

SPORTS COMMISSION

Review of Sports Policy

PURPOSE

This paper outlines the progress made on the follow up on the recommendations from the 2002 Report of the Sports Policy Review Team and invite members' views on the way forward.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2002, the Home Affairs Bureau conducted a review on sports policy with a view to formulating a strategic blueprint for the development of sports in Hong Kong. The report outlines the key objectives of sports development, which are: -

- (a) to develop a strong sporting culture in the community;
- (b) to achieve greater excellence by Hong Kong's elite athletes; and
- (c) to raise our international profile on sports with a view to gaining wider recognition and creating new opportunities for economic growth.

The report also includes specific recommendations on how these objectives should be achieved.

CURRENT PROGRESS

3. The Report of the Sports Policy Review Team published in 2002 covers a wider range of recommendations in promoting community participation in sports, strengthening support for elite sports development and strengthening efforts of organising more international sporting events in Hong Kong. The report also includes proposals for establishing a new administrative structure for sports development and improving funding support mechanism for National Sports Associations and other related organisations. Some of these recommendations have been completed and some are in progress. A pamphlet which outlines the key recommendations of the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team is at Annex A. A summary of the current position in the implementation of the various recommendations is set out in Annex B.

FUTURE DIRECTION

4. It is important to sustain the on-going efforts in cultivating a strong sporting culture in Hong Kong, and to this end, it is **recommended** that an integrated policy statement on sports development in Hong Kong should be formulated. The policy document should reiterate our vision for sports development, identify the short, medium to long-term objectives, and serve as a road map for development with key issues and action areas prioritized with concrete focus and deliverables. This document can facilitate community-wide participation and collaboration in realising the vision of building a strong sporting culture for Hong Kong.

5. The proposed policy document must be developed with active community participation. It is therefore **recommended** that the Sports Commission should drive this process and mobilise inputs from different sectors of the community. In this connection, it is **recommended** that the following steps should be taken :-

- (a) the Sports Commission should deliberate and advise on broad strategic directions and macro issues relating to sports policy;
- (b) with (a), in-depth discussions on issues related to community sports, elite sports and major sports events should be conducted by the respective committees under the Sports Commission;
- (c) with (a) and (b), a public consultation document should be prepared by around March 2006 to introduce the draft sports policy; and
- (d) open forums should be conducted with SF&OC, HKSI, National and District Sports Associations, and community organisations on sports policy development in Hong Kong.

6. With the views collected, a draft policy document can be compiled for consideration by the Policy Committee, Legislative Council and Executive Council. Subject to their approval, it is anticipated the document on sports policy can be promulgated in 2007.

KEY MACRO ISSUES

7. In steering the preparation of the public consultation document on sports developments, Members are invited to give particular attention to the following issues: -

- (a) optimal use of existing resources : whether and how the current funding allocation should be fine-tuned; this may include reviewing how resources should be allocated among community sports development and promotion, support for elitist training as well as organising major events;
- (b) alternative sources of funding : this includes whether additional injection should be made to the various funds (e.g. the Arts and Sports Development Fund) or whether new avenues (such as the introduction of sports lotteries) should be explored;
- (c) community's share in the financing of sports and recreational services : this relates to whether and how responsibility of sport venue/programme users should be realistically reflected in the fees and charges for use of sports venues and sports programme provided by Government. Consideration should be given on whether and how community sports organisations should be mobilised to play a stronger role in the organisation and provision of sports training and other activities;
- (d) planning and provision of sports facilities : whether the current planning standards of sports venues should be revised and strategically structured to meet the long term needs of sports development; and
- (e) management and operation of sports venues : whether and how the commercial sector should be encouraged to provide alternative sports venues based on commercial and market-oriented principles so as to offer a wider range of choice to different sectors of the community. Furthermore, it is for discussion whether and how the private sector/National Sports Associations should be involved in the running of public sports venues to enhance utilisation and efforts in the promotion of sports in Hong Kong.

ADVICE SOUGHT

- 8. Members are invited to :-
 - (a) note Annex B which sets out the current progress in the implementation of various recommendations made in the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team as highlighted in the pamphlet at Annex A;
 - (b) endorse that a sports policy document should be promulgated to set out long term vision and objectives of sports development in Hong Kong (paragraph 4);

- (c) agree that the Sports Commission should drive the sports policy formulation process (paragraph 5);
- (d) comment on the recommended steps in the formulation of sports policy as outlined in paragraphs 5(a) – (d); and
- (e) comment on the broad strategic direction and the key issues as highlighted in paragraph 7.

Sports Commission Secretariat
September 2005