

Growing the Power of Communities

Experiencing the Greatest Inequality



Appendix A: Bristol Impact Fund 2: Growing the Power of Communities Experiencing the Greatest Inequality

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1 Introduction

Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) 2017 – 2021 ends in 2021. All medium/large funding agreements including the Voice and Influence Partnership contract are due to end on 30th June and all small grants on the 31st December. This proposal is about a new four year programme from 2021 –2025. We are seeking to start BIF 2 from 1st October 2021, extending existing funding arrangements to the end of September 2021 for medium/large and the Voice and Influence Partnership.

Community and voluntary organisations are part of the engine that makes Bristol a creative, dynamic and progressive city and are vital partners in our recovery, building back better and realising the BCC Corporate Strategy and One City Plan.

The sector in all its diversity is a reflection of Bristol citizens' drive and determination to improve their own communities – communities of place and communities of interest. Communities coming together and creatively using the resources we have is at the heart of our city response to the continuing challenge of COVID-19. Grant funding has been an important part of this.

Whilst COVID-19 showed so much that was positive about our city, it also left us in no doubt about the inequality and its impact. The gaps in the system became clear as did the deadly consequences of persistent, ingrained inequality. We can only build back better if we strengthen the power and voice of the communities that experience the greatest inequity to take their rightful place at the heart of city life.

The proposal has been shaped by learnings from COVID-19, the last four years of Bristol Impact Fund, policy and strategic context and what we need to build back better and ensure the resilience of the city.

In August, Bristol City Council convened the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) Strategy Group - a strategic partnership of community and voluntary infrastructure organisations – Locality, Voscur and Black Southwest Network (BSWN) together with partners including City Funds, Quartet Community Foundation, Power to Change, a disability equality adviser, Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Sirona Health and senior leaders from Bristol City Council.

To inform the work, Bristol City Council, Power to Change and Quartet funded research to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the sector and understand the priorities and aspirations for the future. It was led by Black South West Network, working with Locality and Voscur. An interim report was published in September ([“Priority areas of investment for an effective VCSE recovery post Covid-19 Interim Report”](#)). The final report will be published in February.

Our aim is to align, as far as possible, the approach of BIF 2 to the findings and priorities set out in this research focusing on community initiatives which will help to prevent deepening inequality, empower citizens and communities and build community.

We want to work with community and voluntary sector organisations to find ways to maximise this investment. We want to invest in our future, building collaborative relationships and growing the power of communities working together to build resilience.

2 Bristol Impact Fund 2: October 2021 to September 2025

2.1 Strategic fit

The One City Plan, Economic Recovery Strategy, the report of the Director of Public Health and the City Council's own Corporate Strategy all recognise that inequity in the city is only set to widen as a result of the profound economic and health impact of COVID-19. Empowering those communities most impacted by systemic inequality is an essential for our long-term city resilience.

Bristol Impact Fund 2 is putting a focus on prevention. It is a four year investment in the community and voluntary sector to empower citizens, facilitate inclusion and connect people to people and people to power so they can take action on the things most important to them which will in turn build social capital, improve health and wellbeing and local economies and our city resilience.

Strategic goals	Create a fairer, healthier and sustainable city, one which is people-centred and has a resilient economy that supports diverse, inclusive and equitable communities¹				
	Citizen, Community and City Resilience				
	Health wealth	Community wealth	Civic Participation		
	↑		Reduce Inequity		↑
BIF Goal	Grow the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality				
Impacts	Equalities-led groups, neighbourhood communities and people experiencing the greatest inequality are better able to:				
	Self-organise & pursue collective priorities	Access trusted, empowering support	Build strong organisations taking forward community priorities	Collaborate and bring about meaningful change	

¹ One City Economic Recovery Statement of Intent, published June 2020: One-City-Economic-Recovery-Statement-of-Intent.pdf (bristolonecity.com)

Priorities	Mental health & wellbeing	Digital Inclusion	Hate Crime support	Economic Inclusion	Community-identified priorities
7 Ways of Working leading to people to people and people to power connections and better use of assets & resources					

2.2 What we want to achieve with the Bristol Impact Fund 2

The goal of Bristol Impact Fund 2 is to empower communities (communities of place and communities of people with shared experience of inequality) that experience the greatest impact of systemic inequality. BIF 2 will enable communities to make strong connections and take action on the issues that matter most to them.

We have seen how the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened and amplified existing inequalities in Bristol. To make greater progress in addressing Bristol's inequalities, communities need the space, resources and support to empower themselves - to connect people to people and people to power, pursue their priorities, develop better ways of doing things and have the capacity to be properly represented in decision making and service provision. Some people call this "levelling up".

