

Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool – SEDF Funding Assessment

Cirencester to Kemble Feasibility Study

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Senior Officer Group's consideration of SEDF application against eligibility criteria

The bid is from a 'sponsoring' partner authority of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee ('Joint Committee') or the Gloucestershire Local Economic Partnership
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Senior Officer Group assessment:

Cotswold District Council is the sponsoring partner authority and promoter of the funding bid.
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The bid relates to one off or fixed term funding

Senior Officer Group assessment:

The project sponsored by Cotswold District Council seeks £65,000 one-off revenue investment to deliver a feasibility study of transport options between Cirencester and Kemble which will improve links between the main railway line and town and area of Cirencester. The study will give greater insight into the annual revenue costs and overall feasibility of the preferred option(s). Annual revenue costs of any selected option will not be the subject of further SEDF bids.

The bid relates to revenue support for enabling activity which:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support economic growth projects, partnership support or• Enable the commissioning of economic research, intelligence, pre development work or feasibility studies or• Provide pump priming funding contributions or• Provide essential leverage match funding to support the delivery of broader local economic projects or programmes. |
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Senior Officer Group assessment:

This bid enables the commissioning of economic research, intelligence etc through the study of the feasibility of transport options between Kemble and Cirencester. The aim will be to identify further appropriate for delivery which will support the economic growth of the area through effective transport and the promotion of tourism.

The bid provides evidence of clearly demonstrating the economic benefits and contribution it is likely to make in supporting the delivery of growth of the local economy and communities, as well as planned outcomes.

Improvement of transport links between the Kemble mainline railway station and the town and area of Cirencester will support economic growth, increase tourism potential and green transport. The Senior Officer Group are supportive of the bid.

Further conditions if the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Committee approves the bid:

Section 151 Officer's confirmation that sufficient funds are available in the Strategic Economic Development Fund during the relevant financial year.
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The SEDF Section 151 officer confirms that funds are available in SEDF to fund this bid.

Local Strategic Fit Scoring Criteria - Assessment of the ranking of the bid in terms of alignment against 'Strategic Fit' (as outlined in Annex A)

The Senior Officer Group considered the request for funding and the bid was given a score of 4 out of 5 as a strong fit with future economic growth within Cotswold District.

Terms and conditions of the approved bid (to include any binding conditions to any approved funding to which the applicant body will be required to agree before any release of funding, plus reporting requirements)

Release of Funding – funding to be drawn down by Cotswold District Council. The Council will be responsible for commissioning the Kemble Cirencester transport links feasibility study.

GEGJC Reporting – On completion the study findings will be reported back to the Committee for consideration and interest.

Recommendations to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee

The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Senior Officer Group recommend the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee **approve** the bid set out above for the reasons confirmed below:

1. The feasibility study will support the development of appropriate transport links between Kemble and Cirencester which will allow further consideration of transport link improvements in this area which will support economic growth, tourist access and public transport options.