

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee
under Eastern District Council

Date: 23 January 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Mr KWOK Wing-kin
Mr TING Wong, Kacee	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms LI Lee	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Ms LEE Ching-har	Mr LIANG Li (Chairman)	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Ms CHAN Hang, MH, JP (Vice-chairlady)	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr HUI Chi-kwan (Co-opted Member)

Absent with Apologies

Mr LAU Yu-bun (Co-opted Member) (absent with consent)

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Ms CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Ms LUONG An-an, Jacqueline	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office
Ms CHENG Lai-yin, Daisy	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Eastern District Office
Miss CHUNG Suk-yan, Janet	Manager (Hong Kong East) Marketing, Programme and District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SUNG Lai-ping, Maggie	Senior Librarian (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wai-ming, Karvie	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Sosanna	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Eastern, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

In Attendance by Invitation (Government Representative)

Ms LING Yu-kwai

Assistant District Leisure Manager (District Support) Eastern (Ag.),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms WONG Siu-na, Siena

Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Eastern District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members and government representatives to the meeting.

Handling Application for Absence

2. Mr LAU Yu-bun submitted notification of absence from meeting before the meeting on the ground of sickness. The Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) decided to give consent to his application for absence.

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda 2. Report on Arts and Cultural Activities in the Eastern District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (CICRC Paper No. 1/2025)

4. The representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) briefed Members on Paper No. 1/2025.

5. The Chairman enquired whether artists could submit applications to join the selection of the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme (CCAS) in their own capacity, i.e. not limited to applications made on a group basis.

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6. The representative of the LCSD responded that some newly graduated artists were unable to form an art group immediately. Therefore, artists could sign up for the CCAS in their own capacity. Many artists would also join the CCAS as a group of professionals from different fields.
7. The CICRC noted the captioned Paper.

Agenda 3. Report by LCSD on Extension Activities and Usage of Public Libraries **(CICRC Paper No. 2/2025)**

8. The representative of the LCSD briefed Members on Paper No. 2/2025.
9. Members said that according to the Paper, there was little change in the number of people using the public libraries in the Eastern District between 2024 and 2023, and enquired about the age groups of library visitors. In addition, Members pointed out that while the average number of library materials processed by the self-service library stations every day exceeded 200 items, which appeared to be an ideal number, it would be useful to know the actual number of users in order to evaluate the effectiveness. Members suggested setting up more self-service library stations in the Eastern District to better serve the public, subject to satisfactory results.
10. The representative of the LCSD responded that according to data, the number of library users in 2024 increased compared to the same period in 2023. In particular, the Yiu Tung Public Library had seen an increase in the average daily number of library materials borrowed and visitors due to renovation and equipment upgrades, as well as the promotional efforts of frontline staff. Data showed that people aged 45 to 50, elderly aged over 65 and children aged 6 to 13 were the three age groups with the highest volume of library materials borrowed. In acquiring new collections, the LCSD would also step up efforts to procure library materials suitable for these three age groups to further boost the borrowing volume. As for the self-service library stations, the number of books borrowed had increased as a result of the equipment renovation works carried out last year to tie in with the development of the Smart Library System. However, as the self-service library stations were open 24 hours a day, the actual number of visitors was not calculated.

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The LCSD would review the usage of the enhanced self-service library stations and, subject to the financial resources of the department, consider whether to extend the self-service library stations to other locations in the district in the future.

11. The CICRC noted the captioned Paper.

Agenda 4. Annual Programme Plan on LCSD's Extension Activities of Public Libraries in the Eastern District from Apr 2025 to Mar 2026 **(CICRC Paper No. 3/2025)**

12. The representative of the LCSD briefed Members on Paper No. 3/2025.

13. The CICRC noted the captioned Paper.

Agenda 5. Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Eastern District Annual Recreation and Sports Programme Plan 2025-26 **(CICRC Paper No. 4/2025)**

14. The representative of the LCSD briefed Members on Paper No. 4/2025.

15. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members hoped to obtain more publicity information on recreation and sports programmes, particularly archery events, so as to assist in promoting the relevant activities organised by the LCSD;
- (b) Members enquired about the calculation method of the estimated number of activities and participants under the Fitness Room Monthly Ticket Scheme.

