



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Community Resilience Fund		
Project stage and type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other [please state] Grant fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	
Directorate: Adults and Communities	Lead Officer name: Robyn Taylor	
Service Area: Communities	Lead Officer role: VCSE Investment & Social Action Officer	

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment is to help you develop your proposal in a way that is compliant with the council's policies and supports the council's strategic objectives under the [One City Climate Strategy](#), the [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) and the latest [Corporate Strategy](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the project proposal process by someone with a good knowledge of the project, the service area that will deliver it, and sufficient influence over the proposal to make changes as needed.

It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the Environmental Impact Assessment. See further [guidance](#) on completing this document. Please email environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

This proposal is about the extension of capital funding for the Community Resilience Fund, which contributes to the goal: **To build city resilience by growing the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality.**

The community resilience fund (CRF) is investing £4million capital funding in community and voluntary sector organisations, to support recovery and strengthen and build longer term resilience of both organisations and communities. The fund is investing in infrastructure, community buildings and equipment.

A primary focus has been on the communities (both geographic and communities of interest) that experience the greatest inequality, and funds have been allocated to neighbourhoods within the 30% most deprived in Bristol, or organisations which are 'of' the equalities communities they work with or represent, as equalities communities are historically the least likely to receive capital investment.

The projects in receipt of CRF grants support the following priorities:

- A. Environmental sustainability
 - a. Energy efficiency improvements to save money on bills, make spaces more usable, increase environmental sustainability
 - b. Energy generation projects to create an income, save money on bills, increase environmental sustainability
 - c. Investment in natural capital
- B. Financial security
 - a. Space improvements or expansions to bring in income
- C. Accessibility
 - a. Accessibility improvements to community spaces
- D. Digital infrastructure

E. Equipment which contributes to any of the above

CRF funding was allocated through a participatory decision making process, involving 100 diverse Bristol residents and 25 Councillors.

To help inform the decisions, expert input was provided during the process. Experts in construction, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, accessibility and digital infrastructure provided their guidance and technical advice on outline project proposals. This helped answer participant questions and provided a more rounded view of proposals. It also supported applicants to develop their projects in line with expert advice.

During the project development stage of the CRF, grant holder organisations were offered support from experts in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability to develop their full project plans, which must be signed off before funds are released. As part of this support, grant holders were able to present questions to experts, and experts provided guidance and advice on aspects of projects.

Throughout the process, expertise was provided by Bristol Energy Network, The Centre for Sustainable Energy, WECIL, Spatia, DOT project, Disability rights UK, Hydrock and more.

The proposal contributes to the impact that VCSE organisations can have in addressing One City Plan 2050 Environment Vision. Many groups within the VCSE sector have explicitly undertaken work around mitigating climate change; addressing fuel poverty; food growing; recycling; habitat restoration, green energy and energy efficiency. The proposal explicitly seeks to increase the resilience of the VCSE sector in delivering into the One City Plan, which includes the 2050 Vision for Environment.

1.2 Will the proposal have an environmental impact?

Could the proposal have either a positive or negative effects for the environment now or in the future? If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no environmental impact, then skip steps 2-3 and request review by sending this form to environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes No [please select]

1.3 If the proposal is part of an options appraisal, has the environmental impact of each option been assessed and included in the recommendation-making process?

If 'Yes' please ensure that the details of the environmental impacts of each option are made clear in the pros and cons section of the [project management options appraisal document](#).

Yes No Not applicable [please select]

If 'No' explain why environmental impacts have not been considered as part of the options appraisal process.

Step 2: What kinds of environmental impacts might the project have?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered. See detailed [guidance documents](#) for advice on identifying potential impacts.

Does the proposal create any benefits for the environment, or have any adverse impacts?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our corporate environmental objectives and the wider [One City Climate and Ecological Emergency strategies](#).

Consider how the proposal creates environmental impacts in the following categories, both now and in the future.

Reasonable efforts should be made to quantify stated benefit or adverse impacts wherever possible.

Where the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact, consider what actions would enhance those impacts. Where the proposal is likely to have a harmful impact, consider whether actions would mitigate these impacts.

