

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

332EP – A 24-classroom primary school in Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan

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, viz. the construction of a 24-classroom primary school in Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan at an estimated cost of \$111.2 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The project will be considered by the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee on 7 February 2007.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. It is Government's policy to implement whole-day schooling for virtually all primary school students by the 2007/08 school year. In the 2006/07 school year, the provision of whole-day primary school places has reached 90%. To facilitate implementation of the policy, we now have nine primary school projects under planning, including **332EP**, in our School Building Programme.

3. Upon its completion in July 2009, **332EP** will provide 24 classrooms and other facilities for accommodating one session of an existing bi-sessional primary school in Tsuen Wan district, and in so doing enable both sessions to switch to whole-day operation. The school needs additional premises to turn whole-day, as it currently operates 47 classes in two sessions from a 24-classroom building. The project will not affect the overall supply of primary school places as well as the supply in the Tsuen Wan district.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The capital cost of **332EP** is \$111.2 million. We have derived the MOD estimate for the project, which is planned to commence in November 2007, on the basis of the Government's latest forecast of trend rate of change in the prices for public sector

building and construction output for the period from 2007 to 2012. The estimated construction unit cost for the building and the building services costs of **332EP** is \$6,486/m² of construction floor area at September 2006 prices. We consider this comparable to similar school projects built by the Government. Facilities of the new school premises are at Enclosure.

5. We estimate the annual recurrent expenditure for **332EP** to be \$20.2 million.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

6. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to start the construction works in November 2007 for completion in July 2009.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. As set out in paragraph 1 above, we consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Education on 24 October 2005. Members supported our recommendation to proceed with school projects for converting existing bi-sessional primary schools to whole-day operation, including **332EP** with a reduced scope from 30 classrooms to 24 classrooms.

8. We consulted the Tsuen Wan District Council on the project on 28 November 2006. Members of the Council supported the project.

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Facilities of the new school premises proposed under 332EP

- (a) 24 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 a wide range of physical activities such as badminton, gymnastics and table-tennis);
- (l) a multi-purpose area;
- (m) two basketball courts and a mini-football pitch at ground level;
- (n) a 60-metre (m) running track¹;
- (o) a green corner²; and
- (p) ancillary accommodation, including a lift and relevant facilities for the handicapped.

¹ Making optimal use of the space of the campus, a 60m running track will 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.