16. The representative of the LCSD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The LCSD would provide Members with publicity information on archery events in the future. The LCSD website and the monthly

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community recreation and sports programmes brochures distributed free of charge by its sports centres, as well as the Eastern District Community Recreation and Sports Programmes list also contained information on the various recreation and sports activities held in the month for reference;

- (b) The Island East Sports Centre was the designated venue for the Fitness Room Monthly Ticket Scheme in the Eastern District. The estimated number of activities under the Scheme was one per month, i.e. 12 per year; and the estimated number of participants for the whole year was calculated by multiplying the daily capacity of the venue by the number of days in the year.

17. The CICRC noted the captioned Paper.

Agenda 6. Concern over the Booking Arrangements for LCSD Fitness Rooms in Eastern District and Enhancement Suggestions **(CICRC Paper No. 5/2025)**

18. The proposer of the Paper briefed Members on Paper No. 5/2025.

19. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members reported that the elderly in the Eastern District were not used to using SmartPLAY (the New System), the new intelligent recreation and sports services booking system, and suggested that more facilitation measures should be provided for the elderly, such as organising tutorials on the use of the New System, or allowing the elderly to make bookings for recreation and sports facilities at the counter. Also, some Members said that the public reported difficulties in cancelling bookings in the New System;
- (b) Members suggested collecting and analysing data on the public's usage of fitness rooms, for example using radio frequency identification wristbands to collect information on their entry and exit times of fitness rooms, so as to formulate targeted enhancement measures;

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- (c) While some Members hoped that priority could be given to residents of Eastern District to use the recreation and sports facilities in the Eastern District, some other Members said that residents of Eastern District could also use recreation and sports facilities in other districts, pointing out that the requirement of proof of address might be a complicated process;
- (d) Although the fees charged by the LCSD fitness centres were higher on public holidays and Sundays, the actual number of users on Sundays was generally lower. It was suggested that the fees of fitness centres should be reviewed to better reflect the actual usage;
- (e) As there was an uneven use of fitness equipment in the fitness rooms, Members suggested that the number of popular fitness equipment such as treadmills and elliptical trainers be increased, and that reminders or timers be added to enable more people to use the facilities;
- (f) As the outdoor fitness facilities in many LCSD parks were showing signs of ageing, Members proposed to replace them and install some newer fitness equipment such as cycling machines by making reference to the fitness facilities on the East Coast Boardwalk (Western Section), so as to encourage more members of the public to participate in fitness activities;
- (g) Members were concerned about the safety issues of elderly persons with special physical needs in using fitness equipment in fitness rooms, and called on the LCSD to step up inspections.

20. The representative of the LCSD responded to the Paper, as well as Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Since the full implementation of the arrangement for booking fitness room facilities through the New System in November 2024, the LCSD received much positive feedback. The New System was part of the LCSD's works to optimise the booking of recreation and sports facilities, allowing users to check the available booking quota for fitness rooms in real time, so that they could make their own personal fitness plans

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according to their actual needs. It also reduced the time spent waiting for available facilities when the original bookings were cancelled (i.e. the standby arrangement), enabling users to better plan their daily lives and exercise schedules. As it had been less than three months since the implementation of the New System for booking fitness room facilities, the LCSD had been collecting opinions from various parties and analysing the data, with a view to optimising and refining the system to enhance users experience;

- (b) To address the problem of the elderly not being able to adapt to the new system, the LCSD had organised multiple “SmartPLAY” Smart Way Workshops since the implementation of the New System. The LCSD had also maintained the original counter services and arranged for customer service ambassadors to be on duty at recreation venues with facility booking services. Venue staff also actively assisted and guided the public on how to use the New System to book recreation and sports facilities;
- (c) Regarding the comment by monthly ticket holders of fitness centres that it was difficult to cancel their bookings, as some monthly ticket holders may need more time to familiarise themselves with the operation of the New System and the cancellation procedures, the LCSD had introduced a transitional arrangement one month after the implementation of the new booking arrangement. Instead of having to cancel their booking at least one day prior to the commencement of the booked session, monthly ticket holders could now cancel their booking an hour prior to the booked session to avoid penalties. The cancelled session would be immediately released on the system for booking by other users. The LCSD would reassess and adjust the transitional arrangements based on the actual situation in the future;
- (d) Taking into account the fact that many members of the public would choose to book recreation and sports facilities near their workplaces other than their residence, all recreation and sports facilities under the LCSD were open to the public across districts. Therefore, to encourage the public to develop the habit of regular exercise and physical activity, the LCSD would not restrict cross-district booking of facilities;

