

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education and Publicity Sub-Committee

Paper 01/03

Terms of Reference of the Sub-committee

Purpose

This paper invites Members' views on the appropriate Terms of Reference for this Sub-committee.

Proposal

2. We **propose** the following terms of reference for the Education and Publicity Sub-committee for Members' consideration -

- (a) To advise on an ongoing education and publicity programme to promote public awareness and understanding of the concept and practice of sustainable development;
- (b) To foster partnerships with stakeholders in the community on initiatives aimed at promoting public awareness of and community participation in sustainable development; and
- (c) To advise on the disbursement of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund in accordance with the funding criteria determined by the Council for Sustainable Development.

Considerations

3. At its meeting on 1 April 2003, the Council for Sustainable Development (the Council) agreed to establish the Education and Publicity Sub-committee to advise on initiatives aimed at promoting awareness of sustainable development, including the assessment of applications for grants from the Sustainable Development Fund¹.

4. In his 1999 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the functions of the Council would include -

“to provide expert advice to the Government and keep the public regularly informed about its work, so that we can build a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development. It will also encourage the community to put the concept of sustainable development into practice. To further this objective, I propose that a \$100 million grant be made to support community initiatives on sustainable development especially on educational programmes for citizens and students to develop a strong awareness of sustainability.”

5. The Council adopted the following Terms of Reference at its meeting on 1 April 2003 -

- (a) To advise the Government on the priority areas that it should address in promoting sustainable development;
- (b) To advise the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- (c) To facilitate community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
- (d) To promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development in partnership with stakeholders.

¹ Subject to approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council of the necessary resources.

6. The proposed Terms of Reference for this Sub-committee reflect the latter two Terms of Reference of the Council as well as the intention set out in the 1999 Policy Address that the Council involve stakeholders in building community awareness of sustainable development.

Further Action

7. Subject to Members' views, we shall publicise the proposed Terms of Reference of the Sub-committee.

Council Secretariat
May 2003