

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paper 04/05

Report of the Strategy Sub-committee

Introduction

This paper reports on the work of the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC), with particular reference to the outcome of the stakeholder engagement process for formulating an initial Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy for Hong Kong.

Report on the Engagement Process

2. The five-stage engagement process endorsed by the Council for developing Hong Kong's initial SD Strategy is as follows -

- I.* Identifying Pilot Areas
- II.* Preparation of an "Invitation and Response" (IR) document
- III.* Directly involving the wider community
- IV.* Reporting
- V.* The Government to act.

3. The SD Strategy Summit on 13 December 2004 formally concluded Stage III, i.e., the community involvement stage of the process. The SSC, with the help of the three Support Groups has assessed the response from the community and has also considered formal responses from government bureaux and departments to the (IR) document and the findings of the engagement process.

The Draft Report

4. The draft report at Annex A reviews the engagement process, and in Chapter 3 focusses on the principles distilled from stakeholder feedback and targets suggested by the three Support Groups. Chapter 4 summarises the Government response to these principles and targets, as well as to the IR document.

5. Chapter 5 sets out a set of draft recommendations for the Council's consideration. These do *not* represent recommendations from the SSC per se. Rather, they are meant to provide a basis for the Council's own decision on the recommendations that should be put forward in the light of the findings of the engagement process and the Government response. Council Members may wish to

amend, delete or add recommendations, as appropriate.

The Engagement Process

6. The engagement process represented an initial attempt of the Council to devise a broad-based, inclusive and transparent process to involve stakeholders in partnerships for building a sustainable development strategy. Chapter 6 of the report at Annex A briefly reviews the process and suggests possible improvements. Again, Members may wish to suggest amendments to this chapter.

7. In considering the effectiveness of the engagement process, Members of the SSC – as well as Members of the Council who attended the retreat in November 2004 – have also raised the question of whether the institutional framework for further developing the process needs to be reviewed. In particular, concern was expressed as to the extent of the resources available to the Council, given that this first exercise had relied heavily on the efforts of volunteers and partner organisations that would not always be available to devote time to such a campaign.

8. Members may wish to give their views on whether the engagement process might be further enhanced by providing an appropriate degree of further institutional support to the Council.

Next Steps

9. Subject to Members' advice, the Council Secretariat will revise and consolidate the report at Annex A as the Council's formal advice on an initial SD Strategy for Hong Kong in respect of the three Pilot Areas (Solid Waste Management, Renewable Energy and Urban Living Space). The report will be published on the SD Strategy website (www.susdev.org.hk). In accordance with stage V of the engagement process, it will then be up to Government, "having taken into consideration the Council's advice, [to] publish a strategy document outlining the measures that it will propose in order to move towards sustainable outcomes in the relevant Pilot Areas" (IR document, Chapter 1). We envisage that Government would publish such a document by the middle of 2005.

Council Secretariat
February 2005