

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Paper 11/04

Next Steps in the Engagement Process

Introduction

This paper discusses the next steps of the Engagement Process, that is, the Strategy Sub-committee's (SSC) reporting back to the Council for Sustainable Development (the Council), and the Council's formulation of its recommendations to the Government. It also seeks to clarify the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Council, SSC and Support Groups in the exercise.

Roles of different agencies

2. The Council was established by the Chief Executive to, among other things, advise the Government on the preparation of an SD strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives. At the same time, the SSC, established under the Council, is tasked, inter alia, to assist the Council for SD with the formulation of an SD strategy for Hong Kong, and to engage stakeholders and the community and implement a consultation programme as agreed by the Council. Finally, the Support Groups (SG) were set up by the SSC to identify key issues, collect relevant background information, and receive and collate response from

stakeholders.

3. Following upon paragraph 2, we outline the roles and deliverables of different agencies in the current engagement process as follows:

- SGs:**
- collect and analyse community feedback;
 - provide SSC with regular reports on findings and analysis; and
 - prepare final reports to SSC.

- SSC:**
- review reports from the SG;
 - provide further guidance to the SG as necessary on the implementation of the public involvement stage; and
 - collate final reports from the three SGs and package them as a set of proposals and options to the Council for the formulation of an SD Strategy.

- Council:**
- consider proposals from SSC and decide on the final recommendations; and
 - advise the Government on the appropriate SD Strategy for Hong Kong in the three Pilot Areas concerned.

Members are invited to note the above roles and deliverables and actively participate in the engagement process, so as to facilitate them to make the best out of the data and views collated and synthesized.

Next Steps of the Engagement Process

Background

4. Taking advice from the stakeholders at a workshop held in November 2003, the Council for SD has devised an Engagement Process, which is broadly divided into five stages:

- I.* Identifying Pilot Areas
- II.* Preparation of an “Invitation and Response” document
- III.* Directly involving the wider community
- IV.* Reporting
- V.* The Government to act.

5. We are currently at stage III of the engagement process whereby a series of awareness raising activities and direct engagement events is being organised to gauge public views on the issues raised in the IR document and provide a platform for multi-stakeholders to deliberate on the issues.

Reporting back to the Council

6. At the end of the Public Involvement stage, the SSC, with the assistance of the SGs, will assess the response from the community and present the findings and analysis as the first part of its reports. Points of consensus and areas where there are conflicting views will be highlighted. Government bureaux would then be required to give their formal responses to the document as well as to the feedback from the community. The SSC will then devise proposals and options for the Council’s consideration in formulating an SD Strategy for Hong Kong.

Formulation of the Council’s recommendation

7. The Council, having taken into consideration views from the

community and Government bureaux, would deliberate on the proposals from the SSC, and advise the Government on the appropriate SD Strategy for Hong Kong in the three Pilot Areas. The Council's report will be made widely available to the community.

8. The Council, with the assistance of the SSC, would also review the whole engagement process so as to refine and develop a model for Engagement Process to raise community awareness and stimulate dialogue on sustainability issues for Hong Kong in the years to come.

Timetable

9. The Public Involvement programme is currently going in full swing till November. We propose that we should organise a Strategy Summit – a one-day cross-sectoral stakeholder event at the end of the programme in November/December – to bring together the conclusions of various forums and workshops in each of the three Pilot Areas. The Strategy Summit would also provide a golden opportunity for the Council and SSC to interact directly with the stakeholders and gauge their views. Outcome of the Strategy Summit would form the basis of the Council's report on the way forward for Hong Kong's long-term sustainability in the relevant areas.

10. Taking into consideration the time required to analyse views and to collate report, we propose that the SSC should aim at presenting its findings to the Council in January 2005. The Council could then deliberate on the proposals and options from the SSC and devise its own advice to the Government on what needs to be done in the three Pilot Areas to promote

sustainability.

Way Forward

11. Subject to the views of this Committee, the Secretariat would prepare a paper to the Council along the line of this paper.

Council Secretariat

August 2004