

Legislative Council Panel on Education

302EP - Primary School in Area 31, Sheung Shui

PURPOSE

At the Legislative Council Panel on Education on 24 October 2005, we briefed Members on our review of the School Building Programme. Members generally supported our recommendation to proceed with school projects for converting existing bi-sessional primary schools to whole-day operation. This paper informs Members of our plan to seek funding approval for one of those school projects, i.e. the construction of a primary school at Area 31, Sheung Shui at an estimated cost of \$106.1 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The project will be considered by the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee on 15 February 2006.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. It is Government's policy to implement whole-day primary schooling for virtually all primary school students by the 2007/08 school year. In the 2005/06 school year, over 80% of primary school places are in the whole-day mode. To facilitate implementation of the policy, we have included in our School Building Programme 14 school projects under planning, including **302EP**.

3. Since the project is meant to facilitate an existing bi-sessional primary school to switch to whole-day operation, the school development will not increase the overall supply of primary school places. Upon its completion in July 2008, **302EP** will provide 30 primary classes for reprovisioning the AM and PM sessions of the existing primary school in the same district. This represents a reduction in scope of operation as the school is now operating 40 bi-sessional classes. The school sponsoring body has accepted this arrangement in view of the decline in student population. Upon reprovisioning, the existing school building will be surrendered to the Government for alternative uses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$106.1 million in MOD prices. We have derived the MOD estimates on the basis of the Government's latest forecast of trend rate of change in the prices of public sector building and construction

output for the period 2006 to 2011. The estimated construction unit cost, represented by the building and building services costs, is \$5,625 per m² of construction floor area in September 2005 prices. We consider this comparable to similar projects built by the Government. Facilities of the new school premises are at the Enclosure.

5. The annual recurrent expenditure of two half-day sessions of the existing primary school was \$36.4 million in the 2004/05 school year, when the AM and PM sessions of the school operated a total of 45 classes. Upon whole-day conversion at the new premises under **302EP**, the annual recurrent expenditure is estimated to be \$22.5 million, with the difference attributable to the ultimate decrease of 15 operating classes.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

6. Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to start the construction works in September 2006 for completion in July 2008.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. We consulted the North District Council on **302EP** on 19 December 2005. Members of the Council supported the project.

8. We also consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Education on 24 October 2005 on our review of allocated projects in the School Building Programme. The Panel supported our recommendation to proceed with **302EP**.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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Facilities¹ of the new school premises proposed under 302EP

- (a) 30 classrooms;
- (b) six special rooms, including a computer-assisted learning room and a language room;
- (c) four small group teaching rooms;
- (d) a guidance activity room;
- (e) two interview rooms;
- (f) a staff room;
- (g) a staff common room;
- (h) a student activity centre;
- (i) a conference room;
- (j) a library;
- (k) an assembly hall (which can also be used for recreational activities);
- (l) a multi-purpose area;
- (m) two basketball courts at ground level;
- (n) a green corner²; and
- (o) ancillary accommodation, including a lift and relevant facilities for the handicapped.

¹ Owing to the limited site area, level differences across the site and the restricted building layout, a running track cannot be provided.

² The green corner is a designated area inside the campus to enable students to develop an interest in horticulture and natural environment. The green corner may include a green-house, a weather station and planting beds.