

**Progress of Funding Support to Schools for On-site Meal Portioning and  
Proposal for Allocating Additional Fund**

**Purpose**

This paper reports the progress of funding support for on-site meal portioning at schools and seeks Members' views on the allocation of an additional \$100 million from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) for the above funding scheme.

**Background**

2. An allocation of \$50 million to support existing schools to implement on-site meal portioning was approved-in-principle by the Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-committee (WRPVSC) on 11 September 2009, which was subsequently endorsed in the ECF Committee meeting on 23 September 2009 (ECF Paper 28/2009-10).

3. The funding scheme was announced in the 2009-10 Policy Address in conjunction with the Green Lunch Charter to encourage schools to stop using disposable containers and adopt on-site meal portioning where possible. Three briefing sessions to representatives from over 500 schools were held on 17 November, 18 November and 2 December before ECF application started on 7 December 2009.

**Progress**

4. Up to end of February 2010, about 180 schools have indicated interest in the funding support. Out of these, about 125 are primary schools, 50 are secondary schools and the remaining are other types of schools. These schools are distributed in different districts of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF), entrusted by the ECF, has conducted visits to about 125 schools to assess their feasibility of implementing on-site meal portioning. About 60 cases are considered feasible whereas 40 cases are not feasible because of various technical reasons (e.g. inadequate electricity supply, lack of suitable space). The other 25 cases need to be further assessed. For schools which are considered feasible and have confirmed that they will implement on-site meal portioning, the EMSTF is assisting them in completing the ECF applications.

5. 25 applications for a sum of \$31 million have been received, with about 20 applications approved by the WPRVSC at the meetings held on 17 December 2009 and on 5 March 2010. Over 50% of the \$50 million allocated have been committed. WRPVSC expects to hold another meeting in early April to handle another batch of about 20 applications. It is anticipated that about 40 schools could have the works completed in the 2010 summer vacation so that on-site meal portioning will commence in the 2010/11 school term.

6. In a related development, catering area, drainage, water supply, furniture, electricity and ventilation works and related equipment will be included as the standard provisions of future new schools. Seven schools to be completed between February 2011 and February 2012 would be the first batch of new schools equipped with on-site meal portioning facilities.

### **Proposal**

7. Based on the data available so far, about 60% of schools visited are projected to be feasible in implementing on-site meal portioning. Hence, with about 180 schools having expressed interest in implementing on-site meal portioning, a total of about 100 (i.e.  $180 * 60\%$ ) ECF submissions are projected, with a total funding implication of around \$140 million (i.e. \$1.4 million per application\* 100).

8. It is proposed that an amount of \$100 million, in addition to the previous \$50 million, be allocated to the scheme. The WRPVSC, at its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 5 March 2010, recommended the said proposal for approval by the ECF Committee. Subject to the ECF Committee's approval, the same funding principle stated in the ECF Paper 28/2009-10 would be adopted for supporting schools to acquire facilities and conduct works for implementing on-site meal portioning.

9. Depending on further responses from schools, we will review the amount of funding required, and seek approval from the WRPVSC and the ECF Committee for additional resource as appropriate.

### **Advice Sought**

10. Members are invited to offer views on the proposed allocation of an additional \$100 million from the ECF for supporting applications from schools for implementing on-site meal portioning.

**Secretariat, Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-committee  
March 2010**