EAG promotion and roving exhibitions at major events and prominent venues of the Department and working together with the District Councils to enhance community participation. These will be carried out as part of the Department's overall work on sports promotion and development.

- (c) In January and February 2007, the Finance Committee approved a total funding of about \$824 million (MOD price) for carrying out improvement works at 13 selected EAG venues. The Architectural Services Department would proceed to invite tenders shortly for the improvement works to commence from mid 2007 onwards for completion in the first half of 2009 to tie in with the staging of the Games in late 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB263

Question Serial No.

1964

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will organise large-scale sports activities in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) how many large-scale sports activities will be held? What are the respective estimated expenditures?
- (b) what is the estimated number of visitors of each large-scale sports activity?
- (c) as regards these large-scale sports activities, apart from the funding of the Administration, will there be involvement and sponsorship from other organisations? If yes, which organisations are they?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

We plan to hold eight major sports activities for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These major sports activities and their estimated number of spectators are: 1st Hong Kong Games (18 000 spectators); 2007 International Dragon Boat Races (10 000 spectators); International Soccer Exhibition Match (40 000 spectators); International DanceSport Extravaganza (10 000 spectators); Euro-Asia Snooker Masters Challenge 2007 (10 000 spectators); Gymnastics Extravaganza (21 000 spectators); 2007 Federation Internationale De Volleyball World Lady Volleyball Grand Prix-Hong Kong (26 000 spectators); and Mega Tai Chi Show (20 000 participants).

The additional provision earmarked in 2007-08 for holding these major sports activities is around \$25 million. Apart from the additional provision, the existing resources of the Department will be redeployed and commercial sponsorships will be solicited to support the organisation of the celebration activities. As discussion with the potential sponsors is still underway, the details of the sponsorships are not available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **THOMAS CHOW**

Post Title _____ **Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB264

Question Serial No.

1965

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department completed the first Physical Fitness Test for the Community in 2006. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the actual expenditure of the Physical Fitness Test for the Community and the items of work that the money has been spent on?
- (b) when the findings of the test will be announced? And how the findings will be used to plan appropriate activities?
- (c) whether the Administration will continue to conduct the test in the future? If no, why not?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The total expenditure for the Physical Fitness Test for the Community (the Test) was about \$3 million and it covered costs for professional services for data collection and analysis as well as report writing, purchase of test equipment, publicity and the staging of fitness test days.
- (b) The results of the Test were announced on 23 September 2006 through a press conference. The data collected from over 6 000 participants across the territory had been analysed to provide useful information on the current physical fitness conditions of Hong Kong people of different age groups, their exercise patterns and preference for activities. The data will be further analysed on a district basis to provide district specific information for the respective District Councils and the District Leisure Services Offices of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to use as reference in planning and delivering suitable recreation and sports programmes for their residents.

- (c) It is our plan to conduct similar tests every five years to monitor the physical fitness conditions of Hong Kong people on a continual basis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB265

Question Serial No.

1966

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department introduced the sportACT Award Scheme in 2006. In this connection, would the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) the expenditure under the sportACT Award Scheme in 2006-07?
- (b) the specific results achieved by the award scheme concerned in 2006-07; and
- (c) will the sportACT Award Scheme be carried out continuously in the future? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department launched the sportACT Award Scheme (the Scheme) in October 2006 as one of the subsidiary programmes of the School Sports Programme. The Scheme is to give recognition to schools which actively promote sports to their students as well as students who participate in sports activities regularly. In 2006-07, an amount of \$1.5 million was spent for launching the Scheme and production of related promotional materials such as printing of student handbooks, school manuals, posters and publicity panels for display in schools.
- (b) Since the launching of the Scheme in October 2006, we have conducted a series of promotional activities including school visits, roving exhibitions, sportACT talks for students and briefing sessions for school principals and teachers. Schools are encouraged to sign the sportACT School Charter to signify their commitment to encourage and facilitate their students to choose a suitable sport for continuous participation. Up till now, over 160 schools have signed the sportACT School Charter and more are expected to join before the end of this school year.
- (c) We will continue to promote and publicise the Scheme as a part of our on-going School Sports Programme to help our younger generation lead a more sporty and healthy life.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB266

Question Serial No.

