

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSTB182****(Question Serial No. 1983)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Recreation and SportsControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and TourismQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Department will continue to increase the number of football pitches meeting international standards by implementing a plan on upgrading football pitches. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the current number of football pitches meeting international standards in Hong Kong and their respective locations in terms of districts.
2. Given that more than 70 football pitches are involved in the plan as stated by the Government, please provide the details of the football pitches concerned and the expenditure involved in the table below:

District	Name	Type of Existing Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Type of Reconstructed Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Construction Cost	Estimated Completion Time
Hong Kong Island					
.....					
Kowloon					
.....					
New Territories					
.....					

3. Given that some local stakeholders expressed wishes to keep the existing type of football pitches, such as 7-a-side, what is the criterion adopted by the Government when selecting football pitches for the proposed reconstruction? Did the Government consult members of the football sector and the public on the planning of football pitches, if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The two forms of competition currently recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) are 11-a-side football and futsal. There are 61 11-a-side natural or artificial turf football pitches and 68 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), 59 and 64 of which respectively meet the FIFA's standard size requirements for pitches. The numbers of football pitches in each district meeting the relevant international standards are listed in Annex I.
2. The Government earmarked \$318 million in the 2021-22 Budget to implement a five-year plan for upgrading over 70 5-, 7- and 11-a-side football pitches. The LCSD along with the works departments will commission necessary improvement works as appropriate, including returfing, repainting of line-markings and enhancement of ancillary facilities such as provision of spectator stands, in light of the actual conditions and areas of such pitches and the existing ancillary facilities. Since the launch of the plan, 21 works projects have been completed, details of which are at Annex II. The LCSD does not hold a detailed breakdown of the expenditure so involved. In addition, improvement works at 16 pitches have either commenced in 2022-23 or will commence in 2023-24, details of which are at Annex III. The remaining projects are anticipated to commence by 2025.
3. Despite once being hugely popular in Hong Kong, 7-a-side football is not the form of competition currently promoted by the FIFA. Instead, the two forms of competition currently recognised and promoted by the FIFA are 11-a-side football and futsal. As far as promotion of sports development is concerned, it is advisable for us to actively promote 11-a-side football and futsal, in line with the international trend. Given this, throughout our efforts to prepare for construction of outdoor football pitches, those for 11-a-side football and futsal have remained our focus.

Futsal is not only suitable for promoting the sport of football at both the community and school levels, but also conducive to enhancing the overall level of football. With quite a number of countries and places having put forth efforts to promote the development of futsal in recent years, Futsal League competitions and inter-school futsal competitions have been organised across Hong Kong, with an ever-growing number of participants. To tie in with the international trend of development of football and support the long-term development of football in Hong Kong, the number of 5-a-side football pitches meeting international standards has to be substantially increased.

Given the above, the Government has implemented the five-year plan for upgrading football pitches, where some of the existing 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches not meeting the standards and 7-a-side hard-surface football pitches of smaller sizes will be converted into standard 5-a-side football pitches, while line-markings for 1 or 2 5-a-side football pitch(es) will be added on some 7-a-side hard-surface football pitches for the purpose of holding futsal competitions.

The Government engages the football sector and the relevant national sports association (NSA) on the development of football. The LCSD is actively exploring, alongside the relevant works departments, the technical feasibility of improvement works, while determining the priority of such improvement works, having regard to such factors as

the actual conditions of pitches, usage rate of existing pitches, and views from the NSA and local community. Such efforts will provide more standard football pitches for members of the public in promotion of football development in Hong Kong.

**11-a-side turf and 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches
under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
meeting international standards
(as at February 2023)**

District Council district	Number of football pitch	
	11-a-side turf football pitch	5-a-side hard-surface football pitch
Central and Western	0	1
Eastern	1	3
Southern	3	5
Wan Chai	8	1
Kowloon City	6	3
Kwun Tong	3	6
Sham Shui Po	4	2
Wong Tai Sin	7	4
Yau Tsim Mong	2	0
Kwai Tsing	3	12
North	3	5
Islands	0	1
Sai Kung	3	1
Sha Tin	5	5
Tai Po	3	2
Tsuen Wan	2	4
Tuen Mun	3	3
Yuen Long	3	6

Annex II to Reply Serial No. CSTB182

**Details regarding the pitches with improvement works completed
under the five-year plan for upgrading football pitches
(as at February 2023)**

