

Communities Scrutiny Commission  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2020



**Report of:** Mike Jackson, Executive Director Resources

**Title:** Bristol Impact Fund Impact report, Years 1 & 2

**Ward:** citywide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Keith Houghton, Community Resources Manager

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**Recommendation:**

Consider the mid-point report on the Bristol Impact Fund

**The significant issues in the report are:**

The purpose of BIF is to tackle inequality and deprivation. A theory of change is set out in the VCS Grants Prospectus ([VCS Prospectus](#) pages 17-21)

This report sets out the impact of Bristol Impact Fund at mid-point – two years in to a four year programme.

The indications are that BIF is delivering the anticipated benefits against the 5 key challenges; significant preferential benefits for people who experience the greatest inequality and exclusion and has harnessed significant added value in terms of money and time.



## 1. Summary

The purpose of the Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) is to tackle inequality and deprivation. Introduced in 2017, it was a significant change in the city council's approach to grant investment. It was developed over four years in a co-design process with services across the council, the VCSE and partners. The aim was to develop a strategic approach to replace a range of different systems and processes across services. BIF is, therefore, a pooled budget with the strategic aim of addressing inequality and deprivation. The [VCS Grants Prospectus](#) sets out the overall framework for the fund and is the outcome of the co-design and extensive consultation. The model developed by Bristol has received national recognition as good practice and has been replicated by other authorities.

Funding was awarded to 70 organisations across the city. This report describes the impacts of the first two years of the BIF – July 2017- June 2019

## 2. Context

- i. The Cabinet approved allocation of £12.57 million funding to the four year Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) programme at its meeting on [7<sup>th</sup> March 2017](#). This brought a number of council grant streams together to form a new Bristol Impact Fund.
- ii. Cabinet report sets out the purpose of the BIF as *'aligning Council grant streams to form a new Bristol Impact Fund which has a clear focus on reducing disadvantage and inequality, improving health and wellbeing and increasing resilience in the city. The purpose of this is to ensure that the Council's investment makes the maximum impact on the major challenges faced by the city, that the people that need it most get the best value and the maximum benefit'*.
- iii. The BIF funds 50 organisations to deliver 29 Medium/Large four-year projects running July 2017-June 2021. They then receive a funding taper of 10% in year 2019/20 and 5% in 2020/21.
- iv. A BIF Small Grants programme was funded 2017-2019 at £0.16 million a year. It supported 20 organisations delivering 20 projects. Applications were invited for a second round of small grants in 2019 with approved projects running from January 2020-December 2021.
- v. All projects provide 6 monthly monitoring reports which provide the qualitative and quantitative information for the impact report.
- vi. The first 2 years of impact reporting sets out the key benefits which have been delivered by Medium/Large projects, which are half-way through their four-year delivery; and the first round of small grants which ended in June 2019
- vii. All projects in the BIF programme contribute to at least one of 5 Challenges, which shape the programme:
  - Reducing financial, food & fuel poverty
  - Tackling unemployment & underemployment
  - Improving access to information, services and opportunities in the city and increasing digital inclusion
  - Enabling influence & participation in the community
  - Reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing
- viii. Round 1 of Small Grants 9,810 citizens participated.  
Two year of Medium/Large grants (mid-point) 74,986 citizens participated  
= 84,796 citizens.
- ix. The monitoring of people participating in all BIF projects demonstrates a clear preferential benefit to Equalities Groups in the city. In particular, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents, disabled people, women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) are

represented at higher levels than their presence in the general population; older people and younger people are benefitting proportionate to their presence in the general population.

- x. The most benefit is being delivered in the areas where there is greatest inequality in particular Ashley, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston, Lawrence Hill, Filwood, Hartcliffe & Withywood, Southmead, Easton and Henbury & Brentry
- xi. Added value
  - value of the volunteering hours achieved through BIF projects over 2 years £10.3m (based on a rate of £14.43 an hour suggested by the Office of National Statistics)
  - £4.2m additional funding has been levered in against BCC investment of £6.2m, a leverage rate of 67.5% (67p added value for every £1 invested).

### 3. Policy

- i. The purpose of the Bristol Impact Fund is to tackle inequality and deprivation. The context for the corporate strategy is the understanding that opportunity is not equal. Where we live, who we are and our economic status define our life chances. BIF plays to the strengths of the VCSE as part of the overall corporate strategy to improve outcomes for Bristol citizens who experience the greatest inequality.
- ii. The 5 BIF Challenges (see 2vii) contribute to the following Corporate Strategy Themes and Commitments:
  - Empowering and Caring: Work with partners to empower communities and individuals, increase independence and support those who need it. Give children the best possible start in life.
  - Fair and Inclusive: Improve economic and social equality, pursuing economic growth which includes everyone and making sure people have access to quality learning, decent jobs and homes they can afford.
  - Well Connected: Take bold and innovative steps to make Bristol a joined up city, linking up people with jobs and with each other.
  - Wellbeing: Create healthier and more resilient communities where life expectancy is not determined by wealth or background.

### 4. Consultation

#### a) Internal

Not applicable

#### b) External

Not applicable

### 5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the

need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) All BIF funded organisations are required to monitor where possible people benefitting from or participating in their work, using a standardised equalities/demographics format. This gathers information about people who participate, enables projects to make informed decisions and contributes to understanding impact.

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: Bristol Impact Fund: Years 1 & 2 (2017/2018; 2018/19) Impacts**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:** None