

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Paper 14/04

Feedback from the SD Strategy Engagement Process

Introduction

This paper reports on the responses that have been generated to date to the “Invitation and Response” (IR) document, *Sustainable Development: Making Choices for Our Future*, and outlines further events aimed at building on these responses.

Public Involvement Programme

2. Following the launch of the IR document on 15 July, the Council has opened a number of channels for public participation in the engagement process and response to the issues raised in the document. Some of the main activities have included -

- The opening of a dedicated website (www.susdev.org.hk) as a resource for providing information and posting views and reports on the engagement process and the individual Pilot Areas
- The organisation of a public exhibition that has toured a number

of well-used public venues in different parts of Hong Kong

- The issue of IR leaflets, together with questionnaires, to various distribution points, including SD Strategy “wishing wells” at public locations, into which people can post completed questionnaires
- The hosting of eleven public workshops on the issues raised under the Pilot Areas, in various locations throughout Hong Kong.

3. Throughout the course of the engagement process, the SDU has been preparing reports and updates on these various activities, and has posted these on the SD Strategy website. These reports are essentially factual summaries of the comments received and views expressed by stakeholders in the community.

4. As well as the responses that have been generated by the specific activities described above, the SDU has received (up to 5 November) 83 written submissions, either on specific Pilot Areas or on the process in general. Members may wish to note also that the Council’s Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on the IR document has been shown on local TV stations more than 750 times, and that an independent audit has found that over 90% of the population recall seeing the API. Over 17,000 copies of the IR document and 32,000 IR leaflets have been distributed to the public.

Summary of Responses to Date

Volume of Responses

5. In terms of the volume of responses to and level of participation in the engagement process, as at 5 November (one week before the formal deadline for responses set out in the IR document), the SDU had recorded the following -

- SD Strategy website: 541 messages (235 messages on RE, 157 on ULS and 149 on SWM)
- Public exhibition: around 23,000 visitors
- IR leaflet questionnaires: 411 questionnaires returned
- Pilot Area Forums: 240 people attended the three Forums
- Pilot Area Workshops: over 430 people participated in the first ten workshops
- Written submissions to the SDU: 83 written responses

Views Expressed – A Brief Snapshot

6. Although it is premature to come to any firm conclusion as to the tendency of the views expressed so far by stakeholders, the SDU has been able to collate – in particular from the IR leaflet questionnaires – summaries of these views in terms of certain preferences and priorities. Purely for members' information, at this stage, a summary of the responses to the questionnaires is at **Annex A**.

7. To give members a more in-depth idea of the views being put forward by stakeholders, reports on the feedback collected from the SD Strategy website Discussion Forum are at **Annex B**, and a sample report

from a workshop on Renewable Energy is at **Annex C**. As noted above, the complete set of reports is being posted on the website for public viewing and further feedback.

8. At this stage, we do not have a completed analysis of the responses to the IR document. This will be developed in the coming weeks by the SD Strategy Rapporteur, with input from Members of the Support Groups and of this Sub-committee. A detailed report will be available at the next SSC meeting.

Coming Events

9. As previewed in earlier SSC papers, following the closing date for formal responses to the IR document, we propose to organize a series of events to present the feedback that the Council has received, and to discuss this further with stakeholders, before finalising the report on the SD Strategy. The following events are scheduled for the coming weeks -

- Tuesday 16 November: a meeting with the Legislative Council Panels on Environmental Affairs and Planning, Lands and Works
- Thursday 18 November: a meeting with the District Council Chairs
- Saturday 27 November: a one-day retreat for Council, SSC and EPSC Members to discuss the outcomes of the engagement process and the way forward
- Sunday 5 December: a one-day youth forum (organized in

partnership with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups) to engage young people in discussion of the SD Strategy and other issues related to Hong Kong's sustainability

- Monday 13 December: the Council's SD Strategy Summit, bringing together stakeholders who have contributed to the engagement process and other members of the public to consider the views expressed during the process and to help map out the way forward for the presentation and delivery of the SD Strategy.

10. The Chair of the SSC and the Convenors of the Support Groups (as far as their availability allows) have agreed to represent the Council at the first three events. The aim of the meetings with LegCo and the DC Chairs will be to present summaries of the initial responses and seek their reaction to these, as well as their views on the way forward with the preparation of the SD Strategy in the light of stakeholder comment.

Government Response

11. One of the key factors in putting together an effective final SD Strategy report will be the timely provision of a government response to the outcomes of the engagement process. Although the government agencies relevant to the Pilot Areas are on the Support Groups, and the Principal Officials concerned are Council Members, we recognise that time will be needed for the Government to formulate its response to the Council's findings. In addition, there may be other bureaux and departments (e.g., the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau or the Food and Environmental

Hygiene Department) that would have an interest in responding to the Council. For this reason, we propose that the Government be given one month from the end of November to respond.

Council Secretariat

5 November 2004