



# Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.1]

<b>Proposal title:</b> Bristol Impact Fund 3		
<b>Project stage and type:</b> <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 funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	
<b>Directorate:</b> Public Health and Communities	<b>Lead Officer name:</b> Penny Germon	
<b>Service Area:</b> Communities	<b>Lead Officer role:</b> Head of Service, Communities	

## 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 contact the [Environmental Performance Team](#) 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.

The Bristol Impact Fund is a strategic fund bringing together city council budgets into one grant programme for the voluntary and community sector. It launched in 2017, and the current round (BIF2) runs from October 2021 to March 2026.

Since BIF began, the fund has evolved both to respond to a changing city context and to build on what has been learnt. The second round (BIF2) put community priorities and equality at its heart. Groups funded through BIF2 have taken an asset-based community development approach – focusing on our strengths to empower people, build connection and mobilise resources. Asset-based work takes time and long-term commitment.

The third round of the Bristol Impact Fund will build on what has come before, continuing to focus on growing the power of communities by investing in proactive community building activity and equity. The four-year programme will invest in organisations and groups to strengthen community infrastructure and enable the long-term work needed to build capacity and social capital. This in turn improves wellbeing and resilience across Bristol, both of communities and the VCSE organisations that support them. We have seen that by investing in communities and growing their skills, knowledge, control of assets and connections, they are better able to cope with and bounce back from shocks, stresses and strains, such as the global pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, or future climate-related shocks

The overall goal for Bristol Impact Fund 3 is: "To grow the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequity." By "communities" we mean both:

- Geographical e.g. neighbourhoods and communities of place
- Communities of interest or shared experience e.g. communities that experience inequity or disadvantage.

Focusing on inequity is about recognising that social exclusion and injustice, disadvantage and discrimination cause harm to citizens, communities and the city. To address this we need to be intentional about removing barriers, changing the way things are done and empowering people and communities. This will increase social cohesion (and reduce isolation), enable people to take control over their own lives, and help communities to work together to support one another for the common good.

## 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 the [Environmental Performance Team](#).

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.

### 2.1 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 proposal is to provide grant funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations which offer direct support to and build voice/influence in the city with equalities communities and people living in areas of highest multiple deprivation. Many VCSE organisations

explicitly deliver work to enhance the physical appearance of the city, increase tree cover, reduce climate change, raise awareness of recycling, ecology and promote energy efficiency in the city.

Some Bristol Impact Fund funded organisations also deliver projects to empower often excluded communities to have their voices heard within the city’s response to the climate crisis. There is a strong link between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the communities who are most at risk from the effects of climate change factors such as heatwaves and flooding. The VCSE sector are key to creating the conditions for resilient communities, and are well-placed to engage people, shift culture and build inclusion, often in the communities who experience the greatest inequality. Skill and capacity building is vital to enable their work to continue and grow. Although BIF3 does not have a specific focus on funding climate or environmental activity, the core funding that the grant provides helps build the capacity of VCSE organisations, so they are better able to engage their communities in issues that affect them, including the climate crisis.

<p><b>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</b></p> <p>BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city in achieving a Just Transition to 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, particularly if the proposal will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>BIF3 funded organisations, such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as making community buildings more energy efficient. BIF3 will contribute to core costs of some of these organisations.</p> <p><b>The programme creates directly beneficial impacts on issues relating to Bristol’s Just Transition. By building capacity within communities they are more able to access further additional funding and programmes that take a more targeted approach to climate action.</b></p>
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>We will require all BIF3 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council ‘Baseline Standards’ – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability.</p> <p><b>Community Resources team and Climate Change team to continue liaison ensuring that opportunities for bridging between capacity building and community climate action planning programmes are realised.</b></p>
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less                      <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years                      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	
<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less                      <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years                      <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

<p><b>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats</b></p> <p>BCC has committed to 30% of its land being managed for nature and to halve its use of pesticides by 2030.</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>BIF3 funded organisations, such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as growing projects and climate action plans. BIF3 will contribute to core costs of some of these organisations.</p>
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<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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>We will require all BIF3 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council ‘Baseline Standards’ – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability</p> <p><b>Community Resources team and Climate Change team to continue liaison ensuring that opportunities for bridging between capacity building and community climate action planning programmes (which provide for inclusion of biodiversity focused actions) are realised.</b></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><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></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><b>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</b></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><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>BIF3 funded organisations, such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as growing projects and climate action plans. BIF3 will contribute to core costs of some of these organisations.</p>
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>We will require all BIF3 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council ‘Baseline Standards’ – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability</p> <p><b>Community Resources team and Climate Change team to continue liaison ensuring that opportunities for bridging between capacity building and community climate action planning programmes (which provide for inclusion of circular economy and waste focused actions) are realised.</b></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><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></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><b>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol's resilience to the effects of climate change</b></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> <p><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	<p>BIF3 will fund organisations to build community resilience and take an asset-based approach to community development. Communities with more resilience, which are better connected, are more able to respond to emergencies. We have seen this through Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. The climate emergency and climate change will present more emergencies and stronger communities will be better able to cope with the adverse effects.</p>
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	<p>Learning and development opportunities will be made available for organisations on Asset Based community development, including peer learning and support.</p> <p>Also, we will require all BIF3 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council 'Baseline Standards' – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability.</p> <p><b>Community Resources team and Climate Change team to continue liaison ensuring that opportunities for bridging between capacity building and community climate action planning programmes (which provide for inclusion of climate resilience focused actions) are realised.</b></p>
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less            <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years            <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	
<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less            <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years            <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p><b>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><a href="#">Further guidance</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p><b>Benefits</b></p>	
	<p><b>Enhancing actions</b></p>	
	<p><b>Persistence of effects:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less            <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years            <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p><b>Adverse impacts</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mitigating actions</b></p>	

	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years
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## Step 3: Actions

### 3.1 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
Complete the update of the baseline standards to ensure they better cover new targets around Environmental management and sustainability: <a href="#">About Bristol City Council</a>	Ellie Stevens	By February 2025
Community Resources team will continue liaising with Climate Change team to ensure that opportunities for bridging between capacity building and community climate action planning programmes are maintained.	Ellie Stevens / Alex Ivory	Ongoing until March 2026

## Step 4: Review – for completion by the Environmental Performance Team

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 from the [Environmental Performance Team](#) before final submission of your decision pathway documentation<sup>1</sup>.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here and included on the cover sheet of the decision pathway documentation.

<b>Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):</b>
<b>Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:</b>

<b>Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:</b>  Daniel Shelton	<b>Submitting author:</b> Anna Bowie
<b>Date:</b> 16.10.2024	<b>Date:</b> 16/10/2024

<sup>1</sup> Review by the Environmental Performance Team confirms there is sufficient information for decision makers to consider the most relevant environmental impacts at the current stage of the proposal. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

