

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Digest of notes of meeting held on 24 February 2009

- Date** : 24 February 2009
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Venue : Conference Room, 33/F, Revenue Tower, Wanchai, Hong Kong
- Chairman** : Dr Edgar Cheng, GBS, JP
- Members** : Dr Lily Chiang
Ms Choy So-yuk, JP
Ms Christine Fang, JP
Mr Hans Michael Jebsen, BBS
Mr Thomas Kwok, SBS, JP
Mr Michael Lai, MH, JP
Professor Lam Kin-che, SBS, JP
Ir Otto Poon, BBS
Mr Tai Hay-lap, BBS, JP
Professor Tsui Lap-chee, JP
Mr Edward Yau, Secretary for the Environment
Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development
Ms Florence Hui, Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms Ada Fung, Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction), Transport and Housing Bureau
- Apologies** : Mr Barrie Cook
- In attendance** : Ms Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Mr Roy Tang, Deputy Secretary for the Environment
Mr Eric Chan, Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment
Mr Wang Yuen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sustainable Development)
Ms Vivian Tsang, Senior Town Planner (Sustainable Development)
Mr Damian Chan, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development)¹
Ms Elisa Leung, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development)²

Ms Paulina Pun, Town Planner (Sustainable Development)

In attendance for agenda item 2 only

Professor Bernard Lim, Convenor of the Support Group on
Fostering a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment

Mr Edward To, Principal Assistant Secretary (Planning &
Lands)³

Mr S W Hui, Assistant Director of Buildings/Support

Mr Daniel Fong, Assistant Secretary (Building)¹

Miss Joceline Chui, Assistant Secretary for the Environment
(Energy)³

Dr Andrew Thomson, Business Environment Council (BEC)

Ms Brenda Fung (BEC)

Ms Elanna Tam (BEC)

Professor Lee Ngok, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
(PolyU)

Dr KK Yuen (PolyU)

Dr Artie Ng (PolyU)

Secretary : Ms Jennifer Chan, Principal Assistant Secretary (Sustainable
Development)

Item 1 – Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting (20 October 2008)

The draft minutes of the last meeting had been confirmed by circulation and that a non-attributable digest of proceedings would be posted on the website of the Sustainable Development Division for public information.

The meeting noted that the Chairman had set out his latest thinking of a proposal to outreach to the districts in a draft paper for the Secretariat to relay it to the next term Council for consideration.

The Administration would seek Members' views on the recommendations of the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) review when available before a full scale public consultation would be launched in 2009 in finalising the AQOs and the long term air quality management strategy. Members of the Strategy Sub-Committee (SSC) and the Better Air Quality Support Group would also be invited to a briefing.

Item 2 – Preparations for the Engagement Process on Fostering a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment (Paper No. 02/09)

Members noted that the objective of having the engagement exercise was to respond to the public's concerns and aspirations for a better built environment. The scope was on the buildings and how building designs would facilitate a better built environment. It would not cover such wider areas as streetscape, public open space, urban renewal and heritage conservation so as not to overlap with the efforts already ongoing on the respective fronts including review of the urban renewal strategy, etc. The Administration had no preconceived views or agenda when collaborating with the Council in conducting the engagement exercise in mapping the way forward.

Members noted the major views and comments made by the Support Group on Fostering a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment (SG) and the SSC at their meetings earlier and provided their comments on the draft invitation for response (IR) document and pamphlet-cum-questionnaire (questionnaire). The meeting agreed that

consideration could be given to having a sub-title to more clearly bring out the focus on buildings design in fostering a better built environment.

The meeting considered that focus was important in conducting a public engagement process, just as the Council had focused on the three areas concerned in the last engagement exercise on air quality. It was also important to set out the trade-offs from the social, economic and environmental perspectives in the IR document and questionnaire for consultation with the public. It was also clarified that the proposed policies and mechanisms, if adopted, would apply to the whole territory, new developments and redevelopments alike.

Members supported clearly spelling out the cost and benefit of the proposed policy options in an objective and neutral manner. The meeting also agreed that we should find out more about what and why people choose certain options via the questionnaire and focus group meetings, etc. through the engagement exercise. The Council's recommendations to be made in due course were to be based on good reasoning.

Members suggested that the questionnaire should be cast in such a way that the lay citizens would find it relevant. It was considered that the questionnaire could be improved by clearly setting out the trade-offs. Other more specific comments on the draft questionnaire were also made, including that views should be sought on to what extent people wanted the various features and whether any or which should be mandatory or optional.

On the suggestion that consideration might be given to having two sets of IR documents – one for laymen to consult them on what they liked and another for the professionals in the relevant industries with more in-depth information, the meeting was of the view that we should simplify and that there should be one IR document catering more for the lay public. It was expected that the professional and interest groups would respond to the engagement exercise and submit views (through letters and position papers, etc.) of their own volition. The meeting also advised that the SG could have working meetings with the Council to help take forward the exercise if necessary.

Item 3 – Update on education and publicity programmes and initiatives (Paper 03/09)

Members noted the progress of the initiatives of the Education and Publicity Sub-Committee (EPSC) which included, among other things, the five applications for the SD Fund that had been approved by the Council in the latest round and the community outreach efforts in the past few years that had developed some protocol/tool to help the districts develop their local sustainable development (SD) agenda.

Members also noted that a prize presentation ceremony had recently been held to recognize the good work and efforts of the 33 award winning schools in the SD School Award Programme. The programme would continue to be run in view of the programme's significant impact and effectiveness in promoting SD to the school and community sectors. Separately, a focus group survey commissioned by the EPSC revealed that quite a number of the members of the public associated SD with the Continuing Education Fund. The EPSC would step up its effort on promoting the understanding of SD in the community.

Item 4 – Any other business

This was the last meeting of the current term of the Council. The Chairman thanked Members for their support, in particular the two Sub-Committees, and Ir Otto Poon and Ms Christine Fang for chairing them. He also thanked the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) for his tremendous support and the Secretariat for its work.

On behalf of the Government and the Chief Secretary for Administration, SEN thanked the Council for the good work done, the Chairman for his able leadership, and the dedication of each Member, the collective efforts of whom had brought all the driving force for SD. Members also thanked the Chairman for his commitment and purpose in the payless job, and for designing and seeing through the implementation of the five-step model of the Council's much acclaimed engagement process.

Council Secretariat
April 2009