

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Strategy Sub-committee

### Paper 06/04

#### Partnership Arrangement for the Engagement Process

##### Introduction

According to the current timetable, the Council for Sustainable Development (C for SD) will issue Information & Response (IR) documents in June this year. This will create a focus for a wide-ranging public engagement process on the three Pilot Areas initially identified for the Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy, and represents a departure from past methods of public consultation. The process should give the C for SD an opportunity to shape the agenda on sustainability issues. It is important that this process be inclusive, transparent and creative.

2. There are main stages in this process –
  - (a) **Production** of IR documents and design of the consultation programme;
  - (b) **Public Involvement** and gathering of feedback during the consultation programme; and
  - (c) **Reporting Back** to the C for SD after the consultation programme

##### Partner Organisations

3. For each of these three stages there will be a need for partner organisations to assist the C for SD and thereby help fulfil its role as a “bridge” between the Government and the community. The partners will

lend credibility and legitimacy to the process as well as draw upon the resources of the wider community at each stage of the engagement process. The objective will be to forge a common ownership of the process and create trust between all parties. This will be important as the process gets underway, particularly during the Public Involvement stage.

4. It is recommended that the following organisations initially be invited to be partners –

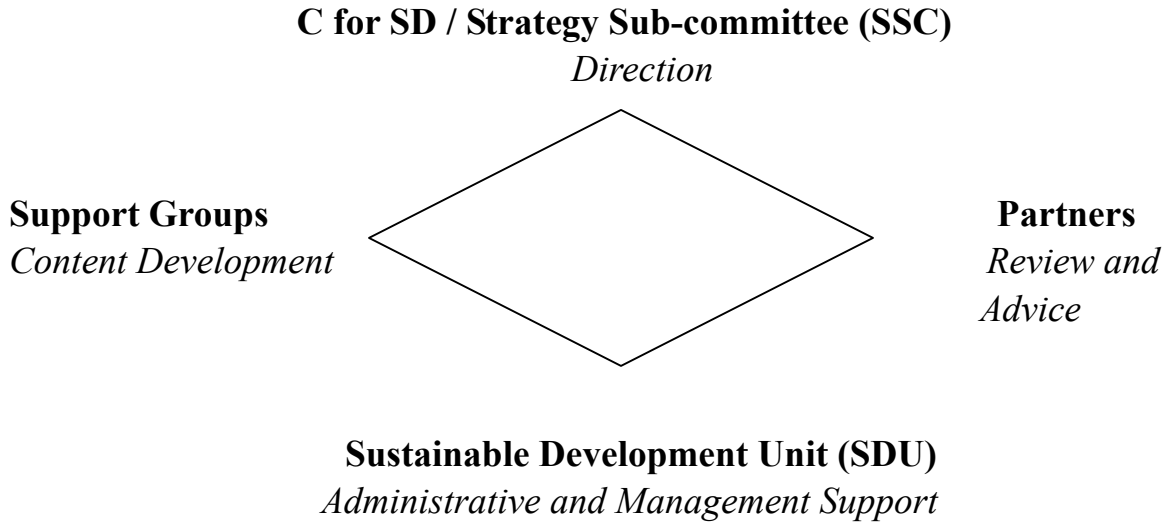
- Business Environment Council – representing business interests with environmental concerns
- Hong Kong Council of Social Services – for the social sector
- People’s Council for Sustainable Development – representing civil sector sustainability concerns.

There are potentially many other organisations that can be called upon to get involved, and the intention would be not to shut any one out. But for practical reasons, we need to limit the number of partners, in particular at the IR document production stage.

## **Scheme**

*Stage 1 – Production of IR Documents and Design of Consultation Programme*

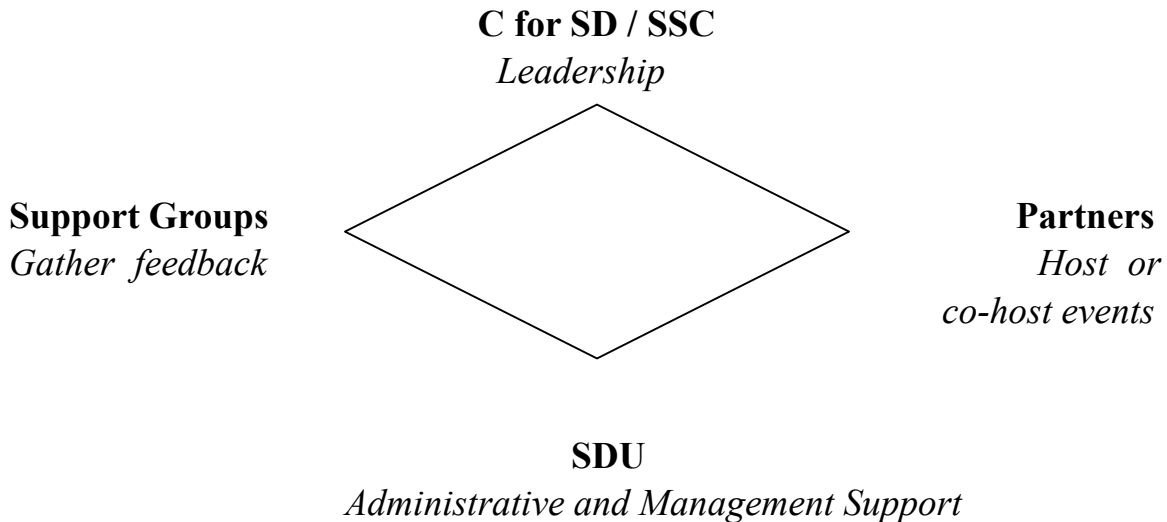
5. Four parties will be involved as shown below –