District	Name	Type of Existing Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Type of converted pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Completion time
Hong Kong Island				
Southern	Wong Chuk Hang Recreation Ground (pitches no. 1 and 4)	7-a-side	5-a-side	April 2022
	Tin Wan Estate Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	May 2021
	Ap Lei Chau Park	7-a-side	5-a-side*/ 7-a-side	January 2023
	Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	July 2022
Wan Chai	Moreton Terrace Temporary Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	June 2022
Kowloon				
Kwun Tong	Sau Nga Road Playground	5-a-side	5-a-side@	December 2021
	Yau Tong Road Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	April 2021
	Sam Ka Tsuen Recreation Ground	5-a-side	5-a-side@	December 2022
	Ngau Tau Kok Park	7-a-side	5-a-side*/ 7-a-side	January 2023
Wong Tai Sin	Muk Lun Street Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	February 2023
	Tsz Wan Shan Estate Service Reservoir Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side*/ 7-a-side	January 2023
New Territories				
Sha Tin	San Mei Street Playground	5-a-side	5-a-side@	July 2021
Islands	Cheung Chau Sports Ground	7-a-side	5-a-side*/ 7-a-side	December 2021
Sai Kung	Sha Kok Mei Playground and Garden	7-a-side	5-a-side*/ 7-a-side	July 2022
North	Luen Wo Hui Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	January 2022
	Kwu Tung Grass Soccer Pitch	11-a-side	11-a-side#	December 2021
	Wo Muk Road Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	January 2023
Yuen Long	Shek Po Tsuen Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	April 2022
Kwai Tsing	Ching Hong Road Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	February 2022

District	Name	Type of Existing Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Type of converted pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Completion time
Tuen Mun	Tin Ha Road Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	November 2021
	Tsing Wah Soccer Pitch	7-a-side	5-a-side	June 2022

* Provision of additional line-markings for a 5-a-side football pitch

@ Returfing/provision of line-markings for a 5-a-side football pitch

Expansion into an 11-a-side football pitch meeting the standards

Annex III to Reply Serial No. CSTB182

**Details regarding the pitches with improvement works commenced in 2022-23
or to commence in 2023-24
under the five-year plan for upgrading football pitches
(as at February 2023)**

District	Name	Type of Existing Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Type of converted pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Anticipated completion time
Hong Kong Island				
Central and Western	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	7-a-side	7-a-side [@]	Fourth quarter of 2023 [#]
Southern	Hong Fu Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	Second quarter of 2023 [#]
Wan Chai	Happy Valley Recreation Ground (pitch no. 6)	11-a-side	11-a-side [@]	Second quarter of 2023 [#]
Kowloon				
Kwun Tong	Hiu Ming Street Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	Second quarter of 2023
	Hong Ning Road Recreation Ground (pitches no. 2 and 3)	7-a-side	5-a-side	First quarter of 2023 [#]
Yau Tsim Mong	Anchor Street Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side*/7-a-side	Second quarter of 2023 [#]
Wong Tai Sin	Morse Park (pitch no. 3)	11-a-side	11-a-side [@]	First quarter of 2024
	Po Kong Village Road Park (pitches no. 1 and 2)	11-a-side	11-a-side [@]	Third quarter of 2023 [#]
New Territories				
Islands	Tung Chung North Park	7-a-side	To be converted to 3 5-a-side pitches	First quarter of 2023 [#]
Sai Kung	Po Hong Park	7-a-side	To be converted to 2 5-a-side pitches	Third quarter of 2023 [#]
Sha Tin	Hin Tin Playground	11-a-side	11-a-side (to be converted to an artificial turf pitch)	Second quarter of 2023 [#]
North	On Lok Tsuen Playground	7-a-side	5-a-side	First quarter of 2024
Yuen Long	Tin Yip Road Park	11-a-side	11-a-side [@]	Fourth quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	Kwai Chung Sports Ground (pitch no. 2)	7-a-side	To be converted to 2 5-a-side pitches	Fourth quarter of 2023
Tuen Mun	Wu Shan Recreation Playground	11-a-side	11-a-side [@]	Fourth quarter of 2023

District	Name	Type of Existing Pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Type of converted pitch (5/7/11-a-side)	Anticipated completion time
	Nai Wai Soccer Pitch	7-a-side	5-a-side	Third quarter of 2024

* Provision of additional line-markings for a 5-a-side football pitch

@ Replacement of artificial turf systems

Improvement works commenced

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