Discrimination and inequity drives poverty (low skilled precarious work, depressed local economies); health inequality (shorter life, emotional and mental distress) and social exclusion.

We recognise that we will only improve our city's resilience to build back better if we strengthen the power and voice of Bristol's diverse communities that experience inequality to take their rightful place at the heart of city life.

We also recognise that there is an imbalance of power in the city; that the lives of working class communities, Black, Asian and Minority ethnic people, Younger people, Older people, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people; Transgender people; Women; Faith groups; and Disabled people are impacted by decisions and services determined by others.

2.3 The impacts

The Bristol Impact Fund will deliver the following four impacts over the course of the four years:

Equalities-led groups, neighbourhood communities and people experiencing the greatest inequality are better able to:

- Support one another, self-organise, use their collective assets (e.g. interests, skills, experience, time, buildings, resources) to pursue collective priorities and solve shared problems
- Access trusted, empowering support and services which facilitate people to people connections, inclusion and participation in community life
- Build strong and sustainable Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to take forward community priorities
- Be in a strong position to collaborate with Bristol City Council and the one city partnership to understand and work to address inequality caused by poverty: and low income, class, racism, sexism, disablism, heterosexism, faith-based discrimination or ageism and bring about meaningful change for people experiencing these inequalities.

2.4 The 7 ways of working

In order to achieve the overall goal and impacts there are 7 ways of working which sit at the heart of our approach. They are a direction of travel. The focus is on empowering people and communities and making best use of existing assets, connecting people to people and people to power. These ways of working will produce social capital and deliver significant health, wellbeing and economic benefit for both citizens and communities in addition to progress against the chosen priority.

Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate their commitment to apply and embed the ways of working and learn together. It is understood there will be a phased approach over the four years. As part of the BIF process we want to understand more about what works and what doesn't and we are committed to supporting this process.

Way of working	Examples
Equity	Demonstrate positive action to redress inequity (level up) Build and strengthen equalities-led groups (which often work city wide)
Inclusion	Be proactive and intentional about inclusion Remove physical, attitudinal, cultural, environmental and economic barriers Find respectful, creative ways to empower people and communities who are routinely excluded from community and city life

<p>Asset based</p> <p>Assets are people – our interests, time, experience, skills, networks, community and voluntary groups. Assets are also money, buildings, land, the local corner shop, nursery, sheltered housing, businesses and services.</p>	<p>Take the time to discover, then build on the assets that are already in the community</p>
<p>Place based</p>	<p>Continue to build strong, connected communities where people come together, self-organise and shape the future of their communities</p> <p>Encourage many more people to connect and expand the opportunities in their local area</p>
<p>Relational/ Relationship-oriented</p>	<p>Connect people to people, people to power and organisations to each other</p>
<p>Citizen-led</p>	<p>Encourage and nurture citizen action - by and for the people</p> <p>Encourage and enable community-led activity – people with shared experience or interest coming together to find solutions</p> <p>Grow collective skills, knowledge, confidence, curiosity and self-determination</p>
<p>Nurturing the community and voluntary sector eco-systems</p>	<p>Strengthen organisations which can help tackle the structural inequality</p> <p>Encourage larger organisations to share their assets (by which we mean people, skills, experience as well as potentially buildings and other physical resources) with smaller organisations & informal networks to build community connection and collaboration</p> <p>Encourage organisations to have deep roots into communities</p> <p>Foster cultures of learning and co-creation</p>

2.5 Funding Priorities

To achieve the overall goal we will prioritise applications that:

1. **Strengthen the capacity of equalities-led groups, neighbourhood communities and people experiencing the greatest inequality by**
 - building strong community connections: connecting people to people, people to power,

- make the best use of and build on their skills, experience, networks and resources to drive forward the community's key priorities and produce a sustainable way forward
- facilitate inclusion and participation in community life

and

2. Make an impact in the chosen priority/priorities:

Priorities will either be:

A. Community priorities

We want to empower community and voluntary organisations to pursue the priorities which are particularly important to their communities they work with.

Our aim is for funding to follow the priorities determined by communities and what is most important for them. If a community has been working on a priority for some time and it has the potential to impact positively on citizens, we do not want them to be diverted because their priority is not explicitly named on a list.