- (1) Support Groups (SGs) prepare draft IR documents under general direction of SSC. Final approval will be the responsibility of the Chair of the SSC before endorsement by the C for SD;
- (2) SDU provides assistance and resources with secretariat services to the parties above. This will include dissemination of drafts and organisation of meetings, as well as production and issue of IR documents; and
- (3) Partners will be invited to - review documents prior to issue and to endorse the engagement process in principle; help identify independent facilitators; and advise on the detailed design of the engagement process, in particular a list of key public involvement activities.

*Stage 2 – Public Involvement and Collection of Feedback*

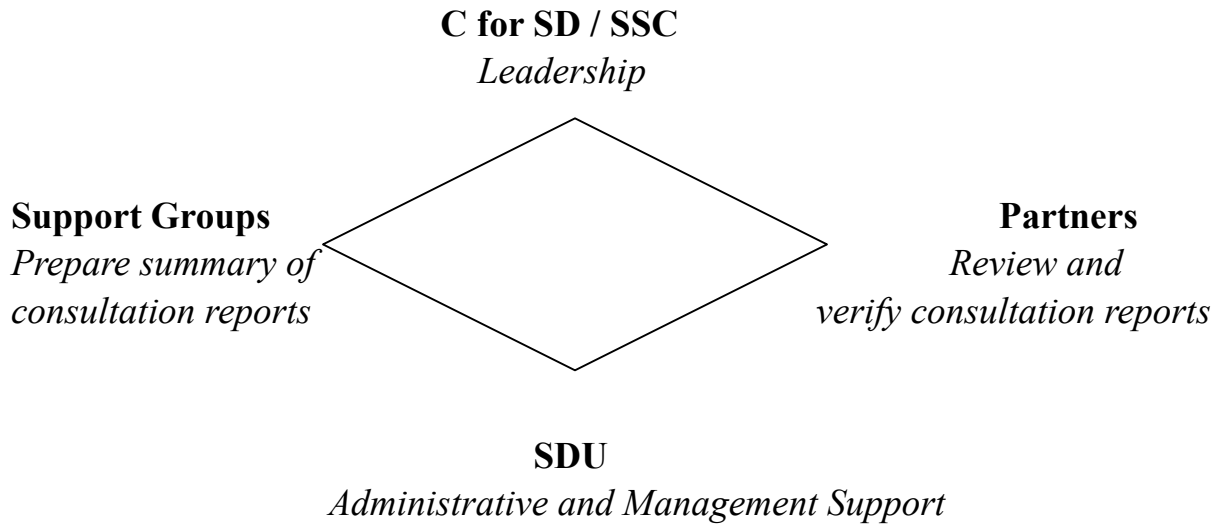
6. Four parties will be involved as shown below –



- (1) SSC and C for SD members to participate in public meetings, etc;
- (2) SGs work with Partners to involve public in discussion of IR documents and collate feedback;
- (3) SDU provides administrative and management services, such as sourcing venues, publicity materials and facilitation services and secretariat support to SSC and SG.s. SDU will also liaise with partners to coordinate all aspects of Stage 2;
- (4) Partners involved in public meetings based on design of the engagement forum. Also review and independently verify (observer status) outcomes of public meetings and seminars; and
- (5) SSC to review the response of the Government to the three Pilot Areas.

*Stage 3 – Reporting Back to the Council for Sustainable Development*

7. Four parties will be involved as shown below –



- (1) SGs assess Stage 2 feedback and deliver reports to SSC on proposals for strategic approach or policy decisions in relevant Pilot Areas. SSC via the Chairman presents this to the Council for deliberation;
- (2) SDU provides support for SG and provides miscellaneous management services to SSC and CSD;
- (3) Partners review conclusions of feedback from Stage 2 and provide early comment on SG reports to the SSC;
- (4) SSC to summarise the Government's response to the three priority areas for inclusion in the report to the Council; and
- (5) C for SD provides a set of recommendations on action to be taken by Government on the three Pilot Areas based on the feedback from the consultation process.

### **Way Forward**

8. Members' views are invited on the approach suggested above in carrying forward the engagement process. Subject to Members' advice, the

SDU will start planning for the implementation.

Council Secretariat  
May 2004