

Table 19.1 CRITERIA USED FOR ASSESSING THE PREFERRED OPTIONS IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Parameter/Criteria	Application	Applicability in Terms of TDS
Population	No net increases over a given period of time	Increase of about 2 million under Scenario A and 2.5 million under Scenario B.
Greenhouse gases	No increases in road traffic or industrial developments.	Adopting a greener fuel/ generation technology will assist. Examples are the adoption of natural gas in the CLP's Black Point Power Station.
Acidification	Reduction in the use of fossil fuels to reduce acidification of soil by H ₂ S (more appropriate regionally rather than territorially).	Achieved through EPD's initiatives but not in the regional context.
Toxic material	No production of toxic materials or others which are non-biodegradable.	Could be achieved in the long term through waste minimisation measures
Soil Degradation	Avoid changes in land use, denudation of the land, avoid change of drainage regime (reduce siltation and avoid erosion of soils). This is intrinsically linked with the avoidance of the depletion of natural vegetative cover.	A fundamental aim of the TDS built into the basic strategy
Potable Water Supplies	Regulate population movement or industrial development in accordance with the supplies available.	Increase in population (2 and 2.5 million) integral to the two Refined Preferred Options.
Protection of natural aquatic ecosystems, freshwater, coastal and estuarine	Protection through developmental control and strategic planning	A basic tenet of TDS and incorporated into the development strategies.
Species/habitat extinction	Protection of natural habitats.	A basic tenet of TDS and incorporated into the development strategies.
Energy Intensity	Are the industrial and domestic consumption rates too high, could they be controlled through conservation strategies and incentives?	An aim of Government in general through energy conservation projects.
Renewable Energy Resources	In regional terms is there sufficient energy (renewable) to accommodate developments? Hydro electric schemes etc. may be considered.	Not applicable in Hong Kong.
Material Intensity	Are the industrial sectors manufacturing or service industries ? Fuel for transport strategies and materials for infrastructure and development ? Need to find external suppliers for building materials ?	Industrial strategies founded on the premise that the industries are high tech and basically service industry.

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Transport Strategies	Do the proposals promote mass transit and public transport rather than individual car users or heavy goods vehicle usage on the roads? Promotion of rail usage rather than road?	Transport strategies formulated to encourage public transport and aim to locate jobs close to residential areas. Reduce the need to or frequency of travel.
Water Consumption	Population and industrial forecasts increases relate to increased consumption? Measures to save water not only through direct reduction in consumption at the tap but also by investing in repair, maintenance and upgrading of water supply systems which loose huge amounts of water daily (as well as coffers).	Increases in population forecasts will require increased water demand especially as the population becomes more affluent. Water intensive industries moving out of Hong Kong (but still exert demand in the catchment area)
Regional Food Production	Increased food resources as the population increases, self sufficiency important in dealing with the regional strategy, such as the abattoir at Sheung Shui.	Strategic locations for meat fowl and fish, fruit and vegetables from PRC, but other staple foods such as rice and flour not grown locally but imported.
Cultivation of land	Arable / agricultural lands to be retained/redeveloped where possible.	This is an inbuilt component of TDS agricultural/ conservation strategy.
Recreational Activities	Essential for the improvement of the quality of life.	The recreation strategy was inbuilt at the inception of the TDSR.
Promotion of Human Health	Provision of healthy living and working environment, need to consider inter alia the implications of noise, air quality, access to open space, adequate food and fresh water.	The promotion of improved living environment is an aim of the TDSR but needs further development through reduction in ambient noise levels and air pollution.
Protection of the Atmosphere	Through rationalisation of transport and industrial strategies.	This is an aim of the TDS but not achieved in the context of the Tuen Mun and Harbour ACZ's where the majority of the population live and work.
Protection of Urban environment	Through reduction in noise (traffic reduction, widening of streets, preventing cannon effect of no breaks in the long line of high buildings) and improvement of inner city air quality (reduction in traffic and industrial development, and increasing open space), urban renewal and regeneration (as promulgated under METROPLAN), promotion of environmental awareness of one's surroundings, environmental education for all.	These are basic objectives which need to be translated into policy issues at the detailed planning stage.
Promotion of sustainable consumption patterns	Includes reduction in solid waste generation, water consumption, use of disposable materials (adjustment of consumer behaviour) such as cans, plastic wrappers etc. without compromising health and safety.	This is a priority goal for the overall well being of the Region but is difficult to achieve in the short term.