

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 June 2011)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Progress report on the follow-up work pertaining to the recommendations in Report No. 55 of the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") on Direct Subsidy Scheme ("DSS") Schools

At the meeting on 14 March 2011, members agreed that the Panel would discuss the following issues relating to DSS schools -

11 July 2011

- (a) school fee remission/scholarship schemes;
- (b) student admission;
- (c) revision of school fees; and
- (d) governance, administration and financial management of DSS schools.

Members considered it necessary to discuss the pedagogy for Liberal Studies and the complaint handling mechanism in DSS schools in the context.

The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest development of its follow-up work done in respect of Report No. 55 of PAC on "Administration of the Direct Subsidy Scheme and Governance and Administration of Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools". The briefing will cover issues on school fee remission, scholarship schemes, revision of school fees, financial management and governance and internal control.

2. Review for the subvention arrangements of the English Schools Foundation ("ESF")

Item proposed by the Administration. In response to members' request at the meeting on 13 December 2010, the Administration will report to the Panel on the progress of the review for the subvention arrangements of ESF.

11 July 2011

Proposed timing
for discussion

3. Allocation of research funding

Members will be briefed on the changes in the allocation of research funding to the University Grants Committee -funded institutions.

11 July 2011

4. Revitalizing vacant school premises

Tai Po District Council members raised concern about revitalizing vacant school premises in Tai Po at its meeting with Legislative Council Members held on 3 June 2010. Members had made several suggestions concerning the effective use of vacant school premises and agreed that the subject of use of vacant school premises be referred to the Panel as well as the Panel on Home Affairs for follow up. The referral memo was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2197/09-10 on 24 August 2010.

To be
confirmed.

The Administration intends to provide an information note in July 2011 regarding the latest position of the disposal of vacant school premises following Secretary for Education's reply to a recent Legislative Council question.

5. Review of Non-means-tested Loan Schemes – Stage II Public Consultation

Item proposed by the Administration. Phase 1 of the public consultation ended on 15 June 2010. The item seeks members' views on the proposals to improve the operation of the loan schemes for further consultation with the public under Phase 2.

To be
confirmed

6. Report on the Higher Education Review 2010

At the meeting on 14 March 2011, members considered it necessary to discuss the views and concerns of the deputations on the Report and the Administration's response in this regard.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

7. Issues relating to the relocation of the centres of the Christian Zheng Sheng Association and development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools

The Administration provided an information paper on the matter which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2322/09-10 on 30 September 2010.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, members agreed that the Panel should discuss the matter depending on the progress of the Administration's discussion with Christian Zheng Sheng Association ("CZSA").

At the meeting on 14 February 2011, the Panel passed a motion requesting the Administration to solve in the near future the problem concerning the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centres of CZSA. In its written response to the motion which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1413/10-11 on 31 March 2011, the Administration advised that the Security Bureau is taking the lead in coordinating matters relating to the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centers of CZSA. The Administration also provided in its response a brief update on the Christian Zheng Sheng College's application for operating New Senior Secondary courses at its existing school premises in Ha Keng. In late April 2011, the Administration provided further information on the latest development of the matter (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1636/10-11(01) and (02)).

8. Grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, the UGC briefed members on the guidelines of best practices in redress mechanisms developed by the UGC having regard to the findings of the research on grievance procedures of 10 reputable overseas institutions and the responses of local institutions to these best practices. Members requested the UGC to provide updated complaint/grievance handling flow charts of individual institutions and the institutions' responses to the

To be
confirmed

UGC's recommendations for the Panel to follow up.

The research report entitled "Complaint handling mechanism in higher education sector in selected places" prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat was circulated to members on 13 October 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)32/10-11.

9. Matters relating to sex education in schools and sex crime committed by teachers

The subject on sex education in schools was proposed in the 2009-2010 session. It was proposed that schools should include sex education in the curriculum so as to provide correct information on sex to students.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting on 8 November 2010, members raised concern about sex crime committed by teachers and suggested that the Panel should discuss the matter.

10. International schools

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members raised concern about student enrolment in international schools built on land granted by the Government. The Administration provided an information paper on the subject which was circulated to members on 2 December 2009 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)429/09-10.

To be
confirmed

The Administration advised that to facilitate monitoring of the provision of public resources to international schools, it would conduct a comprehensive survey in the international school sector and keep track of the supply and demand of international school places. The Administration will brief the Panel upon the completion of the survey in 2011.

Proposed timing
for discussion

11. Integrated education

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members agreed to follow up the provision of support and resources for the implementation of integrated education in mainstream schools.

To be
confirmed

12. Review of eligibility of the mean-tested financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency

At the meeting on 9 May 2011, members raised concern about the impact of the implementation of the statutory minimum wage on the eligibility of the means-test financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency. The Administration was requested to conduct a review on the income ceiling of these schemes following the implementation of statutory minimum wage and report to the Panel.

To be
confirmed