

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Paper 05/05

Implementation of the Second Engagement Process

Purpose

This paper invites Members' further views on the implementation of the second engagement process subsequent to the identification of new Priority Areas (Stage I of the process).

Engagement Process

2. The five-stage engagement process, devised and implemented by the Council for SD for the first exercise, was as follows -

- I. Identify Priority Areas
- II. Prepare an "Invitation and Response" (IR) document
- III. Directly involve the community
- IV. Report back to the Government
- V. The Government to act

3. The second engagement process began with the stakeholder forum on 28 July to invite public views on potential new Priority Areas. Members have considered the outcomes of the forum when discussing Paper 04/05.

4. The following paragraphs consider the implementation of the later stages of the engagement process, in the light of proposals set out in the SSC paper 02/05 and views expressed by Members at the meeting on 2 June.

Preparation of an "Invitation and Response" (IR) document

5. Stage II of the engagement process will involve preparing an IR

document that should provide concise, accessible and relevant information related to the new Priority Area. Members earlier agreed that a **Support Group (SG)** should be established to lead the preparation of the IR document and help plan the following stages of the process.

6. Once the Council has advised on the Priority Area for the next round, we will invite appropriate people from different sectors of the community – including government representatives – to join the new SG, which we propose be chaired by an SSC Member. Members may wish to offer views as to the **size and composition of the SG**.

7. To facilitate more in-depth discussion in the community, Members earlier noted the option of engaging dedicated **research support** to help the SSC and the SG prepare more comprehensive information to be included in the IR document for public reference. Depending on the choice of the new Priority Area, we will work with the SG and engage dedicated research support as necessary.

Involving the wider community

8. Stage III of the engagement process – the public involvement stage, which starts with the launch of the IR document – will entail a participatory discussion among stakeholders from all related sectors. Whilst the SSC and SG will address the detailed arrangements in due course, Members may wish first to consider a number of issues that will affect the overall planning and execution of the process.

9. In the last exercise, the Council engaged three **partner organisations**¹ to help implement a number of engagement events. To continue to forge common ownership of the process, it is proposed to maintain this practice. Members may wish to consider whether to involve the same partner organisations or other stakeholder groups², which also have an interest in SD issues.

¹ Partner organisations for the first engagement process include: -- Business Environment Council, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and Hong Kong People's Council for SD.

² The Council also received support and advice from a number of other organisations in the last exercise, in particular: -- Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong), Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, and Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

10. During the organisation of Stage III of the last exercise, the District Offices under the Home Affairs Department helped in engaging stakeholders from the **District Councils (DC)** and various district-based organisations. In view of the representative status of the DC at local level, Members have agreed to invite the DC to play a more clearly defined partnership role in promoting community involvement. The Secretariat will follow up with the Home Affairs Department and the District Offices on this front.

Reporting back to the Government

11. In Stage IV of the engagement process, the Council will review and report on the community feedback, invite a response from the Government, and advise on the way forward for the Priority Area.

12. To ensure credibility of the process, Members considered that the reporting process should provide an objective assessment of public views to supplement the Council's final recommendations on the SD Strategy. To enhance this process, Members earlier agreed to engage an **independent agency to prepare a parallel report** in consultation with community stakeholders, in addition to the Council's own report.

13. Similar to the last exercise, to promote transparency of the process, the **detailed reports** on individual events in Stage III will be posted on the SD Strategy website for public information, and to promote further dialogue with the community.

Views Sought

14. Members are invited to comment on the above issues to enable the Secretariat to plan for further implementation of the second engagement process, pursuant to the advice of the full Council on new Priority Areas.

2 August 2005

Council Secretariat