

Criteria for assessing sustainability – apply these to the images shown and the concepts being discussed**Social criteria**

1. extends range of benefits to the greatest possible number of people
2. includes provision for affordable land, housing, rents which are within reach of everyone and which contribute to a high quality of life for all
3. social benefits are long- as well as short-term
4. cultural identities are neither lost nor blurred; there is no development of a socio-economic underclass
5. takes as its premise that people have a contribution to make to planning, and that they know their area and its resources well

Economic criteria

1. extends range of economic benefits to the greatest possible number of people at all scales – local, regional, national, international and global – and at all levels of society
2. likely to make people better off in the medium- to long-term, as well as short-term
3. focuses upon infrastructural changes that bring economic benefits to people through social welfare improvements – e.g. sees education and health care as part of infrastructural change that will bring benefit to society as well as to individuals

Environmental criteria

1. no impacts create short-, medium-, or long-term environmental damage
2. no pollution is involved, whether directly (e.g. through the generation of pollutants on site) or indirectly (e.g. through the use of materials which pollute elsewhere)
3. uses resource stocks at a rate which can be renewed at the same rate as consumption, or, where this is impossible, makes the best possible use of finite resources, whilst researching into viable alternatives before extinction is achieved
4. looks for long-term environmental benefits and, where necessary, protects 'special' environments
5. maintains species in ways that promote biodiversity
6. promotes energy- or resource-conservation and re-use as well as consumption

Combined criteria

e.g. social and environmental

1. allowing people an environment which takes account of leisure (e.g. provision of parks and leisure) as well as living space
2. mixes land uses in order to promote proximity of work and housing – thus avoiding high energy-consuming commutes with human costs

e.g. environmental and economic

3. promotes economic growth through environmental policies – sees huge economic potential in recycling or renewability of resources, or in employment of people in environmental projects and biodiversity (e.g. organic farming)

Criteria for assessing sustainability – record grid

Place a tick against each of the criteria as you think they apply. Alternatively, It is possible to apply a ranking system to see which of the locations for new housing is the least and most sustainable by scoring each of the criteria as follows:

1 = very sustainable, 2 = moderately sustainable and 3 = least sustainable. Then add up the scores and rank the lowest score as the most sustainable.

Image letter	GF	SH	IP	BF	OOT	GB	A	HH	LE	C	RUF	S	DH	R	SD	D	TG	M	ET	N
Social criteria																				
1																				
2																				
3																				
4																				
5																				
Economic criteria																				
1																				
2																				
3																				
Environmental criteria																				
1																				
2																				
3																				
4																				
5																				
6																				
Combined criteria																				
1																				
2																				
3																				
Optional point score																				
RANKING																				