

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on 278EP - Primary school in Sau Mau Ping Estate, phase 9

INTRODUCTION

When Members considered the paper referenced PWSC(1999-2000)91 on **278EP** - Primary school in Sau Mau Ping Estate, phase 9 at the PWSC meeting on 16 February 2000, the Administration undertook to provide further information on –

- (a) the demand and supply of primary school places in Sau Mau Ping; and
- (b) the feasibility of revising the school layout, for example by co-locating the two basketball courts, with a view to providing an integrated and larger playground for the proposed school.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. To obviate the need for students to travel a long distance for school, we plan to provide primary school places on a district basis. Sau Mau Ping area belongs to Kwun Tong district. In our planning, we will ensure that there will be an adequate supply of primary school places in Kwun Tong to meet the demand of the district. As far as Sau Mau Ping area is concerned, the estimated demand and supply of primary school places throughout the school years 2000/01 to 2005/06 are as follows¹ -

/Demand

¹ Exact information on the supply and demand of school places in Sau Mau Ping as a whole is not available since the school building programme is based on the demand and supply of school places in a district (in this case Kwun Tong), and not a particular area of a district. However, we do have the relevant information on Sau Mau Ping Estate. The Estate accommodates most of the population of the Sau Mau Ping area and is currently undergoing redevelopment. The supply and demand information provided in this note refers to that of the new Sau Mau Ping Estate.

	School Year					
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05 ²	2005/06
Demand (no. of classrooms)	61	73	74	74	74	85
Supply (no. of classrooms)	48	60	84 ³	84	84	84 ⁴

3. Separately, we have examined the feasibility of co-locating the two basketball courts in the school compound. Co-location will require modification of the school layout from the original L-shape (Enclosure 1) to an elongated design. We do not consider an elongated design desirable because –

- (a) the elongated design will require relocation of the vehicular access to either the eastern side or the western side of the school site (the two options are shown in Enclosures 2 and 3). The parking spaces will also need to be re-arranged accordingly. Under either scenario, manoeuvring of school buses within the school compound will have to take place in the school playground area. This will put students' safety at risk;
- (b) if the vehicular access is relocated to the eastern side of the school site, it will be close to a bend on Sau Ming Road (Enclosure 2). The Commissioner for Transport objects to this for traffic safety reasons. The Commissioner also has reservation if the access is relocated to the western side (Enclosure 3), since it will be in close proximity to the junction of an estate road and Sau Ming Road causing congestion problem; and

/(c)

² The new Sau Mau Ping Estate is planned to be completely developed by August 2005. The statistics on demand for primary school places in 2004/05 school year are tentative since the Housing Authority may adjust the timing for the final phases of the re-development.

³ The additional 24 classrooms are provided by project **278EP**, planned for completion in December 2001.

⁴ The slight shortfall of one classroom will be met by other schools in the vicinity.

- (c) adopting a non-standard design at this stage will require redesign of the school and revision to tender documents. The Director of Architectural Services advises that this will cause delay to the project by about one year, i.e. the completion date will be deferred to December 2002. The proposed project is to enable an existing bi-sessional primary school in Kwun Tong to convert to whole-day operation to achieve our policy target of enabling 60% of pupils in public sector schools to study on a whole-day basis by the commencement of the school year 2002/03. The delay in the completion of the project will affect our achievement of this policy target.

4. In view of the above considerations, the Administration does not consider it appropriate to co-locate the two basketball courts of the proposed primary school. However, with a view to improving the layout of the school, the Administration will re-arrange the parking spaces in the school compound so as to allow a larger playground area for sport activities. The new proposed layout (Enclosure 4) provides for a mini-football field with line markings for a basketball court at the northern side of the school building. This is in addition to the basketball court at the eastern side. This change carries no additional financial implications.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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