

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paper 01/04

Report of the Strategy Sub-committee

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) since the Council meeting on 16 December 2003.

Formation of the Support Groups (SG)

2. At its last meeting, the Council agreed that three Pilot Areas (PA), namely: “Renewable Energy”, “Solid Waste Management” and “Urban Planning Priorities” should form the basis for engaging the community in the first “round” of the Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy building process. Members further agreed that three Support Groups (SG) should be formed to assist in collecting and presenting information on the PA to the public. In accordance with the timetable presented at the last meeting, the SG were formed in February, and have begun work on collecting information and preparing documents for public consultation. Membership lists for the three groups and the terms of reference of the SG are at **Annex A** for Members’ information.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

3. As reported at the last meeting, and as broadly agreed at the stakeholder workshop run by the Council in November last year, the engagement process should involve the wider public and should help to build consensus and facilitate dialogue with the community on issues related to Hong Kong’s long-term sustainable development. The first stage in this process is for the SG to compile “Invitation and Response” (IR) documents, which would form the basis for public consultation under the second stage of

the engagement process. The SSC had agreed a “standard template” for these documents (at **Annex B**, for reference), and the groups are researching into the subject, with a view to completing the IR documents by the end of May and starting the public consultation stage of the engagement process in early June.

4. In order to create the maximum public impact and emphasise the fact that the engagement process relates primarily to an integrated SD strategy rather than solely to the policy areas covered by the respective PA, the SG have suggested that the consultation stage of the three PA be synchronised as far as practicable, and in particular at the beginning of the exercise. This approach would also facilitate a consolidated public relations effort that could stimulate greater media coverage and allow for cost-effective use of public resources.

5. SSC Members have also suggested considering the feasibility of inviting NGO and business organisations to be “partners” in the engagement process to underline the point that the formulation of an SD strategy is an exercise underpinned by community-wide partnership aimed at developing common long-term sustainability goals. In consultation with the SG, the SSC will consider and oversee engagement strategies to facilitate public participation, and develop publicity programmes to assist in the hosting of events related to the consultation stage of the engagement process.

Annex A

**Support Group on Renewable Energy
Membership**

- Convenor : Ir Otto Poon
- Member : Ms Anne Copeland Chiu
- Manab Chakraborty
- Professor K C Chan
- Mr Gary Chang
- Professor Ho Kin-chung
- Dr Gail Kendall
- Mr James Kwan
- Dr Ng Cho-nam
- Mr Raistlin Lau
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
- Mr Ho Kwong-wai
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
- Mr John Floyd
Economic Development and Labour Bureau

**Support Group on Solid Waste Management
Membership**

Convenor : Mr Albert Lai

Member : Mr Chandran Nair

Mr Chua Hoi-wai

Dr Chung Shan-shan

Professor Sunny Kwong

Mr Lam Kin-lai

Mr Billy Leung

Dr Man Chi-sum

Professor Poon Chi-sun

Mr James Tam

Mr Plato Yip

Miss Winnie Ho
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau

Dr Ellen Chan
Environmental Protection Department

Support Group on Urban Planning Priorities

Membership

- Convenor : Professor Peter Hills
- Member : Mr Tik Chi-yuen
- Dr Chan Wai-kwan
- Professor Anthony Cooray
- Professor Timothy Hau
- Mr Michael Lai
- Mr Andrew Lam
- Dr K S Lo
- Ms Iris Tam
- Mr Lew Young
- Miss Christine Chow
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
- Mr Augustine Ng
Planning Department
- Mr K M Mo
Buildings Department

Terms of Reference of the Support Groups

The Support Group is to assist the Strategy Sub-committee to –

- (a) identify key issues relevant to Hong Kong's long-term sustainability in the Pilot Area, with appropriate reference to international experience and practice.
- (b) collect relevant background information (with reference to local and international experience) and compile an “Invitation and Response” document in accordance with the attached template.
- (c) design and implement an engagement process for public discussion of the “Invitation and Response” document and related issues.
- (d) present the “Invitation and Response” document to the public and to encourage and facilitate interactive discussion by stakeholders with a view to building consensus among major groups.
- (e) receive and collate responses from stakeholders, with a view to making proposals to the Council for Sustainable Development.

Annex B

Proposed Template of the “Invitation and Response” Document

Baseline information

The section would set out data regarding the situation in Hong Kong with respect to the Pilot Area, including ongoing proposals for action. Such information could also help with setting benchmarks for measuring the effectiveness of proposed measures. Where appropriate, relevant information drawn from other administrations would be presented in this section.

Challenges in addressing the Pilot Area

The section would briefly describe key challenges to Hong Kong’s long-term sustainable development posed by the situation in the Pilot Area. Appropriate reference would be made in particular to specific social, environmental and economic issues.

Potential sustainability goals to be achieved in addressing the Pilot Area

The section would suggest possible options drawing on overseas experience and practices and their effect on the sustainable development of Hong Kong – however it would NOT recommend absolute goals to be achieved. The section would also set out possible pros and cons of the suggested options, and would make specific reference to potential implications for social equity, quality of the natural environment and economic development.

Possible ways of achieving the key goals

Following from above, again, rather than recommend specific measures to be adopted, the document would outline options, together with the relevant pros and cons for achieving key goals, with reference to the overall sustainability “picture” and potential constraints. The section would evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of each option in the broader sustainability context, and would also evaluate likely constraints involved in implementing these locally.