Or

B. Priorities identified by the Black South West Network VCSE research – Designing a New Social Reality, for example:

- Digital exclusion and poverty
- Economic inclusion e.g. initiatives that allow systemically disadvantaged groups to enter/re-enter the labour market
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Hate Crime

All applicants will need to set out clear evidence rationale and evidence for their chosen priorities and how they will apply the ways of working. It is understood that these priorities may evolve over the four years of the grant.

2.6 Demonstrating success: outcomes and indicators

Successful applicants will need to link their contribution to the BIF 2 four impacts through the following outcomes:

In places and communities which experience the greatest inequality:

Outcome 1

Applicants will choose relevant outcomes and measurable indicators relating to their priority:

- community-identified priorities which will achieve positive change
- improving mental health and wellbeing (health wealth)
- supporting digital inclusion or the impact of digital poverty
- supporting communities experiencing hate crime
- supporting economic empowerment and inclusion (community wealth)

Applicants will also deliver against outcome 2 and/or outcome 3:

Outcome 2

People are supported to make people to people connections, people to power connections and participate in community life making the best use of community assets

Outcome 3

There is evidence people who experience the greatest inequality are shaping and leading their communities and the life of the city

(We will also want to consider evidence the city is changing in response to the experience, insight and good ideas of equalities groups. For communities experiencing inequality to be more involved in city life and decision-making, we recognise a change is needed in the way the city works)

To achieve this, we will ask applicants to:

a. Set out a Theory of Change for the work they are asking to be funded, which will identify the assets available within their communities and organisation; the priority issues they want to address, how they will work with the assets and what additional resources (including BIF funding) they are bringing to bear; how they will reflect on what works and doesn't over the course of their funding, and how they will evidence what difference they are making.

b. Propose outcomes and indicators relevant to the proposal and work with us in the first year of the BIF2 programme to develop our approach to evaluate impact, including exploring how we might align indicators and outcomes.

We will propose a short set of core indicators for Outcomes 2 & 3 to which applicants can choose from.

2.7 Funding Approach

The second Bristol Impact Fund will have an estimated budget of £1.45m in year 1 and then £1.65m for years 2, 3 and 4 each, totalling £6,400,000.

Small Grants

Existing small grants end on the 31st December 2021. BIF 2 small grants will start on 1st July 2022.

The purpose of the small grants fund is to encourage new ideas and involvement from more diverse communities. We will take positive action to reach communities under-represented in the medium and large grants awarded in October 2021. We particularly want to encourage proposals which are led by or build capacity of younger people aged 16-24. We are aware that economic impacts of Covid-19 will have a particularly negative impact on young people and we would like to support initiatives which strengthen their voice in the city.

There will be:

- Two rounds of **Small Grants**, each with an 18-month duration and with £150,000 available in each round, making a total allocation of £300,000 to Small Grants across the BIF 2 programme
- Round 1 - July 2022 – December 2023
- Round 2 - January 2024 – June 2025
- Individual small grants will range between £2,500 and £10,000 per year

Medium/Large Grants

Medium and large grants will run for the full 4-year funding period, 1st October 2021- 30th September 2025.

There will be the option of a 9 months development period - to fully develop collaborative ways of working, apply the community building ways of working and move from crisis response. Not all organisations will need this time but we expect it to be particularly helpful to smaller equalities-led organisations less experienced in making applications.

NB. These two key changes have been made in response to the consultation. This is three months later than proposed in the consultation in order to extend the application window and the period between decision and grant agreements ending (see timeline below). To facilitate this we will extend existing medium and large grants and the Voice and Influence contract by 3 months from 1st July to 31st September.

To increase the number of grants awarded there will be an upper limit of £200k per application. The average grant to a single organisation is expected to be about £50k. Applications of over £100k will be high quality, exceptional applications (demonstrating very strong community building principles) and be very well placed to make a significant impact.

We propose:

- Individual Medium Grants would range between £10,001 and £49,999 per year
- Individual Large Grants would range between £50,000 and £200,000 per year
- Up to £355,000 per year for a collaborative application to support people and communities who experience hate crime and discrimination.
- No one organisation would receive more than £100k per annum across the programme
- We expect all applicants to be able to demonstrate informal collaborations in the way they work with others
- We will accept collaborative applications from a number of organisations working together

Hate Crime support

BIF 2 will consider proposals of up to £355,000 per year to provide support to people who experience hate crime whilst also putting a clear focus on prevention. All of the Bristol Impact Fund ways of working apply.

This is in recognition of the increased incidence and threat of hate crime in the context of Brexit, COVID-19 and reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement, and the undermining impact of hate crime on the resilience of equalities communities in the city.

Hate crime is experienced by a wide group of people including Disabled people, Black and Minority Ethnic people, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, Women and faith communities.

