

**For information**

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**

**325EP – First primary school in Area 13, Yuen Long**  
**326EP – Second primary school in Area 13, Yuen Long**

**PURPOSE**

At the meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education on 24 October 2005, we briefed Members on our review of the School Building Programme. Members generally supported our recommendation to proceed with school projects for converting existing bi-sessional primary schools to whole-day operation. This paper informs Members of our plan to seek funding approval for two of those primary school projects, viz. the construction of two primary schools in Area 13, Yuen Long at a total estimated cost of \$210.4 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The projects will be considered by the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee on 29 May 2006.

**JUSTIFICATIONS**

2. It is Government's policy to implement whole-day schooling for virtually all primary school students by the 2007/08 school year. In the 2005/06 school year, the provision of whole-day primary school places has reached over 80%. To facilitate implementation of the policy, we have included in our School Building Programme 16 primary school projects, including **325EP** and **326EP**.

3. It was set out in our Panel paper to Members last October that **325EP** would proceed as originally planned and that **326EP** would only proceed if the bi-sessional school concerned could maintain its enrolment in the 2006/07 school year. Based on the latest enrolment situation, the bi-sessional school allocated **326EP** would enrol four Primary One classes in the 2006/07 school year and therefore, we would proceed with **326EP** with a scope of 24 classrooms.

4. Upon their completion in July 2008, **325EP** and **326EP** will provide 30 and 24 primary classes respectively for converting two existing primary schools to whole-day operation in the same district. Since the projects are meant to facilitate existing bi-sessional primary schools to switch to whole-day operation, they will not affect the supply of school places in the Yuen Long District.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The capital costs of **325EP** and **326EP** are \$110.2 million and \$100.2 million respectively. We have derived the MOD estimates on the basis of the Government's latest forecast of trend rate of change in the prices for public sector building and construction output for the period from 2006 to 2011. The estimated construction unit costs represented by the building and the building services costs of **325EP** and **326EP** are \$5,359/m<sup>2</sup> and \$5,726/m<sup>2</sup> respectively of construction floor area in September 2005 prices. We consider these comparable to similar school projects built by the Government. Facilities of the two new school premises are at the Enclosure.

6. We estimate the annual recurrent expenditures for **325EP** and **326EP** to be \$25.9 million and \$18.7 million respectively.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

7. Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to start the construction works in November 2006 for completion in July 2008.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Education on 24 October 2005 on our review of allocated projects in the School Building Programme. The Panel supported our recommendation to proceed with school projects for converting existing bi-sessional primary schools to whole-day operation.

9. We also consulted the Yuen Long District Council on the two projects on 10 March 2006. Members of the Council supported the projects.

**Enclosure**

**Facilities of the new school premises proposed under 325EP and 326EP**

	<b>325EP</b>	<b>326EP</b>
(a) classrooms	30	24
(b) special rooms, including a computer-assisted learning room and a language room	6	6
(c) small group teaching rooms	4	4
(d) guidance activity room	1	1
(e) interview rooms	2	2
(f) staff room	1	1
(g) staff common room	1	1
(h) student activity centre	1	1
(i) conference room	1	1
(j) library	1	1
(k) assembly hall (which can be used for a wide range of physical activities such as badminton, gymnastics and table-tennis )	1	1
(l) multi-purpose area	1	1
(m) basketball court at ground level	2	1
(n) ancillary accommodation, including a lift and relevant facilities for the handicapped	available	available

**Shared facilities**

- (o) 100-metre running track<sup>1</sup>;
- (p) green corner<sup>2</sup>; and
- (q) bus parking and loading/unloading facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Making optimal use of the space of the campus, a 100-metre running track will be provided.

<sup>2</sup> The green corner is a designated area inside the campus to enable students to develop an interest in horticulture and natural environment. The green corner may include a green-house, a weather station and planting beds.