1973

Head : 95 – Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the indicators of heritage and museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) why was the actual number of people attending museums in 2006 lower than the target set?
- (b) why was the actual number of people attending in-house education and extension programmes in 2006 lower than the target set?
- (c) what is the annual estimated expenditure for the operation of the museums?
- (d) as both the targets of attendance at museums and at in-house education and extension programmes for 2006 could not be met, does the Administration have any specific plans to encourage public attendance in 2007? If yes, what are the details of the specific plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The actual attendance in 2006 was lower than the target mainly because the attendance at two major exhibitions, viz the “Football Exhibition” and the “Artists and Their Models – Masterpieces from the Centre Pompidou, Paris”, was lower than that estimated despite intensive marketing efforts.
- (b) The target attendance at education and extension activities in 2006 was 1 055 000 while the actual figure was 1 049 264, which represents only a marginal difference of 0.54%. The target set is actually an estimation, and the difference in the estimated and actual numbers in question is not significant.
- (c) The estimated operating expenditure for all public museums in 2007-08 is \$462 million.

- (d) To boost attendance, we will introduce more diverse and vibrant exhibitions, and enhance the publicity for our programmes in 2007. We are planning a series of blockbuster exhibitions to be staged at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum between the second and fourth quarters of 2007. We will also take a more proactive marketing approach to explore more opportunities of wider media coverage of museum programmes, as well as considering various means to attract overseas and Mainland tourists to visit our museums.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB267

Question Serial No.

1974

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

Regarding the indicators of heritage and museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) As compared with 2006-07, the expected cumulative total of buildings/structures declared as monuments will increase by one only in 2007-08. What are the reasons? What is the expenditure involved for declaring a building/structure as a monument?
- (b) Given that the public are placing more and more importance on the preservation of antiquities and monuments, will the Administration consider revising the target of the cumulative total of buildings/structures declared as monuments? If yes, what is the new target? If no, why?
- (c) In addition, what is the average expenditure for restoring or maintaining a historical building/structure?
- (d) Does the Administration have any plan to further increase the target set for restoring or maintaining historical buildings/structures? If so, what is the new target? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) Factors that affect the progress of our work related to declaration of historical buildings as monuments are manifold, such as the time required to clarify the ownership and land entitlement of the buildings, the willingness of the building owners to declare their buildings as monuments, and the difficulty in locating the owners particularly in cases of multiple ownership. The time required to settle the problems encountered cannot be accurately predicted in many cases. While some cases are more straight-forward, the preparatory work in other cases may take years. For 2007-08, we plan to declare Chik Kwai Study Hall in Pat Heung, Yuen Long as a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. The owner has already indicated no objection to the declaration.

The declaration of monument is a legal process under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance and the work is undertaken by the Antiquities and Monument Office (AMO) with its existing resources. However, additional capital expenditure will be required for renovating the historical buildings after they have been declared as monuments and before they can be opened to the public. In the case of Chik Kwai Study Hall, the Government would need to spend about \$5.5 million on its restoration.

- (b) The Government is committed to preserving buildings of heritage value and will consider declaring them as monuments as appropriate and practicable. However, declaring buildings as monuments is not the only means to preserve historical buildings and it is not practicable to increase the target number of declared monuments without knowing the plans and stance of owners of the buildings. Nevertheless, the Government will take different measures as appropriate to preserve buildings of high heritage value.
- (c) Depending on the ownership, the restoration and maintenance responsibilities of the declared monuments and graded historical buildings are undertaken by various parties including the AMO, the Architectural Services Department, other user government departments and/or private owners. The cost of restoration and maintenance of these buildings varies according to their individual physical condition, and the conservation and maintenance requirements specified by conservation experts. In 2006-07, the projected expenditure of AMO on restoring and maintaining monuments and historical buildings is \$11 million for a total of 79 projects.
- (d) The AMO draws up an annual maintenance programme for privately-owned declared monuments which are open for public visitation in consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board. An estimated target of 60 restoration and maintenance projects in 2007 is put up after an assessment of the physical condition of the monuments during site inspections by AMO. Emergency repair and maintenance works, which cannot be projected and will be carried out when necessary, are not included in the target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB268

Question Serial No.

