

\$1.3 billion pay rise to civil servants for approval today

THE Finance Committee will be asked today to increase civil servants' pay scales by 6.30 per cent for the upper band, 6.40 per cent for the middle band and 7.13 per cent for the lower band.

The rise will be effective from April 1.

This follows the acceptance of a pay trend survey based on the above indicators by staff associations and the Police Force Council last month.

The survey was commissioned by the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries into the pay and conditions of service of 64 private companies for February 1986 to January 1987.

The Finance Committee will also be asked to approve similar adjustments to scales for employees of subvented organisations that are normally adjusted in line with civil service pay.

Applications from other organisations subvented by the Government will be considered according to merit.

The total cost is estimated at about \$1,312 million for the financial year.

Other items to be considered by the Finance Committee are:

- The extra cost of retaining the "adviser on psychological services" for another two years in the Correctional Services Department.

- An increased equipment allowance to each cadet of the police cadet school and delegated power to approve future increases.

- Buying two single engine training aircraft and increasing the establishment ceiling for the Royal Hongkong Auxiliary Air Force.

- Financial implications of annual recurrent expenditure of implementing stage 1 of computer literacy courses for Forms I to III in public sector secondary schools.

- The increased cost of constructing and equipping Phase I of the permanent campus for the City Polytechnic of Hongkong.

- An incentive award scheme for Chinese textbooks in selected subjects for secondary schools.

- A capital grant from the Lotteries Fund to the

Kowloon Union Church for a hostel and work activity centre for severely mentally handicapped adults.

- A project estimate for Phase XI and a net decrease in the total project estimates for Phases I to X of the Home Ownership Scheme.

- Grants to the Hongkong Buddhist Association for constructing a home for the aged and care and attention centre.

- Buying a computerised system to assist in the processing of the Labour Department's employee compensation cases.