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- (e) As for the fees, the hourly charges for the general public during peak hours and non-peak hours were \$14 and \$13 respectively, while the elderly and full-time students could enjoy a concessionary rate of \$7 for non-peak hours bookings. The monthly ticket fee for the general public was \$180 per month, and \$90 for the elderly and full-time students. Monthly ticket holders could enjoy unlimited use of fitness room facilities during the opening hours of fitness rooms under the LCSD in various districts within the entire month (regardless of the number of days in the month) from the effective date of the ticket. For example, if the effective date of the monthly ticket was 23 January, the expiry date would be 22 February (inclusive). Therefore, the public could choose to pay by the hour or purchase a monthly ticket according to their needs. In addition, the LCSD noted the suggestion to include the indication of public holidays in the system as mentioned in the Paper;
- (f) The LCSD had posted notices in all four fitness rooms in the Eastern District to remind users to be considerate and not to occupy fitness equipment for a long time, subject to a 20-minute time limit; users could refer to the clocks hanging in the fitness rooms for reference. The suggestion of setting up a separate time reminder or timer was not expected to achieve the desired effect and may, on the contrary, cause unnecessary disputes. The LCSD would continue to deploy staff to patrol the fitness rooms regularly, and on-site staff would remind any members of the public who were found to occupy fitness equipment for a prolonged period of time. However, it was not common for the public to have disputes due to uneven distribution of equipment. The number and types of fitness equipment currently in the venues were provided after consultation with the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China and based on professional assessment. Moreover, given the limited space available in the existing fitness rooms, the proposal of acquiring more equipment was not feasible;
- (g) At present, there were 39 venues with outdoor fitness facilities in the Eastern District, of which 36 had fitness stations specially designed for the elderly. Since 2024, the LCSD had launched the Briefing on Outdoor Fitness Training to promote outdoor fitness facilities in the LCSD parks to the public. Subject to the availability of venues and resources in the future, the LCSD would consider providing more

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outdoor fitness facilities in the district;

- (h) All users of the LCSD fitness rooms were required to complete a PAR-Q & You questionnaire prior to entering the fitness room and using the fitness facilities to check that they were using the fitness room facilities without medical advice as to whether they were suitable for increasing the amount of exercise. The LCSD would not refuse any eligible users of fitness rooms from booking or using fitness room equipment. Venue staff would also inspect the fitness rooms regularly, and proactively provide their services to anyone who needed assistance.

21. After discussion, the CICRC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

Agenda 7. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous CICRC Meetings under Eastern District Council **(CICRC Paper No. 6/2025)**

- (i) *Suggesting Government Departments Strengthen Regulation of Large-scale Trampoline Parks in the District to Protect Public Safety*

22. Members noted the written replies of the Architectural Services Department and the Fire Services Department.

23. The Chairman pointed out that the Secretariat had earlier successfully contacted the operator of the trampoline park in Kodak House in North Point, and received a reply from the operator inviting Members to inspect the premises on 11 February 2025. Members who had registered to attend were reminded to arrive at the assembly point on time that day.

24. Members thanked the Chairman of the Eastern District Council (EDC) for the arrangement, and hoped that the inspection would help them better understand the safety measures of the premises.

25. After discussion, the CICRC agreed to follow up on the agenda item upon further progress.

Agenda 8. Any Other Business

(i) Matters Related to Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2025 – District Councils Challenge Cup (10km Race)

26. The Chairman thanked the EDC Chairman and nine Members for representing the Eastern District in the captioned marathon and participating in a running exercise on the East Coast Boardwalk on 26 January. Besides, he reminded the Members concerned to collect their runner's packs at the Secretariat on 6 or 7 February.

Agenda 9. Date of Next Meeting

27. The 8th meeting of the CICRC would be held at 2:30 pm on 25 March 2025 (Tuesday).

28. The meeting ended at 3:45 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
February 2025