1975

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

With regard to the provision made by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department under the Programme of Heritage and Museums, would the Administration please advise:

- (a) why the revised estimate is 14.1% lower than the original estimate for 2006-07?
- (b) why the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is 9.1% lower than the original estimate for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The reduction in the revised estimate for 2006-07 is due to the following reasons –
 - (I) The museums had exercised economy in spending on operation and building maintenance, as well as organisation of programmes.
 - (II) The cash flow requirements for the following projects have been revised –
 - (i) Replacement of star projector and seating at the Space Theatre of the Hong Kong Space Museum – The tendering of the project has been deferred due to the need to conduct a technical feasibility study on a new technology now available in the projector system market.
 - (ii) Restoration and fabrication works of the Fireboat Alexander Grantham – The works have been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances including site accidents involving the lifting system, the unavailability of lifting barge, and unfavourable weather and sea conditions which had delayed moving the Fireboat from the dockyard and lifting it from the sea to the park at Quarry Bay.
 - (iii) Restoration of historical buildings – The restoration works can only proceed after the Department has obtained the consent of their respective owners for declaring the buildings as monuments. For some projects, the negotiation has taken longer than expected. For some traditional Chinese historical buildings, the commencement of the restoration works is subject to the setting of an auspicious day to the satisfaction of the owners/villagers, which has caused slippage to the original schedule.

- (b) The reduction in the estimate for 2007-08 is due to a number of considerations. The museums will continue to exercise economy in spending on operation, building maintenance and organisation of programmes. Moreover, since some special projects such as replacement of minor plant and equipment, and renewal of exhibits and displays had been completed in 2006, a lower provision will be required for 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 16 March 2007

List of contractors for non-skilled services
(with number of workers engaged shown in brackets)

Cleansing Services

Asia Cleaning Service Co.	(4)
Baguio Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.	(664)
Christian Family Service Centre	(1)
E & K Cleaning Services Ltd.	(13)
Fortune Cleaning & Pest Control Service Co. Ltd.	(2)
Johnson Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.	(1 917)
Law's Cleaning Services Ltd.	(27)
Li Hing Cleaning Services Co. Ltd.	(358)
Mental Health Association of Hong Kong – providing training placements only	(0)
New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	(62)
New Method Cleaning Services Ltd.	(4)
Nixon Cleaning Co. Ltd.	(501)
Po Leung Kuk	(16)
Polyking Services Ltd.	(1)
Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong	(5)
The Salvation Army, Heng On Workshop	(6)
Tsang Lik Services Ltd.	(39)
Wai Hong Cleaning & Pest Control Co. Ltd.	(400)
Wai Tat Cleaning Service Ltd.	(9)
World Environmental Services Ltd.	(7)

Security Guard Services

G4S Security Services (HK) Ltd.	(130)
Guard Able Ltd.	(160)
Hong Nin Security Co. Ltd.	(146)
Kuokon Security Ltd.	(375)
New City Property Management Co. Ltd.	(19)
Pacific Crown Security Services Ltd.	(16)
P. Dussmann Hong Kong Ltd.	(24)
Professional Security Services Ltd.	(242)
Security Cares Consultancy Ltd.	(197)
Security Centre Ltd.	(119)
Sunbase International Properties Management Ltd.	(186)
Tonwell Security Ltd.	(93)
Underwriter Security Ltd.	(36)
Uniformity Security Co. Ltd.	(63)
Vigers Security Ltd.	(3)
WK Security (Hong Kong) Ltd.	(5)