It is proposed the overall allocation for hate crime and discrimination remains unchanged from 20/21. The approach will include all ages (under BIF 1 it was over 16's) and a clear focus on prevention as well as one to one support.

Applicants will need to address:

- a. support to those who experience hate crime and discrimination of all ages.
- b. how they will work in collaboration with others to develop and nurture approaches which increase community cohesion and the skills, knowledge and capacity of citizens and communities to prevent hate crime.

Bristol City Council would want to be a partner in this process.

How the funding is divided would be for the collaboration to determine.

2.8 Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Building on the learning from BIF 1 there will be an allocation of **4%** or £56k per year from the overall fund to support evaluation and understanding the impact of BIF2.

We are open-minded about the approach to evaluation and learning. We will work with grantees to develop the approach during the first 6 months of the programme and agree ways of working towards common goals, align monitoring and learning.. We want the exercise to be meaningful and beneficial to grantees, to inform the work but also help tell the story of what's been achieved and the value of the investment made. A lot of work has been done in this field and there are different ways to approach it, including the involvement of an external evaluator for the duration of the programme.

All applicants will be expected to provide monitoring and feedback twice a year.

2.9 Indicative timetable

Activity	Timeframe
Information/support workshops	Feb/March 2021
Cabinet decision	25 th February 2021
Applications open (10 week)	Wk. com 8th March 2021
Applications close	17 th May 2021
Grants evaluation	May/June 2021
Grants decision communicated to applicants	July 2021
Funding agreements	Sept 2021
Commencement of new period of grant funding	1 st October 2021

2.10 Additional social benefits and added value

Grant recipients will be required to demonstrate additional social benefit from the grant investment by choosing from a menu of social value indicators. For example, additional funding, local people employed, value of volunteers

2.11 Options considered:

	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1.	Stop Bristol Impact Fund	Contribute to savings	Significant negative impact on citizens, communities and VCSE
	Conclusion	Not proposed because disadvantages outweigh any advantage	
2.	Roll forward BIF1 unchanged	Easier in terms of administration and for those receiving BIF 1 who may want to apply again.	BIF 1 was developed over 5 years ago. There have been significant changes and development in that time e.g. policy , practice, funding

	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
			and impact of COVID-19
	Conclusion	Not proposed because disadvantages outweigh any advantage	
3.	Adapt and update BIF	Builds on BIF 1 but places greater emphasis on building citizen and community capacity for the longer term, particularly equality groups. Reflects significant changes in policy, practice and learning from COVID-19.	Change to a more asset based approach will require some organisations currently in receipt of BIF funding to develop their approach if they are looking to apply again.
	Conclusion	Proposed option with measures to mitigate disadvantages	

2.12 Consultation findings and response

The full consultation report can be found in appendix B. Below is a summary of the key findings and the changes we have made in response.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend meetings and respond to the survey. We have appreciated the feedback and as a result we have made changes to strengthen the proposals.

Summary of findings from survey

The consultation ran from 16th November to 16th December 2020. A total of **88** complete online responses were received, of which the majority were in agreement with the proposed approach:

The Proposed BIF 2 Goal, the Funding Priorities; the Ways of Working; the Impacts and proposed outcomes and our proposals for co-producing indicators all were supported as Strongly Agree or Agree by between 75%-90%.

Respondents requested support with collaboration and partnership: 72% ; Support with bid-writing: 64.5%; Support with budgeting: 51%

Summary of feedback from events

93 people attended 4 online consultation sessions, including one marketed as for equalities-led groups, and an additional session organised by the Black South West Network.

Positive comments on the BIF 2 proposals include:

- Focus on resilience and strength
- Assets-based approach
- Co-creation
- More focused and clearer
- Like focus on equity, assets and grassroots organisations
- Like focus on collaboration and informal collaboration
- Reflects work that smaller organisations have done in Covid-19
- Opportunities for communities to develop own services where individuals aren't passive
- Emphasis on under-represented groups

The table below summarises the key areas for consideration from the consultation, our response and any changes we have made to the proposal in response:

