



## **Examination of the Island Planning Strategy**

### **Matter 8**

### **Historic England, Hearing Statement**

*10 February 2025*

This statement addresses the Inspector's questions regarding Matter 4 of the Island Planning Strategy.

This hearing statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan.

Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans under the provisions of the duty to co-operate and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.

The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations on the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.

## Matter 8. Policies for the Environment

Issue 2: Whether the plan would provide a sound basis for supporting a diverse economy on the Island.

**Q8.8 Would it be necessary for soundness to insert additional content into Policies E4, E7 and E11 regarding heritage as set out in Core Document 7, following the Statement of Common Ground with Historic England?**

8.8.1 Historic England has not proposed changes to E4 are a matter of soundness, though we encourage reference to heritage significance in policy on the rural economy, especially regarding the conversion of existing redundant permanent buildings to employment uses.

8.8.2 Historic England fully supports reference in policies E7 and E11 to the design guidance supplementary planning document (SPD) on commercial frontages produced as part of the heritage action zone (HAZ) programme. However, the project delivering that guidance has finished. Further design guidance will not be produced as part of the HAZ programme. As written the policy is not effective, and thus unsound according to NPPF paragraph 35c), because its implementation is too vague and open to interpretation.

8.8.3 We have encouraged the plan to refer to the Commercial Frontages Design Guide for decision-making not only in Newport and Ryde, but also other historic settlements (where appropriate) to make best use of this valuable resource. This aspect of our comments does not represent a matter of soundness, as we appreciate the SPD was prepared with its focus explicitly on Newport and Ryde.