

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

### Paper 12/04

#### Progress of the Public Involvement Programme

##### Introduction

This paper reports on the progress of the public involvement programme since the launch of the “Invitation and Response” (IR) document, *Sustainable Development: Making Choices for Our Future*, and updates Members on the feedback received from the public.

##### Public Involvement Programme

2. The launch of the IR document on 15 July was the first in a series of public involvement activities. These events are divided into two types: on-going awareness raising activities and direct engagement events.

##### *Awareness Raising*

3. The **First Strategy Forum** was held on 17 July, soon after the launch, to introduce the content of the IR document to the public, to raise public awareness of the exercise, and to commence a dialogue with the community on the Strategy. The draft report being considered by the

Support Group Convenors is at *Annex A* for Members' reference.

4. **Media visits** were arranged to sites relevant to the three Pilot Areas, to arouse public interest in the areas through media reports. A visit to Sheung Wan, which featured several spots relevant to the Pilot Area of Urban Living Space (ULS) took place on 30 August, and a visit to the West New Territories Landfill (WENT) and some recycling plants in Yuen Long, offering first-hand experience of some of the problems associated with Solid Waste Management (SWM), was arranged on 24 September. A third visit, to Shanwei Wind Farm, is planned for October.

5. Three **Pilot Area Forums**, on each of the individual Pilot Area, were held on 28 August, 11 and 18 September. These forums provided participants with further background and perspectives on each Pilot Area, in addition to the information provided in the IR document. Speakers included representatives from the Government, academia, business and professional sectors, as well as environmental groups. The draft report for the Pilot Area Forum on ULS, being considered by the Support Group, is at *Annex B* for Members' reference.

6. Other on-going awareness raising items include the airing of **TV and radio announcements** (or "API"), distribution of **posters**, the **SD Strategy Website**, and the **Roving Exhibition**. During the two-month period from the launch on 15 July to mid-September, the TV API was shown more than 600 times. An independent survey found that 95% of the population recalls viewing the API at least once, and 84% of people recall seeing the API three times or more. Over 16,000 people have so far visited

our roving exhibition at various shopping centres, an MTR station and Government Offices.

### *Direct engagement*

7. Building on the above activities and following the 2004 Legislative Council elections, a series of **Pilot Area Workshops** is running from 2 October to 6 November. These provide a platform for open exchanges of views on the Pilot Areas, addressing the key questions raised in the IR document, and identifying possible ways forward for an SD Strategy. The detailed schedule of these workshops is at *Annex C*.

8. In addition, a **Youth Forum on Sustainable Development** in early December will provide a platform for the younger generation to share their views on and aspirations for Hong Kong's sustainability.

9. The awareness raising and direct engagement events will culminate in the **Council for SD Strategy Summit** in mid-December. This summit will bring together the conclusions of the various forums and workshops, so as to provide a basis for the report to the Council for consideration of the way forward.

### **Feedback Channels**

10. The bilingual, interactive discussion forum on the **SD Strategy Website** has been the most popular feedback channel since the launch of the document. As at 11 October, there were 107 discussion "threads" on the

forum, with a total of 491 messages posted. Among these, 211 messages concerned Renewable Energy (RE), 143 SWM and 137 ULS. The draft summaries of the first hundred discussion messages on RE and SWM are at *Annexes D and E* for Members' reference.

11. In addition, we have received 335 responses to the brief **questionnaires** appended to the IR document leaflets, either by mail or by dropping in our wishing wells at various districts and the roving exhibition. An interim summary of these questionnaire responses is at *Annex F*.

12. There have so far been 46 **written responses** sent in by mail or by email – 9 of which were on SWM, 8 on RE and 7 on ULS. Another 22 were responses to all three Pilot Areas or comments on SD in general.

Council Secretariat

11 October 2004