

Council of the Isles of Scilly

Island Futures Economic Plan: 2021

Background

In 2014 the Council of the Isles of Scilly as key partner to the Islands Futures Board commissioned Ash Futures and Three Dragons to develop an Economic Development Plan for the Isles of Scilly. The Economic Development Plan incorporated the Council's Housing Growth and Infrastructure plans and was developed with extensive consultation with key stakeholders. The work was supported by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

The stakeholders consulted in the development of the plan included the Duchy of Cornwall, the Islands' Partnership, business representatives, members and officers of the Council of the Isles of Scilly, Tresco Estate and the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust.

The Council of the Isles of Scilly are now seeking to use a fixed proportion (£25,000) of its Welcome Back funding allocation to commission an update to the 2014 Economic Plan.

Scope and Specification

The report will meet the requirements set out in Strand 6 of the Welcome Back Fund rationale by "supporting local authorities to develop plans for responding to the medium-term impact of CV-19 including trialling new ideas particularly where these relate to the High Street". It is anticipated that the plan will support the Islands' and LEP's work on any future Shared Prosperity and Levelling-up Fund applications.

The plan refresh will also seek to align the Islands' existing economic development ambitions for its vessel replacement program, museum and cultural centre and housing stock with opportunities to access any future shared prosperity funding in partnership with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

Within the context of the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and its net zero carbon ambitions the report will need an emphasis on the long term sustainability of island life including the need to grow our own skilled workforce along with the creation of new opportunities for economic migration to the islands to help reverse population decline. The plan will need to identify and address issues relating to associated infrastructure needs. A key component of the plan will be to define what the levelling up agenda means for the Isles of Scilly.

Additionally, the plan refresh will inform approaches to defining and meeting the skills gap locally, particularly with regard to developing local apprenticeship and adult education and business requirements.

Finally, the plan refresh, in consultation with the Islands Partnership and the wider business community, will seek to define how the visitor economy can be developed in the future with particular reference to the development of shoulder season short breaks, top-end accommodation and a quality visitor experiences as outlined in the Destination Management Plan(DMP), it will provide an action plan for this and other activities. Consideration as to how quality, local island produce can be promoted as part of the green tourism offer, and quality branding are themes from the DMP that need focused delivery actions through wider business engagement.

It should also give consideration as to how the recommendations and ideas explored by Exeter University June 2021 in relation to the Sustaining the Visitor Economy can be implemented (Report attached)

In summary, where are we now? where are we going? and how will we get there?

We would expect tenderers to adopt a work plan similar to that outlined below:

Activity	Delivery window	Estimated duration (days)
Inception meeting	October 2021	1
Review of existing plan and information sources	October 2021	2
Initial stakeholder engagement	October 2021	1
Update of socio-economic data and SWOT analysis	November 2021	2
Stakeholder workshops	November 2021	1
Business survey	November 2021	2
Review of existing capital program activity	November 2021	2
Training needs analysis	November 2021	2
Write initial draft report	December 2021	6
Final Council and stakeholder workshop	January 2022	1
Final report publication	February 2022	1
	Total	21 days