

# **WEST DORSET, WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN**

## **MATTER NO 5: ECONOMY**

**ON BEHALF OF THE ERNEST COOK TRUST**

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**5. MATTER 5 – ECONOMY**

**5.1 Does the spatial strategy provide an adequate basis for addressing the future needs of the two areas or would other options provide better outcomes?**

5.1.1 The Ernest Cook Trust does not have any comments on this question.

**5.2 Is sufficient attention given to employment needs in rural areas?**

- 5.2.1 Paragraph 28 of the NPPF is clear that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development and that local authorities should support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas. (our emphasis).
- 5.2.2 The Trust considers that Policy ECON 1 regarding the provision of employment is not consistent with the NPPF at Paragraph 28 as it restricts rural employment development to farm diversification and where a rural location is essential for the type of business.
- 5.2.3 As such the Trust considers the Plan would potentially not meet the employment needs in rural areas as it is overly restrictive in this regard.
- 5.2.4 The Trust therefore considers that the provisions of the Plan, and particularly Policy ECON 1, should be amended so to properly meet rural employment needs.

**5.3 Is the general approach to retail development appropriate and in accordance with the principles in the NPPF?**

5.3.1 The Ernest Cook Trust does not have any comments on this question.

**5.4 Does the Plan provide a suitable framework for supporting the tourist economy?**

- 5.4.1 The Ernest Cook Trust considers that the provisions in the Plan relating to the tourist economy do not give sufficient support to provision in rural areas. As such, the Trust considers the Plan to not provide a suitable framework in this respect.
- 5.4.2 Policy ECON 5 outlines support for tourism facilities within existing settlements. However, the NPPF at Paragraph 28 requires local authorities to support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside.
- 5.4.3 The Trust considers that, in order for support for the tourist economy to be adequately provided for in the Plan, reference in Policy ECON 5 to the circumstances where support for rural tourist facilities would be given should be included.

**5.5 Have the needs of primary industries (agriculture, forestry, extraction operations) been adequately addressed?**

5.5.1 The Ernest Cook Trust does not have any comments on this question