

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Latest development of an approved school project 322EP – Second primary school in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai

PURPOSE

This note informs Members of the latest development of an approved primary school project under **322EP** in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long.

BACKGROUND

2. On 30 April 2004, the Finance Committee (FC) approved the upgrading of **322EP** to Category A for the construction of a 30-classroom primary school in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long. The project was completed in August 2006. At the time we sought FC's funding approval for project **322EP**, we intended to allocate the premises to an existing bi-sessional school for whole-day conversion.

LATEST DEVELOPMENT

3. With the decline in student population in recent years, we have reviewed whether the successful applicant would still need an additional school premises to facilitate its conversion into whole-day operation. The successful applicant has subsequently confirmed that the bi-sessional school in question should be able to offer whole-day education in its existing premises beginning September 2006. Taking into consideration the supply and demand of school places and also the standards of education facilities in existing schools, we believe that the premises so released should best be used, after necessary supplementary works, for reprovisioning an existing secondary school housed in substandard premises. The objective is to improve the learning environment of students.

4. We briefed the Social Services, Housing and Publicity Committee of the Yuen Long District Council on the latest development in May 2006 and July 2006. Members of the committee supported the proposed use of the premises.

5. We will proceed with detailed plans for the supplementary works and seek the necessary funding approval from FC in due course. In the meantime, we have invited applications from school sponsoring bodies wishing to re-provision their existing secondary schools, including direct subsidy scheme schools. In order to put the new school premises into gainful uses as soon as possible, the successful applicant is expected to operate therein activities which are in the interests of the students and the local community pending completion of the supplementary works. We will make it clear that early occupation of the premises for the operation of such activities should not pre-empt subsequent funding approval for the supplementary works required for re-provisioning purpose.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The cost for the supplementary works is subject to a feasibility study which is in progress. We will seek approval for the funding required upon completion of the detailed design.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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