Horticultural Maintenance Services

Artistic Landscape Management Co. Ltd.	(63)
Baguio Landscaping Services Ltd.	(348)
City Landscaping Co. Ltd.	(26)
Green Land Gardening Service Co.	(318)
Hong Kong Island Landscaping Co. Ltd.	(206)
Tarzan Landscape Contractors Ltd.	(29)
Universe Gardening Co.	(14)
Universe Service Co.	(30)
Wai Shing Engineering Co.	(14)
Yee Sun Garden Ltd.	(12)

Sports Centre Management Services

Hong Yip Service Co. Ltd.	(147)
ISS Eastpoint Property Management Ltd.	(13)
Kai Shing Management Services Ltd.	(100)
Telford Recreation Club Ltd.	(70)
Synergis Management Services Ltd.	(16)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB270

Question Serial No.

0394

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

In relation to the part on monuments and historical buildings under this Programme, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) as “declaring, where appropriate, buildings/structures as monuments” is mentioned under the Aim of the Programme, would the Government explain in detail the criteria for declaring a building/structure as a monument; and
- (b) in 2006-07, the cumulative total of buildings/structures declared as monuments has increased by one only. Would the Government provide the number of buildings/structures awaiting assessment and explain why assessment has yet to be completed?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

- (a) Under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53), the Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Home Affairs) may, after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) and with the approval of the Chief Executive, declare any place, building, site or structure, which he considers to be of public interest by reason of its historical significance, to be a monument. In March 2005, the AAB appointed an expert panel to assess the heritage value of 1 440 buildings constructed before 1950. The assessment is being undertaken based on a set of criteria comprising historical interest, architectural merit, rarity, group value, collective memory and social value, authenticity and building integrity. Upon completion of the assessment, the expert panel will submit the assessment results to the AAB which would then identify buildings for grading or for declaration as monuments, and submit recommendations to the Antiquities Authority for consideration.
- (b) As mentioned in (a) above, the expert panel appointed by the AAB is assessing the heritage value of 1 440 historical buildings. The work involves complicated considerations and will take some time to complete.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HAB271

Question Serial No.

0395

Head : 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer : Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Question :

For the 2006-07 financial year, the revised estimate under this Programme is lower than the original estimate by \$81.7 million. Would the Government explain the reasons for the reduced revised estimate and provide itemised details of the areas in which expenditure has been reduced together with the amount involved?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The reduction in the financial provision required for 2006-07 is mainly due to the following reasons –

- (a) Recurrent expenditure – \$24 million
 - The museums had exercised economy in spending on operation and building maintenance, as well as organisation of programmes.

- (b) Restoration of historical buildings – \$32 million
 - Restoration works for privately-owned historical buildings can only proceed with the owners' consent over declaration of their buildings as monuments. Some restoration projects could not proceed in 2006-07 as planned because more time than expected was needed for negotiation with the building owners concerned. For some traditional Chinese historical buildings, the commencement of works was subject to the setting of an auspicious day to the satisfaction of the owners/villagers, which had led to slippage in the works schedule in some cases.

- (c) Replacement of star projector and seating at the Space Theatre of the Hong Kong Space Museum – \$14 million
 - Since new and reliable technology of the projection system has recently been available in the market, the implementation timetable for the project has been deferred to allow more time for the Department to conduct a technical feasibility study before tendering.

- (d) Restoration and fabrication of the Fireboat Alexander Grantham – \$11 million
- The schedule of the restoration and fabrication works has been revised due to unforeseen circumstances including site accidents involving the lift system, the unavailability of lifting barge, and unfavourable weather and sea conditions. The problems had delayed moving the Fireboat from the dockyard and lifting it from the sea to the park at Quarry Bay.

Signature _____

Name in block letters THOMAS CHOW

Post Title Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date 15 March 2007