

SWD implements programme to purchase premises for provision of welfare facilities

The Social Welfare Department (SWD), with the assistance of the Government Property Agency (GPA), has since the end of September been implementing a programme to purchase private premises for accommodating welfare facilities. The SWD announced today (December 23) that owners of potentially suitable non-domestic premises available for sale in Sham Shui Po District, Wan Chai District and Kwai Tsing District may submit their sale proposals to the GPA for consideration.

"With funding approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Government is proceeding to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities, including child care centres, day care centres for the elderly, neighbourhood elderly centres and offices for on-site pre-school rehabilitation services, to help address the shortage of welfare premises," a spokesman for the SWD said.

The SWD will purchase in batches accommodation for about 160 welfare facilities in 18 districts, as listed in the Annex.

Target premises for purchase include commercial premises/offices (excluding Grade A office buildings in central business districts) or premises of revitalised industrial buildings.

The GPA will assist the SWD to identify suitable premises. Information on the welfare facilities to be accommodated in the first batch of premises to be purchased and details on submission of sale proposals are now provided on the GPA's website (www.gpa.gov.hk/english/premises/invitation.html).

"Owners of potentially suitable premises who may wish to offer their premises are invited to check the deadlines for submission of sale proposals for individual districts, as those submitted after the respective deadlines may not be considered by the Government," the spokesman added.