

# **APPENDIX C**

## **RECURRENT EXPENDITURE GROWTH IN KEY POLICY AREAS IN 1997-1998**

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**IN KEY POLICY AREAS IN 1997-1998**

Additional funds have been provided to finance the following major improvements in services in 1997-1998—

***Smillion***  
***(at 1996-1997 prices)***

**Education**

**1,170**

- 350 additional graduate teachers for primary schools
- 26 more primary schools operating on a whole-day basis
- Increased school places and support for new arrival children
- Implementing the recommendations of the Education Commission Report No. 6 to enhance language proficiency of students
- Enhanced support for Band 5 students
- More financial aid under the Textbook Assistance Scheme
- Improvements to teaching and learning of Putonghua
- Extending civic education to all primary and secondary levels
- Implementing the recommendations of the Board of Education to improve special education
- Integrating children with special needs in ordinary schools

**Environment**

**390**

- Additional operating costs of the various waste treatment facilities
- Increased operating costs resulting from the partial commissioning of Phase I of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme and projects in the Sewerage Master Plans

**Health**

**1,480**

- 669 additional hospital beds
- For the elderly, 5 nursing homes, enhancement of the general out-patient service and an additional community geriatric assessment team
- Enhancement of the specialist out-patient services in 2 hospitals
- 3 new clinics/health centres
- A new oral maxillofacial and dental unit
- Strengthening the Student Health Service
- Extension of the District Health System to Hong Kong Island
- Strengthening enforcement of food regulations
- Setting up a port health unit and a food inspection unit at the Chek Lap Kok airport
- Strengthening the pharmaceutical service for the control of the use of drugs

**\$million**  
**(at 1996-1997 prices)**

**1,570**

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**Social Welfare**

- For the elderly, an additional 1 546 residential places, 21 social centres, 4 day care centres and 5 multi-service centres
- For people with a disability, an additional 1 664 residential places and 1 150 day places, 2 emergency residential care units, a new domiciliary occupational therapy service, 5 clinical psychologists and 3 regional centres of the Community Rehabilitation Network for the chronically ill
- For children, an additional 3 149 day nursery places, 362 day crèche places, 30 residential home places and 6 small group homes
- An additional 240 pre-school places for children with a disability of which 6 are extra places for autistic children in special child care centres with additional staff
- An additional 7 family caseworkers and 3 home help teams to strengthen family support services
- 14 more school social workers and 1 more outreaching social work team for young people at risk
- 12 additional medical social workers
- A further improvement to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme by allowing elderly recipients to receive their monthly standard payment while retiring to Guangdong Province, China