

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Submissions to the Public Works Sub-committee on 24 October 2007

PURPOSE

This paper gives a brief description of the four capital works projects which we plan to submit to the Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council for consideration at its meeting to be held on 24 October 2007.

2. The first two projects are for whole-day conversion of existing primary schools. The other two are for reprovisioning two existing schools currently operating from sub-standard premises to meet the objective of improving the quality of education. The projects are:

339EP – A 30-classroom primary school at Fuk Wing Street, Sham Shui Po

340EP - A 24-classroom primary school at Inverness Road, Kowloon City

341EP – An 18-classroom primary school at Fuk Wing Street, Sham Shui Po

261ES – A 30-classroom secondary school at Aberdeen Reservoir Road, Aberdeen

JUSTIFICATIONS

Projects for whole-day primary schooling --- 339EP and 340EP

3. It is Government's policy to implement whole-day schooling for virtually all primary school students as soon as possible. On 24 October 2005, the Legislative Council Panel on Education, on reviewing the allocated projects in the School Building Programme, supported our recommendation to proceed with school projects, including **339EP** and **340EP**, for enabling existing bi-sessional primary schools to offer whole-day education.

4. Since both projects are meant to facilitate existing bi-sessional primary schools to switch to whole-day operation, the projects will not affect the overall supply of primary school places.

Project for the reprovisioning of existing schools --- 341EP and 261ES

5. The proposed school projects **341EP** and **261ES** are for reprovisioning an existing primary school and an existing secondary school respectively. Both schools are now accommodated in sub-standard school premises. Due to site constraints with in-situ redevelopment, reprovisioning is the most cost-effective way to provide quality teaching and learning environment for teachers and students of the schools.

6. The site for **341EP** allows the construction of a 18-classroom primary school with supporting facilities. Upon completion of the project, it will accommodate an existing primary school operating from the same Sham Shui Po District and is also operating 18 classes in the 2007/08 school year. Therefore, the project will not affect the overall supply of primary school places. Separately, the new premises under **261ES** will provide 30 classrooms and other facilities for accommodating an existing secondary school which is operating 24 classes in the 2007/08 school year in Southern District. We have proposed a 30-classroom project to make full use of the site. Whether the number of operating classes would be increased from 24 to 30 immediately after the reprovisioning will depend on the actual supply and demand situation of secondary school places then and the enrolment situation of the school.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The estimated costs for **339EP** and **340EP** are \$129.9 million and \$118.5 million respectively.

8. The estimated costs for **341EP** and **261ES** are \$101.8 million and \$182 million respectively.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

9. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, we plan to start construction works of **339EP** and **340EP** in March 2008 and April 2008 respectively for completion in December 2009.

10. The construction works for **341EP** would start in March 2008 for completion in December 2009. As for **261ES**, we plan to start the site formation works in December 2007 for completion in September 2009, to be immediately followed by construction works for completion in July 2011.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. **339EP** and **340EP** were supported by the Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City District Councils when we consulted them in April 2007 and November 2005 respectively. For **340EP**, we updated the Kowloon City District Council in August 2007 on the progress of the school building project and have not received any adverse views.

12. Sham Shui Po District Council was consulted and supported **341EP** in April 2007. Southern District Council was consulted on the site formation works for **261ES** in September 2003 and the school project in November 2005. The District Council expressed support on the two occasions.

Education Bureau
October 2007