

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy Sub-committee

Date : 8 January 2004

Time : 4.30 pm

Chairman : Dr Edgar Cheng

Members : Ms Choy So-yuk
Professor K C Lam
Ir Otto Poon
Dr Sarah Liao, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW)
Ms Anne Copeland Chiu
Professor Peter Hills
Dr Joseph Lian
Mr Chandran Nair
Mr Ng Shui-lai

Apologies : Dr Lily Chiang
Mr Tik Chi-yuen
Mr Albert Lai
Mr Peter T S Wong

In attendance : Mr Eric K Lee, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 2

Secretary : Mr Jonathan McKinley, Assistant Director of Administration (SD) 2

Item 1 – Matters arising from the last meeting

A digest of the proceedings would be published online subsequent to the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting.

Item 2 – Paper 01/04: Support Groups for the SD Strategy: Membership and Terms of Reference

Members noted the proposal contained in Paper 01/04, which emphasised the need to strike a balance between “inclusiveness” and “effectiveness” in determining the membership of the Support Groups (SGs). Members suggested that the SGs be given the flexibility to work out their own programmes, including inviting people with specific knowledge or expertise to contribute to their work on *ad hoc* basis.

Members commented that the SGs should concentrate on putting together the “Invitation and Response” documents and organising public discussion rather than debating the substance of the Pilot Areas. The “Invitation and Response” documents should present objective information aimed at stimulating informed public debate on key issues.

Members expressed concern about whether there would be sufficient resources to support the work of the SGs. The **Secretary** said that the SDU would facilitate the work of the groups. As well as taking advice from Members of this Sub-committee, the Unit would draw on the support of relevant government bureaux and departments in providing the information necessary for compilation of the “Invitation and Response” documents.

Item 3 – Paper 02/04: “Invitation and Response” Documents: Template and Consultation Mechanism

Members noted the draft document template and possible consultation mechanisms set out in this paper. Members agreed that the SGs should have the flexibility to design their own consultation programmes in light of the needs of individual Pilot Areas.

Members suggested that the consultation documents make reference to local and international best practices in setting out baseline information and addressing the key challenges to sustainable development in the Pilot Areas. The documents should be “action oriented” and encourage thinking on specific targets, means to achieve the targets and the responsible parties for implementation.

Members were concerned that the time allowed for public consultation should be adequate for a full public debate. The implementation of a credible engagement process was more important than rushing issues through simply to produce a “deliverable”. Members agreed that the consultation period should be lengthened as necessary.

Item 4 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 5 February 2004 at 4.30 pm.

Council Secretariat
February 2004