

# Appendix A - SA Appraisal Framework

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The table outlines the sustainability appraisal objectives to be used in the assessment of Ashford's Town Centre Area Action Plan and the indicators to be used in future monitoring of the success of the Area Action Plan. The criteria have been arranged under the four broad themes of protection of the environment, social progress, prudent use of natural resources, economic growth and transport.

Sustainability Criteria	Possible Assessment Indicators
<b>Protection of the Environment</b>	
Enhancement of biodiversity & improvement of habitat richness	Extent of wildlife areas created as part of development Number of habitat enhancement measures
Improved linkages between existing and/ or proposed areas of semi-natural habitat	Extent of wildlife corridors linking habitats, species, natural and semi-natural areas Length and richness of continuous Green Corridors
Maintain and enhance the quality of Ashford's landscape	Area of landscape designation affected by development
Avoid adverse impacts of sites of heritage importance	Number of Grade I and Grade II buildings at risk of decay Number of historic assets restored/reused
Atmospheric integrity and air quality	Pollutant levels for Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, CO2, Lead, NO2, PM10, SO2 Number of days when air pollution reported as moderate or higher
<b>Social Progress</b>	
Thriving mixed use development	Levels of mixed use development
Mix of housing types and tenure	Type of new housing delivered % of affordable housing provided Affordable housing completion figures
<b>Prudent use of natural resources</b>	
Maximise the potential of Brownfield land	Levels of development on previously developed land
Densities in excess of PPG3 standards	Average density of development
Ability to withstand impacts of climate change (drought/ flooding)	Numbers of homes and buildings built to EcoHomes/BREEAM
Development at risk from flooding	Number of properties at risk from flooding
Protection and enhancement and surface waters	Number and severity of pollution incidents to surface and ground water

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	<p>Length of Stour of good or fair chemical and biological water quality</p> <p>Population and health of fish in the Stour</p> <p>Proportion of runoff from new development which is directed into Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</p>
<b>Economic Growth</b>	
Improve Ashford's economic performance and contribution to regional competitiveness	<p>GDP per head</p> <p>% Annual net change in numbers of VAT registered firms</p>
Balance between employment and housing growth	<p>Rate of housing growth vs. job creation</p> <p>Out-commuting</p>
To enable a variety of quality employment opportunities in Ashford	<p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Proportion of working age people in work</p>
<b>Transport</b>	
To facilitate modal shift	Proportion of trips made by public transport/ foot/ cycle
Public access to green space	<p>Loss/gain of open space</p> <p>% of population within 1,000m of a significant park/open space</p>