

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Paper 01/05

Draft Report on the Sustainable Development Strategy

Introduction

Following the completion of the public involvement stage of the engagement process for the Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy, the next stage in the process is for the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC), with the help of the Support Groups (SG), to assess the response from the community and present a report to the Council for SD. In consultation with the SG, the SD Strategy Rapporteur has prepared the draft report at the **Annex**, which: describes the engagement process; outlines the principles that have emerged from the process - as refined by the SG - and the Government's response to these; and puts forward options and recommendations for consideration. The report also summarises some of the stakeholders' views on the engagement process and outlines possible areas for improvement.

Progress of the Engagement Process

2. The five-stage engagement process devised by the Council for Sustainable Development 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. Following the SD Strategy Summit on 13 December, which formally concluded the community involvement stage of the process with, this Sub-committee now has the task of assessing the response from the community and presenting a report to the Council (as outlined in the description of stage IV of the process in Chapter 1 of the IR document).

The Draft Report

4. The report at the Annex briefly reviews the key elements of the engagement process, and in Chapter 3, focuses on the principles and targets distilled from the feedback from stakeholders. Altogether, 16 principles are put forward, most of which propose quantifiable targets or specific timetables for action by the Government as part of an SD Strategy in the three Pilot Areas.

5. In Chapter 4, the report addresses the Government response to these principles. In early December 2004, the Government was invited to respond to the IR document and to the principles emerging from the findings of the community involvement stage. Following the SD Strategy Summit in mid-December and the meetings of the SG in January 2005, there have been modifications to these principles, and individual government bureaux have accordingly been invited to give a supplementary response. Taking account of the Government Response, Chapter 5 of the report sets out a series of

options for taking forward the SD Strategy in relation to each of the Pilot Areas. Representatives of relevant bureaux and departments have been invited to this meeting of the SSC to comment directly to members on the viability of the various options.

6. The report concludes, in Chapter 6, with a number of conclusions on the conduct of the engagement process and suggestions as to how this might be improved, derived from feedback collected during the community involvement stage.

Next Steps

7. Following this meeting, in the light of Members' comments, the Chair of the SSC will brief the full Council on 21 February on the outcome of the engagement process, and present the report on the SD Strategy in the form of a draft report from the Council for SD to the Government. Subject to the comments of Council Members, the SDU will on behalf of the Council consolidate the report as the Council's formal advice to the Government on the SD Strategy. In accordance with stage V of the engagement process, it will then be up to the 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).

Council Secretariat

1 February 2005