

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft Report on the Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the latest position of the public engagement (“PE”) on long-term decarbonisation strategy, and seeks Members’ endorsement of the draft Council for Sustainable Development (“SDC”)’s report at [Annex A](#).

Background

2. At the SDC meeting on 12 June 2019, Members discussed the draft PE Document and the plan on launching the public interaction phase of the PE exercise (SDC Paper No. 01/19). Taking into account Members’ comments, the draft PE Document was revised and subsequently released at a press conference held on 14 June 2019. This was then followed by a territory-wide public interaction process which ended on 20 September 2019.

Public Interaction Phase

3. During the public interaction phase, a total of 65 engagement events were held, attracting nearly 4 500 participants. These events included regional fora, a youth forum, school visits and a series of briefing sessions with key stakeholders, comprising advisory and statutory bodies, relevant business and trade associations, professional institutes, etc. The events provided an important platform for gauging the views of the public and stakeholders on the subject.

4. Regarding publicity, an Announcement in the Public Interest was broadcast on television and radio, as well as through online platforms. In addition to traditional promotion channels, we have made use of social media (e.g. Big Waster’s Facebook) to promote the PE. Posters were displayed and roving exhibitions were conducted at various locations across the territory. Moreover, a street interview series comprising in-person interviews of the public by a Key Opinion Leader and video clips including the interviewees’ pledge to support decarbonisation on online platforms were conducted, and advertisements in newspapers and on online and mobile platforms were also placed. For details on the PE process, please refer to Chapter 2 of the draft SDC report.

Feedback Received

5. During the public interaction phase, over 71 000 Views Collection Forms and over 600 written submissions from individuals and companies/organisations were received. In addition, comments were also received through other channels, including engagement events and social media, etc.

6. After conducting a detailed analysis of the views collected, the independent analysis and reporting agency (“IRA”) presented its findings to Members of the Strategy Sub-committee (“SSC”) and the Support Group (“SG”) at a briefing on 21 May 2020. SDC members were also invited to attend the briefing. The final report of the IRA is at **Annex B** for reference.

Consideration in Making Recommendations

7. As a leading international city of China and a responsible member of the global community, Hong Kong should seek to draw up its long-term decarbonisation strategy and climate action roadmap up to 2050, and join the global efforts in combating climate change. It is also worth noting that President Xi Jinping announced on 22 September 2020 that China aims to have CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality

before 2060. In this regard, Hong Kong should proactively embark on a cleaner energy and low-carbon development path based on collaborative efforts across the Government, businesses, non-profit sector and individuals.

Draft Report

8. The Programme Director has prepared a draft report on the PE, which has taken into account findings in IRA report, comments expressed at the SG Meeting on 29 June 2020, written comments submitted by SSC and SG Members after the meeting, and subsequent comments made by SSC and SG Members at the SSC meeting on 22 October 2020.

9. The draft report recommends that Hong Kong should formulate its decarbonisation strategy based on the long-term vision to progressively advance to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as part of the global effort to limit global average temperature increase to well below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It puts forward 55 recommendations in eight key areas, namely target; lifestyles; education, training and research; built environment; energy; transport; city planning and management; and finance. The 55 recommendations are set out in Chapter 3 of the draft report.

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to consider the draft SDC report on the PE at **Annex A**. Subject to Members' endorsement, the report will be finalised for submission to the Government and then released together with the IRA report at a press conference.

Council Secretariat
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