

For discussion
on 8 April 2021

**The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's
Recreation and Sports Programmes
for May 2021 to March 2022
in Wan Chai District**

Purpose

This Paper briefs Members on the recreation and sports programmes to be organised by the Wan Chai District Leisure Services Office (DLSO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) between May 2021 and March 2022, and seeks Members' consideration and approval for the relevant funding applications.

Background

2. Since the full implementation of the initiative to involve the District Councils (DCs) in the management of the district leisure and cultural facilities and services under LCSD in the 18 Districts in 2008, all DLSOs under LCSD have been required to submit their plans for recreation and sports programmes for the coming year to the respective DCs before the commencement of each financial year for funding approval.

3. LCSD has always been committed to promoting "Sport for All". In the coming year, the Wan Chai DLSO will continue to provide people of different age groups and physical abilities in the district with diversified recreation and sports programmes to encourage the public to get into the habit of regular participation in sports and physical activities and lead a healthy lifestyle in furtherance of the "Sport for All" policy. To ensure that the types and quality of programmes will meet the needs and expectations of the residents in the district, this Office will consider a range of factors when drawing up the annual plans for recreation and sports programmes. The factors include:

- (i) the latest developments of COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (ii) the overall development of the "Sport for All" policy;

- (iii) the overall population growth rate and changes in the population of different age groups and different groups of people, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities and the socially disadvantaged;
- (iv) the DC's recommendations on recreation and sports programmes, such as its views on developing district sports activities with local characteristics;
- (v) the needs of the local community for recreation and sports programmes;
- (vi) resources and funds available;
- (vii) the supply of recreation and sports facilities;
- (viii) the degree of popularity of the programmes;
- (ix) the development trend of individual sports; and
- (x) the views of the national sports associations (NSAs) and district sports associations (DSAs) and their support for the relevant activities.

The Wan Chai DLSO will continue to note the views of Members and to monitor closely the implementation of the programmes. Suitable adjustments will be made to the programmes in response to the feedback and needs of the local community.

4. Under the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 273 recreation and sports programmes were organised for about 5 621 participants in Wan Chai District in 2020-21 with the support of the Wan Chai DC. The expenses involved amounted to \$897,097.

Recreation and Sports Programmes for 2021-22

5. Taking into consideration the above factors, the Wan Chai DLSO has drawn up a proposed annual plan for the recreation and sports programmes to be organised in 2021-22. We plan to organise about 1 000 recreation and sports programmes for 48 924 attendance starting from May 2021 with an estimated total expenditure of about \$5,403,981. These programmes include diversified sports training courses, recreation activities and district competitions for people of different age groups and physical abilities. In addition to the diversified sports and physical activities to be provided for public on an ongoing basis, programmes targeting specific groups are also designed for the participation of parents and their children, the middle-aged, working people and people of special groups (e.g. the elderly, persons with disabilities, low-income families and youth at risk). Major events will also be organised to enhance publicity for the

programmes so as to encourage more members of the public to take part in recreation and sports activities and lead a healthy lifestyle. Details of the programmes for the whole year are set out in Annex 1.

Recreation Programmes

6. LCSD will continue to review the recreation and sports programmes and facilities in order to provide better and more suitable recreation and sports services to the public. In response to the study report and follow-up actions of the “Healthy Exercise For All Campaign – Physical Fitness Test for the Community” published in late 2012, LCSD has set out follow-up actions including:

- (i) offering a diversified range of recreation and sports programmes for infants and children – The DLSOs will organise programmes such as badminton, table tennis, mini tennis, children dance, and swimming for children during summer and long holidays. As the study revealed that children of parents with higher physical activity levels were relatively more active, the DLSOs will keep on promoting different types of parent-child programmes such as badminton and ultimate;
- (ii) promoting adolescents’ interest in sports activities – LCSD will make reference to activities which are currently popular especially among young people and organise activities such as long distance running and cycling to meet their needs;
- (iii) providing more opportunities for women to participate in sports, such as dance and multi-gym fitness, which can encourage women’s active participation in sports and help them maintain a good physique; and
- (iv) organising and promoting suitable activities for the middle-aged, such as fitness walking, gateball, lawn bowl, and hydro fitness, which enable them to relieve stress at work and in daily life through more active participation in physical activities during their leisure time.

Programmes Organised for Special Groups

7. To cater for the needs of special groups of people including the elderly, persons with disabilities, low-income families and youth at risk, LCSD will continue to collaborate with non-governmental organisations recognised by the

Social Welfare Department to design various types of recreation and sports programmes for participation of these groups of people free of charge. In the coming year, 248 such programmes will be organised for about 16 842 attendance.

District Sports Activities with Local Characteristics

8. Regarding the development of district sports activities with local characteristics, Wan Chai District has chosen dance and fitness as the sport for promotion since 2006-07. It is hoped that Wan Chai District will be developed into a base for dance and fitness where athletes with potential can be identified for further training by the relevant NSAs. This office will continue to enhance its co-operation with the DC, DSAs and NSAs to review and revamp programmes with local characteristics. LCSD has planned to organise a total of 12 programmes with local characteristics for about 500 attendance in the coming year.

Focused Promotion on “Sport for All” Programmes

9. Apart from organising recreation and sports programmes, LCSD has also planned to promote public awareness of regular participation in sports and physical activities through large-scale publicity events such as the “Sport For All Day” and “Sport for All Carnival” on a continuous basis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a new series of online physical fitness exercise demonstration videos was launched by LCSD at its website to encourage people to stay home and exercise during the pandemic. In addition, LCSD has launched the “Online Interactive Sports Training Programmes” in January 2021. A number of sports activities were provided for participants to learn and practise physical activities interactively through an online platform and establish a healthy lifestyle at the same time.

Funding Application

10. The Wan Chai DLSO has planned to organise 1 000 recreation and sports programmes between May 2021 and March 2022 and would like to seek funding approval from the DC for a total sum of \$5,403,981. In view of the ceiling of \$2.5 million imposed by the DC on each funding application, 3 separate funding applications for the recreation and sports programmes to be organised during the said period are submitted for approval by the DC. Moreover, as the cut-off date for each financial year usually falls in early March of each year, the programme expenses of around \$390,000 for March 2022 will be settled in the following

financial year. In summary, the funding applications are in respect of:

- (i) the programme expenses to be incurred between May and July 2021 (Annex 2)
- (ii) the programme expenses to be incurred between August and November 2021 (Annex 3)
- (iii) the programme expenses to be incurred between December 2021 and March 2022 (Annex 4)

11. The major expense for organising district recreation and sports programmes is the pay for part-time staff, including instructors and other supporting staff. The rest are the expenses for equipment and publicity. As for venues, they are mostly provided by LCSD free of charge. In estimating the programme expenses as mentioned in paragraph 10 above, this Office has taken into account factors such as population growth in the district, the needs of the local community and price movements. The funding applied for is considered necessary to maintain our level of service.

12. Once the DC has approved the proposed plan for the recreation and sports programmes to be organised between May 2021 and March 2022 for Wan Chai District and the programme expenses as mentioned in paragraph 10 above, LCSD will start the preparatory work for the programmes of 2021-22.

Presentation

13. Members are invited to endorse the plan for recreation and sports programmes to be organised between May 2021 and March 2022 for Wan Chai District as stated in paragraph 10 of this paper and to approve the relevant funding applications.

Wan Chai District Leisure Services Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
March 2021