



ANNEX B

Recommendations of the UKSPF Assessment Panel for projects to fund in 2024/25

1. **Help to Thrive - £19450.** This was an application by Cotswolds Tourism and was to provide support to businesses for developing and selling bookable products/experiences, particularly through organising workshops. It was widely recognised that there was a lack of bookable tourism products in the district. This initiative would help the Council achieve its objective of distributing visitors throughout the district and throughout the year.
2. **Employment and Skills Hub Outreach Project - £70,000.** This is an application by Gloucestershire County Council, taking a countywide approach to employment, skills and health inequalities. In essence, it is an extension of the successful GEM project. The County Council had engaged a local partner, The Churn Project, to deliver within Cotswold District. All other district councils were believed to be supporting this project and there were good, measurable outcomes.
3. **Net Zero Housing Exemplar Scheme - £100,000.** This is an application by Bromford Housing to help deliver an exemplar net zero social rented housing scheme in Down Ampney, in partnership with the Council. The properties would include a host of environmental features including solar panels. The panel felt this was an exciting scheme which was worthy of support.
4. **The Grace Network/former House of Fraser building, Cirencester - £75,000.** This prominent building has been vacant since 2018. The proposal is to repurpose it as a social enterprise department store, which could be a national exemplar. It would include a Long Table 'pay what you can' food operation, resale of furniture and children's clothes and bike repairs and sales. This would involve a lot of partnership working. It is estimated to create 50 jobs.



5. **Local Connections - £5000.** This is another application from Cotswolds Tourism and is for an initiative in the North Cotswolds to match up local suppliers with accommodation providers. Support would be given to businesses to develop a pitch and with networking. It has been carried out successfully elsewhere so we know it works.
6. **Zerodig Project - £15,000.** This is an application by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG) for a regenerative agriculture and horticulture project at the Royal Agricultural University. The total project cost is £150,000, so it levers in considerable funding from elsewhere.
7. **Tourism website - £12,000.** This is another application from Cotswolds Tourism. Having a good tourism website is becoming increasingly important and the existing Cotswolds.com website is in need of an upgrade in order to maintain the quality of its digital presence.

Total: £296,450