

**COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE**

Paper 13/04

**Reporting on the Engagement Process**

**Introduction**

This paper discusses how this Sub-committee might report back to the Council for Sustainable Development (the Council) on the outcome of the engagement process in such a way that the Council would be able to make clear recommendations to the Government on the content of a Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong.

**Progress of the Engagement Process**

2. The engagement process devised by the Council 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.

3. We are currently at stage III of the engagement process, and SSC paper 12/04 summarises some of the progress that has been made to

date in engaging the community and generating feedback on issues set out in the “Invitation and Response” (IR) document, *Sustainable Development: Making Choices for Our Future*. It is necessary now to focus on how best to approach stage IV of the process to ensure that community feedback is presented to the Council in a clear and manageable fashion.

### **Proposals on Reporting Back to the Council**

4. Chapter 1 of the IR document describes stage IV of the process (“Reporting”) in the following terms –

“The Strategy Sub-committee of the Council, with the help of the Support Groups, will assess the response from the community and present a report to the Council. Points of consensus, as well as areas where there are conflicting views will be highlighted. Government bureaux will also be required to give their responses. The Council will then advise the Government on the way forward for the Pilot Areas, from the point of view of sustainable development.”

#### *Presentation of Reports on Community Response*

5. Stage III of the engagement process is already generating considerable public feedback, as described in paper 12/04. The Support Groups, with the assistance of the SDU, are preparing a number of separate reports on the various elements of the community response, including –

- Detailed summaries of views posted on the Discussion Forum on the SD Strategy website
- Reports on the outcomes of the Pilot Area Forums and Workshops, including detailed questionnaire responses
- A compilation of responses from the summary questionnaires attached to the IR document leaflets

6. At the end of stage III of the engagement process, there will be a large number of reports available to the SSC, on the basis of which it will prepare an assessment for consideration by the Council. As outlined in the IR document, this report would highlight areas of consensus and conflict emerging from discussion within the community on the Pilot Areas.

7. At the same time, the relevant policy bureaux within the Government will be required to give their own responses to the findings of the engagement process. Although the relevant bureaux are represented on the Support groups, and will have taken part in the engagement process as stakeholders, they would also need to be given time to prepare a formal response to the overall findings of this exercise.

### *Timing of Reports*

8. The current stage of the engagement process (Stage III) effectively runs until 12 November, which is the deadline for responses to the IR document. The last Pilot Area Workshop will take place on 6 November. We propose to prepare the first report to the Council on the outcome of the engagement process for presentation to the Council at a

retreat scheduled for the 27 November. Subject to the views of Council Members, we would begin formally to seek the views of the policy bureaux immediately after the retreat. This would mark the beginning of Stage IV of the engagement process.

### *Strategy Summit*

9. As part of the programme for involving the public in the formulation of the SD Strategy, we have proposed that the Council meeting scheduled for 13 December take the form of a Strategy Summit. This would be a one-day stakeholder event to bring together the conclusions of the engagement process in each of the Pilot Areas. The summit would provide an opportunity for the Council to interact directly with stakeholders, and to confirm and reinforce the initial report on outcomes.

### *Concluding Stage IV of the Engagement Process*

10. Following the Strategy Summit meeting, we would request the final responses from the policy bureaux by the end of December (thereby giving them about one month to prepare these, following the end of the retreat). The SSC would discuss how to work these into the overall report to the Council, which would include various options on the advice that the Council should give to the Government on the preparation of an SD Strategy in the three Pilot Areas.

Council Secretariat

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