

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Paper 08/04

Feedback on IR Document

Introduction

This paper very briefly outlines some of the initial feedback on the Council's "Invitation and Response" IR document, *Sustainable Development: Making Choices for Our Future*, mainly through the Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy website, press coverage and early written submissions.

Feedback Channels

SD Strategy Website

2. We launched the website on 15 July, and publicised this both in the IR document and in a TV and radio announcement ("API") that began running on 15 July. One of the features of the site is a bi-lingual, interactive discussion forum that allows people to post responses and messages and engage in real-time electronic exchanges on issues related to the SD Strategy and the Pilot Areas.

3. As of 3 August, there were a total of 67 discussion "threads" on the website forum, broken down as follows -

- **Renewable Energy:** 32 separate discussion threads, with a total of 97 messages posted. The most “active” threads concern issues related to solar power, grid connection and energy from waste (or “incineration”)
- **Solid Waste Management:** 24 separate threads with a total of 75 posted messages. Active threads include those on topics such as waste for reclamation, recycling and whether the public can understand the need for sustainable development
- **Urban Living Space:** 11 discussion threads that have attracted a total of 44 responses. NT development, sustainable urban design and greening of the urban area are the most popular topics.

4. In total, we have received 216 responses to date. The SDU moderator has posted 17 thread titles to stimulate feedback on the specific questions in the relevant chapters of the IR document.

Written Responses

5. We have so far received only a few written responses to the IR document. These have either been technical proposals, general comments in support of sustainable development or mailed copies of the brief questionnaire attached to the IR document leaflets.

Press Coverage

6. There was extensive coverage of the launch of the IR document,

which has been followed up with a number of interviews with SSC and SG Members. Articles by the SSC Chair, as well as one SG Member and the head of a partner organisation have also appeared in the press.

7. Initial press coverage tended to focus on one or two individual aspects of the Pilot Areas, in particular the possibility of direct charging for solid waste. More recently, features and articles have looked more at the engagement process, with some commenting that this represents a new type of consultation for Hong Kong

Future Arrangements

8. We will continue with activities and events aimed at stimulating responses to the IR document, in particular through the upcoming roving exhibition, which will give us an opportunity for face-to-face contact with the public and through media events and interviews. Members of this Sub-committee are invited to contribute to the process by -

- Attending the roving exhibition and directly encouraging the public to give feedback on the IR document and engagement process – the SDU can provide the exact dates and locations of the exhibition
- Engaging in discussion with contributors to the website “threads” – the SDU can make arrangements for “live”, moderated discussion between Members and the public
- Contributing articles to media publications or offering to appear on TV or radio programmes that cover aspects of the engagement process – again, the SDU can help with arrangements

- Inviting members of their professional, business or other organisations that might have an interest in this process or in specific Pilot Areas to provide feedback or even to organise their own activities and events to encourage community responses.

9. In future meetings we will provide increasingly detailed reports on the response to the engagement process, having first discussed these with the Support Groups, where appropriate. These reports will help to form the basis for the more detailed report that the SSC will in due course be required to present to the Council, and which would form the core of the Council's own report to the Government on the way forward for the SD Strategy.

Council Secretariat

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