Enhancements or mitigation actions are only required when there is a likely impact identified. Remember that where enhancements or mitigation actions are listed, they should be assigned to staff and appropriately resourced.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)		
The decision being sought here is to grant recipients an extension to make use of the CRF funds. Doing so will allow them to realise many of the outcomes detailed below.		
<p>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</p> <p>BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city in achieving net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Will the proposal involve transport, or the use of energy in buildings? Will the proposal involve the purchase of goods or services? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, there will be a carbon impact.</p> <p>Consider the scale and timeframe of the impact,</p>	Benefits	<p>The proposal aims to support VCSE sector to make improvements to community infrastructure including buildings and equipment, with the end result of increasing resilience of the sector. This could include energy efficiency improvements to community buildings, extensions or building works on community buildings, installation of renewable energy infrastructure, or improvements to digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Furthermore, many VCSE organisations explicitly deliver work in a range of areas including enhancement of the physical appearance of the city; increase tree cover; reduce climate change; raise awareness of recycling, ecology and promote energy efficiency in the city. By increasing their resilience, this funding will empower organisations to continue their positive work. Funding is being invested in communities in the 30% most deprived areas of Bristol as well as organisations which are ‘of’ the community they work with or represent.</p> <p>The significant impacts of this proposal are that CRF funding is having and will continue to have a positive impact on energy consumption and energy efficiency of community spaces. It empowers and builds resilience of community and voluntary organisations who often embed work with a positive impact on the environment within their agendas.</p>

<p>particularly if the proposal will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>There may be some negative impacts due to this fund investing capital in infrastructure which could create short term pollution and carbon emissions through construction works.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats BCC has committed to 30% of its land being managed for nature and to halve its use of pesticides by 2030.</p> <p>Consider how your proposal can support increased space for nature, reduced use of pesticides, reduce pollution to waterways, and reduce consumption of products that undermine ecosystems around the world.</p> <p>If your proposal will directly lead to a reduction in habitat within Bristol, then consider how your proposed mitigation can lead to a biodiversity net gain. Be sure to refer to quantifiable changes wherever possible.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

<p>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</p> <p>Consider what resources will be used as a result of the proposal, how they can be minimised or swapped for less impactful ones, where they will be sourced from, and what will happen to any waste generated</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	Benefits	
	Enhancing actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
	Adverse impacts	There could also be waste generated through construction work and replacement of equipment.
	Mitigating actions	Funded organisations are asked to consider the environmental impact and carbon emissions associated with their projects, by completing an eco health check list. This was designed in consultation with the Climate Change team, and is an essential part of the documentation needed to release grants. Technical advice has been provided throughout the process of allocating funding and developing project plans to ensure funding is invested in the most appropriate measures and works. Organisations have been encouraged to carry out their own energy efficiency audits to consider the best measures to implement. We have and will continue to encourage organisations to recycle and/or purchase second-hand equipment where possible and appropriate.
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		
<p>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol’s resilience to the effects of climate change</p> <p>Bristol’s climate is already changing, and increasingly frequent instances of extreme weather will become more likely over time.</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will perform during periods of extreme weather (particularly heat and flooding).</p> <p>Consider if the proposal will reduce or increase risk to people and assets during extreme weather events.</p>	Benefits	As above, the proposal aims to support VCSE sector to make improvements to community infrastructure including buildings and equipment, with the end result of increasing resilience of the sector. This could include energy efficiency improvements to community buildings, extensions or building works on community buildings, installation of renewable energy infrastructure, or improvements to digital infrastructure. Furthermore, many VCSE organisations explicitly deliver work in a range of areas including enhancement of the physical appearance of the city; increase tree cover; reduce climate change; raise awareness of recycling, ecology and promote energy efficiency in the city. By increasing their resilience, this funding will empower organisations to continue their positive work. Funding is being invested in communities in the 30% most deprived areas of Bristol as well as organisations which are ‘of’ the community they work with or represent.
	Enhancing actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	

Further guidance <input type="checkbox"/> No impact	Adverse impacts	
	Mitigating actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land Consider how the proposal will change the likelihood of pollution occurring to air, water, or land and what steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring. Further guidance <input type="checkbox"/> No impact	Benefits	
	Enhancing actions	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years	
	Adverse impacts	Some projects receiving investment may produce short term pollution due to construction.
	Mitigating actions	As above, organisations are encouraged to work with technical experts to find solutions to pollution throughout the duration of their project.
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		

Step 3: Action Plan

Use this section summarise and assign responsibility for any actions you have identified to improve data, enhance beneficial, or mitigate negative impacts. Actions identified in section two can be grouped together if named responsibility is under the same person.

This action plan should be updated at each stage of the project. Please be aware that the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service may use this action plan as an audit checklist during the project’s implementation or operation.

Enhancing / mitigating action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
We will continue to encourage organisations to think about the impact of their projects both positive and negative and record this.	Robyn Taylor	March 2026
We will seek to minimise negative impacts by continuing to offer technical advice and support and encouraging the use of sustainable building materials where possible.	Robyn Taylor	March 2026

Enhancing / mitigating action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale

Step 4: Review

The Sustainable City and Climate Change Service need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your impact assessment. Assessments should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the environmental impact of the proposal.

Please seek feedback and review by emailing environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk before final submission of your decision pathway documentation¹.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service and must be included in the 'evidence base' section of the decision pathway cover sheet.

Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):

Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer: Daniel Shelton	Submitting author: Robyn Taylor
Date: 01/07/2024	Date: 20/06/2024

¹ Review by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely environmental impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.