

**Islands District Council**  
**Paper IDC130/2017**

**Proposed Relocation of the Off-course Betting Branch of  
the Hong Kong Jockey Club  
in Yat Tung Estate**

**Purpose**

The paper aims to brief the District Council the proposal of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) to relocate the Off-course Betting Branch (OCBB) in Yat Tung Estate.

**Background**

2. The Government does not encourage gambling, and it is our policy to restrict gambling opportunities to a limited number of authorised and regulated channels. The Government implements various measures to alleviate adverse impact of gambling on the community, and to prevent juvenile from participating in gambling activities.

3. According to the licences issued by the Secretary for Home Affairs to HKJC on horse race betting, football betting and lottery, HKJC can only accept bets in premises approved by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). HKJC needs to apply to HAB for any relocation of existing OCBBs or establishment of new OCBBs. In processing such applications, HAB will consider a basket of factors, including the distance between the OCBB and school or social service facilities targeting to serve juvenile, comments from local community as collected by the relevant District Office, as well as comments from the Hong Kong Police Force.

**The Relocation Proposal**

4. Currently, the only OCBB in Tung Chung is located at Yat Tung Shopping Centre. It has been in operation since 2009. The

approval given by HAB for relocating the OCBB to the current site<sup>1</sup> was based on the consideration that the current location was the only possible location at that point in time; and if the OCBB were not established thereat, the OCBB nearest to Tung Chung would have been the one in Tsing Yi or Mui Wo.

5. We understand that the Islands District Council and the local residents consider that the location of the OCBB is not ideal because it is too close to schools. We have therefore been urging HKJC to follow up with identifying an alternative site for early implementation of the relocation plan.

6. With the assistance of the Islands District Office, Islands District Council and relevant government departments, HKJC has identified Shop No. 29 on the ground floor of the Yat Tung Shopping Centre as the relocation site of the OCBB. A detailed proposal made by HKJC is at the **Appendix**.

### **Advice Sought**

7. Members are invited to comment on the proposal of HKJC to relocate the OCBB in Yat Tung Estate.

**Home Affairs Bureau  
December 2017**

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<sup>1</sup> In approving the application of HKJC in 2009, HAB imposed special conditions on HKJC. These conditions include requiring HKJC to provide sufficient manpower and liaise closely with the management of the Yat Tung Shopping Centre so as to ensure the environmental hygiene of the OCBB and its neighbourhood, as well as to prevent the OCBB users from causing nuisance to the residents nearby; to deploy adequate security staff to prevent juvenile or persons in school uniform from entering the OCBB; not to organise promotion activities for the OCBB; and not to display betting-related promotional materials on shop-front panels, etc.