

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Education Resource Centre

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the establishment of an Education Resource Centre (ERC) at the former St. George's School site in Kowloon Tong.

Background

2. The Administration proposes to construct ERC on top of a Public Transport Interchange (PTI) at the former St. George's School site in Kowloon Tong. ERC is planned to come into place in 2004.

Facilities of ERC

3. ERC will principally house : -
- a) a variety of education resource centres and various special education units, which are at present occupying four former government schools and other premises in commercial office buildings scattered across the territory;

- b) the district education offices of the Education Department (ED) in Kowloon region; and
- c) facilities to support the implementation of worthwhile education initiatives.

4. On (c) above, we are still fine-tuning our options on how to make the best use of the space available. Some possibilities include an information technology learning centre and a regional centre to support life-long learning. We will advise the Finance Committee (FC) of the details when we make the funding submission at a later stage.

5. The ERC will be a six storey structure which, together with the PTI, will be 51 meters tall. Current height restriction in Kowloon Tong limits development on the site to no more than 51 metres above the principal datum. The proposal therefore has maximized the site potential.

Benefits brought by ERC

6. We envisage that ERC will bring about the following benefits:
- a) improving the standard of services by reprovisioning scattered units in a centrally located area;
 - b) providing a focal point of resources support to teachers in the delivery of quality education to meet the dynamics in educational

and teaching needs;

- c) facilitating constructive exchanges among educational professionals with a view to delivering quality education and exploring diversified teaching/learning modes;
- d) providing an integrated and more efficient service to the public through centralizing the district education offices in the Kowloon region;
- e) vacating existing sites where the resources centres are located and, where feasible, redeveloping the sites for other educational purposes;
- f) releasing existing office space occupied by various ED's units;
and
- g) making available multi-purpose education and learning rooms, theatres and other facilities in ERC to the community within and outside office hours.

Financial Implications

7. The ERC and PTI will form an integrated structure; the two projects will therefore be treated as one for the purpose of funding and construction. The combined estimated costs for the two projects are \$751 million, including a pre-contract consultancy services at an estimated cost of \$49 million. The construction cost of the building to

house the ERC is \$403 million. There will be no additional staffing implications.

Way Forward

8. We aim to make a submission to the Public Works Subcommittee in November/December 1999 with a view to obtaining approval from FC in December 1999 for the necessary funding to conduct the pre-contract consultancy services. After completion of the consultancy services, we will seek FC's funding approval for actual construction some time in the second half of 2000.

Education and Manpower Bureau

November 1999