

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Public Engagement on Municipal Solid Waste Charging – “Waste Reduction by Waste Charging • How to Implement?”

Purpose

This paper seeks Members’ comments and endorsement of the draft report on the public engagement (PE) process on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging.

Background

2. Subsequent to the last meeting on 13 August 2013, the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) launched a public engagement process from 25 September 2013 to 24 January 2014 to collect the views of the public and stakeholders on four key areas concerning how best to implement MSW charging in Hong Kong, namely charging mechanism, coverage of the charging scheme, charging level, and recycling.

Public Engagement

3. During the four-month PE process, a total of 63 engagement events were held and attended by over 3 300 members of the public and stakeholders from various sectors. They included regional public fora as well as meetings with various relevant advisory and statutory bodies, District Councils, non-government organisations, educational institutions, professional bodies, chambers of commerce, and property management companies, etc. The process also leveraged on a total of 101 Supporting Organisations (SOs) which promoted the PE and mobilised wider participation through their networks. Details are at Appendixes II and III of the draft SDC Report at [Annex A](#) for information.

4. On publicity, we organised roving exhibitions in all the 18 districts, drawing some 50 000 visitor counts in total. An interactive micro-film competition was organised to promote the PE to secondary school students. Television and radio Announcements in the Public Interests were broadcast. A dedicated website and Facebook page were launched to let the public know more about this PE and express their views through the online view collection form and discussion forum. The public could also express their opinions through other channels such as a mobile application, hotline, and email. A brief summary of the events and activities held was reported vide SSC paper no. 03/14 for the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) meeting held on 27 June 2014 which was also joined by Members of this Council and the Support Group on MSW Charging (SG).

Independent Analysis and Reporting Agency's Final Report

5. To facilitate the deliberation of the public views and suggestions received during the PE, the Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong was engaged as the Independent Analysis and Reporting Agency (IRA). It presented preliminary findings of the views and responses at the SSC meeting on 27 June 2014. The final report of the IRA is at Annex B for reference.

SDC Report on the Public Engagement

6. Two working sessions involving Members of the SDC, SSC and SG were held on 4 August and 22 September 2014 respectively to consider the views received during the PE process and discuss the recommendations to be made by the SDC to the Government. Digests of the discussions were circulated to members after the working sessions. Based mainly on the views and outcomes of the working sessions, the Programme Director (PD) has compiled a preliminary draft Council report which was circulated to Members of the SSC and SG on 3 November 2014 for comment. Taking into account the comments received, the PD compiled the full draft SDC report at Annex A for Members' consideration.

Way Forward

7. Members are invited to consider and endorse the draft SDC report on the PE at Annex A. Subject to Members' comments and the outcome of this meeting, the draft SDC report will be finalised for submission to the Government and released for public information together with the IRA report in December 2014. The SDC report and the IRA report will be uploaded on the SDC's website upon issue on the same day.

Council Secretariat
November 2014