

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0912)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

The LCSD has continued the transformation of more than 170 public play spaces (PPSs) across the territory over the 5 years from 2020-21 onwards. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (i) Please tabulate the progress of the projects of PPSs planned for transformation, including the names of the projects, commencement dates, anticipated completion dates and estimated expenditure;
- (ii) Has the Department engaged stakeholders to collect their views on the completed projects of PPSs so as to learn from the experience and enhance the design of other public play equipment? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (iii) As popular play equipment requires frequent maintenance and repair due to rapid wear and tear, has the Government set aside additional provision and manpower to review the maintenance progress to ensure that the equipment is properly renewed and safe?
- (iv) Has the Department examined in conjunction with the Development Bureau and the Planning Department as to whether the ratio of planning standard for children's playground under the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines should be increased? If yes, what is the progress? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (i) It was announced in the 2019 Policy Address that the Government would launch a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces (PPSs) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) across the territory, with a view to offering the play spaces with different degrees of challenges and fun. The total estimated expenditure for the entire plan is \$686 million, including the costs of preliminary investigation of underground public utilities and engaging professional companies for projects, as well as the staff remuneration and recurrent expenditures of the LCSD and

Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). Such being the case, a breakdown for the expenditure on the PPSs projects is not available.

The LCSD has launched 87 PPSs transformation projects and more than 80 of the remaining projects are in the pipeline, with the list of PPSs to be transformed subject to consultation with the District Councils. The Department anticipates that over 170 projects can be launched as planned by 2025.

The first 4 small sized PPS venues are open for public use upon completion of transformation works, with details tabulated below:

District	Venue	Completion time
Wong Tai Sin	Shung Ling Street Playground	December 2022
Eastern	King's Road Playground	January 2023
Yuen Long	Fung Cheung Road Garden	February 2023
North	Hung Leng Children's Playground	February 2023

A list of projects planned to be launched or completed in 2023-24 is at [Annex](#).

- (ii) The LCSD works closely with various stakeholders and attaches great importance to their views. In transforming the PPSs, the LCSD encourages and promotes community participation and engagement by such means as engaging professional companies to organise workshops and conduct opinion surveys, with a view to inviting different stakeholders such as children and their parents/caretakers, the local community and representatives of relevant groups to offer views, as part of a sustained effort to better align the designs with the needs of the general public. The LCSD, alongside the ArchSD, held a design competition in 2022, with Ap Lei Chau Park in the Southern District and Po Wing Road Playground in the North District as the competition projects, to collect innovative design ideas from professionals. In addition, upon completion of the transformation works to the Sham Shui Po Park, the LCSD and ArchSD plan to invite children in the district and relevant stakeholders for trial play sessions to collect views from a wide range of users, in a bid to enhance the future operations and management arrangements of the PPS while optimising its design. The LCSD will evaluate the public's feedback on the transformed PPSs, consolidate the experiences of such works and continue to heed the public's views, with an aim of continuously enhancing the facilities of children's playgrounds.
- (iii) The LCSD will closely monitor the usage of various facilities in provision of safe and quality recreation and sports facilities for public use. On another front, the LCSD will actively explore various options such as engaging independent recognised professionals to conduct regular safety inspections for large sized innovative play facilities, review the wear and tear of such facilities on an on-going basis and arrange for maintenance works, with a view to minimising the inconvenience caused to the public by such maintenance. Moreover, the LCSD will arrange security guards and on-site staff to step up inspection of play facilities in light of the usage of outdoor play as well as recreation and sports facilities, while providing additional manpower for inspection as and when necessary.

- (iv) According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), the planning standard for children's playground is 400 m² per 5 000 population. In view of the public aspiration for a better living environment, the Government is giving consideration to raising the planning target of providing open spaces. As children's play facilities are mainly provided in open spaces, the LCSD will review the provision of such facilities accordingly to meet public needs. In the course of planning each and every open space, apart from making reference to the HKPSG, the LCSD will also take into account a host of factors including the population structure of the community, the topographic feature, site area and physical setting of individual venues, the relevant international safety standards as well as the needs of different users and views of stakeholders before determining overall design concepts, with a view to making optimal use of suitable public spaces and promenades for accommodating diversified children's play equipment and facilities.

Transformation projects to be launched or completed in 2023-24

Planned project venue	Project commencement time	Anticipated completion time
Sham Shui Po Park	First quarter of 2021 (commenced)	Second quarter of 2023
Tin Shui Wai Park (Phase I)	Fourth quarter of 2022 (commenced)	Third quarter of 2024
Che Kung Miu Road Playground	First quarter of 2023	Fourth quarter of 2023
Jordan Valley Playground	Second quarter of 2023	Fourth quarter of 2024
Quarry Bay Park, Phase I	Second quarter of 2023	Fourth quarter of 2024
Tsing Yi Promenade	Second quarter of 2023	To be completed in phases in 2023-24
Aberdeen Promenade	Second quarter of 2023	To be completed in phases in 2023-24
Tong Mei Road Children's Playground	Second quarter of 2023	First quarter of 2024
Cheung Chau Park	Third quarter of 2023	Second quarter of 2024
Po Tsui Park	Third quarter of 2023	Second quarter of 2024
Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	Third quarter of 2023	Third quarter of 2024
Sha Tin Park (South Garden Children Playground)	Third quarter of 2023	Fourth quarter of 2024
Tai Wan Shan Park	Fourth quarter of 2023	Third quarter of 2024
Tung Lo Wan Garden	Fourth quarter of 2023	Third quarter of 2024
Morse Park (Park No. 4)	Fourth quarter of 2023	First quarter of 2025
Shek Yam Lei Muk Road Park	Fourth quarter of 2023	First quarter of 2025
Saigon Street Playground	Fourth quarter of 2023	First quarter of 2025

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