

18. To expand this concept of sustainability in connection with the development proposals under the TDS Review it is appropriate to examine the principal articles of Agenda 21 and review these in the context of the formulation of the Refined Preferred Options. Agenda 21 is given in Table 19.2 along with the ways in which these have been attempted to be integrated when formulating the development proposals.

Table 19.2 PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE GENERATION OF THE TDS OPTIONS

Principal Components of Agenda 21	Component Principles Already Integrated into the TDS
Make trade and environment mutually supportive; implement environmental measures while preserving free trade	A basic tenet of the TDS is to integrate land-use-transport and environmental components into the overall long and medium term strategies
Combat poverty to maintain sustainable livelihood for the population	Implicitly a principal aim of the TDS inasmuch as the objective is to maintain and create a high standard of living and working already enjoyed
Internalise environmental costs into the pricing mechanisms	Although not a TDS aim per se the Governmental principle of "the polluter pays" and the sewage costs and waste disposal costs which have been introduced are implicitly supported by the TDS
Promote sustainable consumption patterns	The trend based development strategy aims to produce a sustainable growth rate
Incorporate demographic trends in the analysis of environment and development issues	Environmental impacts to be fed back into the transport model to produce an improved and wholly integrated transport/environment/land-use strategy
Protect and promote human health	Provision of clean drinking water and an adequate supply of fresh food (not increasing the population forecasts above those which can be accommodated by basic needs); improvement of air quality by rationalising the industrial development, (which has already been included in the TDS process), minimising the industrial/residential and residential/transport interfaces; improvement in air quality through reduction in emissions, promotion of "clean industries", high technology corridors; improved recreational facilities through the inbuilt recreation strategy which was built into the TDS at the earliest stages of development;
Protect the atmosphere	Improvement of air quality through the reduction in emissions, the increased controls on the nature of industrial developments, the enhancement of high technology corridors and Science Parks; mechanisms to induce the expansion of public not private transport; enhancement of railway patronage rather than only roads
Promote environmental education	This is not within the remit of the TDS although the principle is strongly supported
Implement land-use planning for conservation strategy	Land use planning for conservation strategy was included in the Rural Land Use Study and the identification of potential sites for country park extensions. One of the first components of the TDS was to incorporate a conservation strategy into the development options. Protection was afforded to Country Parks, Agricultural lands and SSSI's.

Principal Components of Agenda 21	Component Principles Already Integrated into the TDS
Protect marine resources	Implicitly incorporated into the TDS through the adherence to all existing legislation. Development concepts which could have an adverse impact on existing tidal flow regimes have been screened out or development controls incorporated into the strategies (except the promulgated Route Y). Examples of this include the development control exerted on NENT (scattered low density developments were promulgated in the Hybrid Options) which should be protected from development in unsewered areas (receiving waters are Tolo Harbour which has had a vast injection of capital to remedy the errors of the past) or scattered development. Other controls have included the elimination of various proposals to span sensitive water bodies by bridge which could alter the flow and water quality characteristics
Protect the quality and supply of fresh water resources	Restriction of development in water gathering grounds has been incorporated in the TDS strategy formulation. The highly visible destruction of the hinterland catchments in the Pearl River Delta (to clear land for development) could have a serious consequence in terms of water supply to Hong Kong in the coming years.
Provide and environmentally sound management of solid wastes	The Waste Disposal Plan and the initiatives for the reduction of solid waste promulgated by EPD are supported in the TDS, and translated into the industrial development strategy through the types of industry proposed in the medium and long term
Participation by the business sector, industrial sector, trade unions, women and youth groups in achieving sustainable development should be encouraged	While not implicitly included in the strategy formulation the concept of, inter alia, business and industrial cooperation in the promotion of sustainable growth are of paramount significance
Strengthen the role of Non-Government Organisations in achieving sustainable development	This is fully supported and the primary target should be ensuring the full support of groups such as the ACE when undertaking the component studies, designs which comprise the TDS

19. The concepts outlined above are but the tip of the iceberg when considering the sustainability of the ultimate TDS strategy. To summarise, some of the issues which need to be resolved in connection with developing sustainable development strategies for the territory include:

- (a) integration of the policy issues within the Government, after all the living and working environment affects every individual;
- (b) review the advisory role of external auditors in connection with monitoring the development process, early involvement of advisory bodies in the development process would assist, with public awareness and perception of the impacts of development in a more informed manner (rather than emotive arguments);
- (c) Hong Kong has been at the forefront of many unique global developments and is a leader in the field of environmental planning, this position should not be undervalued or lost, as the monitoring of global trends (environmental as well as economic) is essential for maintaining the position in the worlds economy; and
- (d) the need to develop a long range vision of the future role of Hong Kong, and not focusing on the immediate issues, while ensuring the policies are robust and have enough flexibility to respond to any changes in both long and medium term.

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