



**ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL PLAN: PUBLIC EXAMINATION
MATTER 1b HEARING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF TRESKO ESTATE PARTNERSHIP
6TH JANUARY 2020**

Introduction

Our client, Tresco Estate Partnership (the submitter), is the largest business on the Isles of Scilly. In addition to commercial properties, hotels and holiday cottages Tresco Estate Partnership is responsible for much of the infrastructure on Tresco and to a lesser extent on Bryher.

On behalf of Tresco Estate Partnership, a suite of representations was submitted at Regulation 19 (Pre-submission Draft consultation stage in March 2019). Those representations of particular relevance to the Examination Hearing sessions addressed matters of overall strategy for housing, employment and particularly tourism, and proposed restrictions on housing occupancy and balanced housing stock. The respondent number LP-R19-01 was assigned to those duly made representations, and will no doubt have been provided to you.

Whilst not feeling it necessary to actively participate in the hearing session on Matter 1b ('Overarching Issues') or Matter 2 ('Strategy for Housing'), we submit two separate further Examination statements that complement and reinforce our original representations that relate to Matters 1b and 2. The following represents our further complementary Examination statement on Matter 1b and a further Examination statement that complements those duly made representations that relate to Matter 2 is submitted separately.

Matter 1b – Overarching Matters

1.10 Other Matters/Questions consider the detailed aspects of the following question. However, in broad terms, is the plan's overall strategy for housing, employment and tourism development justified and does it give sufficient weight to the protection of the Islands' character and environment?

Aim 4

The Council's acceptance of and positive response to our representation LP-R19-01 in respect of Aim 3 and the explicit recognition of the need to provide a positive framework to deliver staff accommodation across the islands is gratefully noted. However, it is considered that Aim 4 as amended since the above representation was submitted does not go far enough to explicitly support the potential development of existing and potentially new tourist facilities/attractions and accommodation beyond Settlement Boundaries.

The tourism industry is the mainstay of the islands and Aim 4 and the wider Local Plan ought to provide a positive policy framework recognises the important role of tourism facilities/attractions across the islands and the that sympathetically-provided accommodation can play in contributing significantly to both the rural economy and the wider economy of the islands. We would therefore recommend that the aim should be further amended to "*support a sustainable tourism industry including facilities/attractions and related accommodation across the islands both within and beyond Settlement Boundaries where the development would not cause unacceptable harm.*"

We trust the above is helpful in emphasising the importance of the tourism economy across the islands and the need to allow its development to flourish sustainably in a more positive way.