

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Development of 1500-place student hostels
by The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on a capital works proposal for the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to develop 1 500-place student hostels within its campus in Shatin.

JUSTIFICATION

2. In view of the educational value of hostel life, the Executive Council approved in 1996 a set of criteria for calculating the level of publicly-funded student hostel provisions for the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded sector. Under this policy, all undergraduate students should be given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year of their courses. Furthermore, all research postgraduates, non-local students, as well as all undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours should be provided with student hostel places. In addition, to support internationalization, the Government has agreed to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places at the UGC-funded sector to support student exchange activities and to cater for the accommodation needs of non-local and exchange students. The Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective institutions using private funds.

3. Under the prevailing hostel policy and taking into account the additional hostel places for exchange activities, the approved publicly-funded hostel provision for CUHK in the 2007/08 academic year is 5 926 places. Given that CUHK currently has 4 066 publicly-funded hostel places, the University has a shortfall of about 1 860 places. To address the shortfall, CUHK proposes to construct new student hostels within its campus in Shatin.

4. The project mainly involves construction of a total of 1 500 hostel places in five hostel buildings with ancillary facilities. The project will provide approximately a total of 23 059 square meters (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA), accommodating hostel places with other common and support facilities including common rooms, study rooms, pantries, laundry, store, warden and tutor quarters, etc. of 16 744m² in NOFA, and enhanced communal facilities such as multi-purpose halls with kitchen, seminar rooms, day student's facility, offices, etc. of 6 315m² in NOFA.

The hostels will be located at the eastern and western sides of the Central Campus of CUHK. A site plan is at Enclosure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The estimated cost of the project is \$681.2 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The Government will fund up to \$303 million, *i.e.* 75% of the cost for the publicly-funded hostel places (*i.e.* 1 419 hostel places¹) and the ancillary facilities. CUHK will contribute \$378.2 million to finance 81 hostel places, 25% of the construction cost for the publicly-funded hostel places and the ancillary facilities, as well as the full cost of the enhanced communal facilities through its private sources of funding. The proposal will have no impact on tuition fees, and will not incur additional recurrent financial implications on the Government. CUHK will operate these student hostels on a self-financing basis through charges levied on hostel places in accordance with established policy.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

6. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Sub-committee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposal on 30 January 2008 and 22 February 2008 respectively. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, CUHK plans to start the construction works in mid 2008 for completion in late 2010.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. The project is located within the CUHK campus. There are no residential developments nearby, and the project will not affect residents in the vicinity. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Chairmen of the Sha Tin District Council were briefed on the proposed development by CUHK on 10 September 2007 and they raised no adverse comments.

Education Bureau
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¹ This represents the total amount of shortfall in publicly-funded hostel places for CUHK which was prevailing when funding resources were earmarked for the project.

Site plan for the development of 1 500-place student hostel by The Chinese University of Hong Kong

