



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Grant		
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 funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	
Directorate: Public Health and Communities	Lead Officer name: Ellie Stevens	
Service Area: Communities	Lead Officer role: Community Resources Manager	

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 report seeks approval on the approach to the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Grant, which funds VCSE Infrastructure Organisations to provide support to the VCSE sector in Bristol through:

- Capacity building
- Networks and partnership brokerage
- Voice and influence

This grant is part of the City Council's commitment to support a thriving, more equitable VCSE ecosystem and a one city, many communities approach. It is about providing infrastructure support to community and voluntary sector organisations so they have access to knowledge and skills, they can work together and there is an organised way for the city to collaborate with a very diverse network of organisations. Bristol City Council understands the vital role of VCSE organisations in the life of the city. A thriving VCSE sector contributes directly to the wellbeing of individuals and communities- by redressing disadvantage and inequality; delivering services; promoting inclusion; strengthening voice and influence; and enabling social action.

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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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](#).

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	[please select]
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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 proposal is to provide grant funding to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) infrastructure organisations which work to provide support to the VCSE sector, through capacity building, networks and partnership brokerage and voice and influence. Many VCSE organisations who are supported through the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support programme 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.

The programme prioritises support for organisations working in the most deprived areas of Bristol, organisations of equalities communities and smaller VCSE organisations. Many of these organisations work 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 the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Grant does not have a specific focus on funding climate or environmental activity, the funding that the grant provides directly 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>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, 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>Benefits</p> <p>Organisations supported through the Voluntary and community sector infrastructure support programme such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as making community buildings more energy efficient. This funding ensures they have spaces to share learning, network, have their voices heard in city decision making and have access to capacity building which could include things like support with managing or fundraising for a community asset.</p> <p>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.</p>	
	<p>Enhancing actions</p> <p>We will require 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>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>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</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>Consider how your proposal can support increased space for nature, reduced use of pesticides, reduce pollution to waterways, and reduce consumption of products</p>	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Organisations supported through the Evcse programme such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as growing projects and climate action plans. This funding ensures they have spaces to share learning, network, have their voices heard in city decision making and have access to capacity building support which helps them for example, fundraise for the future of their climate action work.</p>	
	<p>Enhancing actions</p> <p>We will require 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>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	

<p>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 type="checkbox"/> No impact</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>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>Organisations supported through the Voluntary and community sector infrastructure support programme such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs, may work on neighbourhood projects such as growing projects and climate action plans. This funding ensures they have spaces to share learning, network, have their voices heard in city decision making and have access to capacity building support which helps them for example, fundraise for the future of their climate action work.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>We will require 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>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>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>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>Benefits</p>	<p>The Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Grant is all about building the resilience of the VCSE sector. A thriving VCSE sector contributes directly to the wellbeing of individuals and communities- by redressing disadvantage and inequality; delivering services; promoting inclusion; strengthening voice and influence; and enabling social action.</p> <p>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>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>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>It is specified in the funding approach for this grant that 1:1 support should be made available to VCSE organisations who meet strategic priorities, when they are in crisis. This is about committing to building the resilience of the communities who face the greatest disadvantage and inequity and are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Also, we will require 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>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>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>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</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>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>		

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
Complete the update of the baseline standards to ensure they better cover new targets around Environmental management and sustainability: About Bristol City Council	Community Resources Manager	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.	Community Resources Manager	Ongoing until March 2026

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:	Submitting author:
Daniel Shelton	Ellie Stevens
Date:	Date:
10/01/24	09/01/2025

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.