

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Public Engagement on Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the progress and the proposed workplan for the launch of the Council for Sustainable Development's (SDC) public engagement (PE) process on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, and seeks Members' comments on the draft Invitation for Response (IR) document for the PE at **Annex A**.

Background and Progress

2. At the last meeting held on 7 December 2012, Members agreed to conduct a new public engagement exercise to facilitate in-depth discussions on the relevant issues on the implementation of the MSW charging so as to identify the feasible options in taking the matter forward in Hong Kong.

3. The Hong Kong Productivity Council was appointed as the Programme Director (PD) to oversee the conduct of the PE which includes the preparation of the IR document, the conduct of the engagement events, and the preparation of the SDC's report of recommendations to the Government. The Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned as the Independent Analysis and Reporting Agency (IRA) to collect and analyse views, comments and feedback received from the public during the PE.

4. In line with the past arrangement, a Support Group (SG) on MSW charging has been formed in January 2013 comprising representatives from relevant sectors to provide professional and expert advice to the SDC on a more defined scope of the issues for engagement, and the proposed sectors and stakeholders to be covered in the focus group meetings (FGMs). Two SG

meetings (including one jointly arranged with the Strategy Sub-committee of the SDC) were held in February and June 2013 respectively. The membership list of the SG is at **Annex B**.

5. In March 2013, the SDC's Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) conducted a meeting to discuss the proposed approach, methodology and strategy of the PE (vide SSC Paper No. 01/13). Subsequently, seven FGMs were conducted in April and May 2013 with over 160 representatives from a broad spectrum of sectors attended, including domestic and residential; commercial and industrial; waste collection and recycling; green groups; youth and welfare groups; medical and health; professional organizations; academics and district personalities etc..

IR document

6. The IR document will serve as an important discussion framework to impart information and initiate public dialogue. The views expressed by the stakeholders at the FGMs as well as the advice from the SG had formed a foundation in ensuring that sufficient background information and the right issues are covered and included in the IR document. The draft document has also been circulated to SG for comment in end July and their comments have been incorporated in the latest version at **Annex A**.

Way forward

7. Subject to Members' consideration and comments, the Programme Director will proceed to finalize the draft IR document. A media event will be arranged in September 2013 to launch the PE and the public involvement stage will last for about four months until end December 2013. Based on the findings of the PE, the Programme Director will prepare the draft SDC's report on recommendations and, depending on the progress and deliberations of the draft report by the Council members, the SDC's report is tentatively targeted for issue in Q1/Q2 of 2014. An updated planned engagement, publicity and public education programmes for the PE is at **Annex C**.

Views sought

8. Members are invited to share their views on the draft IR Document at **Annex A**.

Council Secretariat
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