

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)287/17-18(02)

Ref: CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Meeting on 1 December 2017

**Updated background brief on issues related to
the provision of hostels for post-secondary students**

Purpose

This paper summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by Members on the provision of hostels for students of University Grants Committee ("UGC")-funded institutions.

Background

2. Under the prevailing hostel policy, subject to availability of land and resources, the provision of publicly-funded student hostels to UGC-funded universities is calculated according to the following criteria ¹:

- (a) all local undergraduate students should be given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year of their programmes; and
- (b) all research postgraduate students, non-local students as well as undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours should be provided with student hostel places.

The actual allocation of hostel places by individual universities in a particular year will depend on the number of available places, the actual demand and their own allocation policies.

¹ The criteria do not apply to Lingnan University and The Education University of Hong Kong. Provision of hostel places in these two institutions are higher than others, i.e. 50% of their full-time degree student population, in recognition of the former's mission to develop itself into a fully residential liberal arts university, and the potential merits that hostel life brings in enhancing pre-service teacher education for the latter.

3. Currently, the Government funds up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the institutions concerned using their own sources of private funding. To address the problem of insufficient hostel facilities, the Chief Executive announced in her 2017 Policy Address that the Government will adopt a new approach by setting up a \$12 billion Hostel Development Fund to provide unit cost subsidy for the construction of university hostels.

Major views and concerns

4. The Panel on Education discussed issues related to the provision of student hostels to UGC-funded institutions at a number of meetings. Questions relating to the subject had also been raised at Council meetings and during the scrutiny of the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("Estimates of Expenditure"). The issues of concerns raised by Members are summarized below.

Inadequacy of hostel places

5. Members had all along been concerned about the shortfall in hostel places to meet the lodging needs of local and non-local students. Suggestions were raised to convert vacant school premises, Government quarters and factory buildings into student hostels so as to increase the supply of hostel places.

6. In response to a Member's question raised at the Council meeting of 9 January 2013 regarding the shortage of hostel places, the Administration advised that to optimize the use of limited land resources, apart from identifying new sites, institutions were encouraged to make use of suitable sites within the campus for hostel development or to redevelop existing campus buildings into hostels. Institutions could also explore various options, such as leasing private residential premises, to meet students' demand for hostel places.

7. During the scrutiny of the 2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure, Members had sought information about the supply for publicly-funded hostel places in the past and next three years. The Administration advised that four hostel projects providing some 4 500 hostel places had been completed between September 2012 and March 2017. One hostel project providing 676 hostel places to The Chinese University of Hong Kong was under construction for completion in mid-2018. The supply of and additional requirements for publicly-funded hostel places, with

breakdown by university, in the last three academic years are set out in **Appendix I**.

Criteria for allocating hostel places

8. There was also grave concern that the existing criteria for calculating the overall provision of publicly-funded student hostel places at UGC-funded institutions (paragraph 2(a) and (b) above) might cause possible unfairness to local students as it appeared that they would only be guaranteed student hostels for one year while non-local students would be provided with hostel places throughout their studies in Hong Kong. Some members called on the Administration to review the criteria so as to increase the opportunity for local students staying in hostels. A motion was passed at the Panel meeting on 8 May 2008, urging the Administration to revise the existing policy on the allocation of hostel places so that local students attending publicly-funded programmes in the UGC-funded institutions would be given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year, and non-local students should be guaranteed the provision of hostel places only in the first two years of their studies.

Latest position

9. At the Panel meeting on 1 December 2017, the Administration will brief members on the funding support for student hostel development in the UGC-funded sector.

Relevant papers

10. A list of relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix II**.

Appendix I

The supply of and additional requirements for publicly-funded hostel places in the last three academic years

University	Supply (S) and additional requirement (AR) for publicly-funded hostel places					
	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	S	AR	S	AR	S	AR
City University of Hong Kong	3 485	1 898	3 485	2 011	3 485	2 218
Hong Kong Baptist University	1 710	881	1 711	1 128	1 711	1 158
Lingnan University	1 300	-	1 300	-	1 300	-
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	6 182	1 271	6 182	1 304	6 182	1 579
The Education University of Hong Kong	2 003	-	2 003	-	2 003	-
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	4 654	1 250	4 654	1 406	4 654	1 790
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	4 101	1 159	4 141	953	4 141	1 337
The University of Hong Kong	5 725	1 891	5 728	1 858	5 730	2 121
Total	29 160	8 350	29 204	8 660	29 206	10 203

Regarding the number of additional publicly-funded hostel places in the coming three years, one hostel project, namely 8055EF "Student hostels on northern campus" with an approved project estimate of \$465.5 million (excluding 25% contribution by the institution) was approved by the Legislative Council in mid-2015. This project is currently under construction for completion in mid-2018. Upon its completion, it will provide 676 publicly-funded hostel places to The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Appendix II

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Education	11.12.2006 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Education	8.5.2008 (Item V)	Agenda CB(2)2536/07-08(01) CB(2)2590/07-08(01) Minutes
Panel on Education	9.3.2009 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Education	13.2.2012 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	9.1.2013	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 103-106 (Question 13)
Panel on Education	13.4.2015 (Item VI)	Agenda CB(4)810/14-15(01) Minutes
Finance Committee	7.4.2017	Administration's replies to Members initial written questions in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-2018 (Reply serial number: EDB 693)