

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on 96ET – Special school in Area 3, Yuen Long, for moderately mentally handicapped children

INTRODUCTION

In considering PWSC(2002-03)75 on **96ET** at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 18 December 2002, Members requested the Administration to –

- (a) examine the feasibility of providing a green corner of a larger size at an alternative location that could take in adequate natural light;
- (b) explore the feasibility of including the temporary carpark adjacent to the school site for the provision of more space for students' activities; and
- (c) consider applying renewable energy in capital works projects, in particular school projects.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Green corner

2. The green corner shown on the site plan attached to PWSC(2002-03)75 is for indicative purpose only. In working out the detailed design, the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) will follow the established practice of consulting the school sponsor concerned on the exact location and size of the green corner in order to suit the specific needs of the school and its students.

/Inclusion

Inclusion of the adjacent temporary carpark into the school site

3. EMB has considered the proposal to include the adjacent temporary carpark into the school site of **96ET** in consultation with the departments concerned. The Administration considers that the provision of space for the school is adequate.

4. The special school, designed to accommodate about 100 students, sits on a site of 4 900 square meters. We consider the size of the site optimal for a ten-classroom special school with boarding facilities. The provision is favourable when compared with the regular provision of site area of a 30-classroom standard design primary school, which is about 6 200 square metres for some 1 000 students.

5. Ample open space including a basketball court and an outdoor recreation area will be provided to the school. In addition, a covered playground, outdoor seating benches and landscaped areas will also be provided for student activities. The provision is considerably higher than the planning target of providing two square metres of open space per student for a standard design primary school. Adequate circulation areas will also ensure a safe environment for the handicapped students.

Renewable energy

6. The Director of Architectural Services has been actively exploring the application of renewable energy to new school projects. As a pilot-cum-research project, we have installed an array of solar panels sponsored by China Light and Power Research Institute on a school under **288EP** "Primary school in Ma Wan, Tsuen Wan". In addition to energy saving, the installation enhances students' awareness of opportunities for harnessing renewable energy and in this sense, the solar panels could also serve as educational tools. We would assess the usefulness and cost-effectiveness of the pilot project after commencement of its operation in September 2003. We would also consider applying similar installations in other capital works projects as far as practicable in the future.