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
<p>Concerns about capacity of the sector to respond to new approach whilst dealing with COVID-19 and the impact this is having</p>	<p>We recognise this is challenging time for everyone and timescales are tight.</p> <p>The timeline is revised so that the new programme starts on the 1st October 2021 which will allow 10 weeks for the application process.</p> <p>In addition applicants will have the option of a development period of 9 months - time to evolve collaborations and/or transition from crisis mode</p>
<p>Concerns about the capacity of most excluded communities residents to self-organise/take action on own issues</p>	<p>We recognise that people who experience the greatest inequality need resources and support to build connections and alliances. This is at the heart of so many community and voluntary organisations. These alliances may be peer support groups, equalities based or neighbourhood-wide. BIF is available for this.</p> <p>We also recognise some of the most excluded people need access to support which can be the critical first step to greater empowerment, people to people connections and participation with communities. This is reflected in the proposed Ways of Working. We have amended the proposal to clarify this.</p> <p>It is also the case that communities most impacted by discrimination and inequality are organising, have ambitions and need backing and resources if we are to start to address</p>

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
	inequity.
People who are not part of ‘a community’ - People experiencing the greatest inequality may not feel part of communities, what about people who are isolated and disconnected?	It is understood that many people feel disconnected and excluded from community life this may be the community where they live or other community. There are many factors which inform the social connections we make. However, it is vitally important for our health, wellbeing, community cohesion and tackling inequity that we find ways to nurture the connections that empower us. The Ways of Working are about recognising this and helping to facilitate those connections which will help to sustain us over the long term.
Women should be listed as a priority group	It is understood that women experience structural inequality and this is compounded by multiple/simultaneous or intersectional inequality. The proposal states: BIF2 will prioritise its funding to support the self-organisation, capacity and resilience of Equalities groups: those communities which experience Racism; Disablism; Homophobia, Transphobia and Heterosexism; Ageism, <i>Sexism</i> and inequality rooted in class, poverty and low income.
Feedback about the community building approach	
Timing of community-building approach not realistic - many people on receiving end of systemic inequality are in crisis at this moment and need crisis support	<p>COVID-19 has reinforced and amplified existing inequality which is having a profound impact on citizens and communities of Bristol. The proposal for BIF 2 should be seen in the context of the four-year programme.</p> <p>We recognise this is challenging time for everyone and timescales are tight. We are also aware VCSE organisations need to think and plan strategically (see VCSE research). In recognition of the current circumstances we have changed the timeline and application process – see box 1</p> <p>Responding to crisis - Through the pandemic recipients of the BIF1 grant have been encouraged to use the grant flexibly to respond to the immediate needs of communities. BCC would continue to provide this flexibility should the need arise.</p> <p>Communities most impacted by inequality are working tirelessly through community and voluntary organisations to support one another</p>

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
	with little or no resource. BIF 2 presents an important opportunity for them.
<p>Change from BIF 1 is too great at this time. Organisations funded under BIF 1 will struggle to apply under BIF 2 losing the foundation built through BIF 1</p> <p>BIF 1 services which deliver specialised, one-on-one support to people experiencing trauma; mental health distress and violence or abuse can't deliver to proposed BIF 2 model.</p>	<p>It is understood the community and voluntary sector provide important specialised services to those most impacted by systemic inequality. Such services have often developed through self-organisation and personal experience in response to failings, gaps or alienation from in mainstream services. They are providing important culturally appropriate, trusted and empowering services.</p> <p>Many of these organisations integrate community building in the way they work. For example, organisations focused on mental ill health recognise the value of peer support. Other services connect people through mentoring, befriending, social activities. These activities, based on mutual respect, equity and empowerment, widen the circle of human connection and solidarity which is fundamental to our health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Our key proposal is that service providers seek to apply community building principles in the way they work. It is not about doing community building instead of a service but integrating a way of working. We want to encourage services to work with people and communities holistically and where appropriate in collaboration with others. Community building is part of reducing inequity is a process over time which needs to be integrated into the way we work.</p> <p>Where BIF 1 is funding important services for Bristol which cannot apply the ways of working, we are committed to exploring alternative funding arrangements.</p> <p>The proposal has been amended to clarify our position.</p>
<p>Funding Priorities - There is not enough focus on the priorities and outcomes BIF 2 is looking to address / this is not clearly defined</p>	
<p>Not explicit enough about the benefits to citizens and how BIF 2 will help address the significant issues of our time e.g. emotional and mental wellbeing, unemployment and impact on 'beneficiaries'</p>	<p>We have amended the proposal to make this more explicit.</p> <p>All successful applicants to BIF 2 will need to demonstrate how their work will deliver positive outcomes for citizens and communities. Priorities will be aligned to the VCSE research</p>

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
	and come from communities best placed to determine what is most important to them.
BIF 2 Proposal and COVID-19 Context	
The impacts of COVID-19 are not acknowledged enough; some concern that it's too focused on COVID-19	BIF is a four year fund should be seen as part of the city recovery whilst recognising the short-term the challenge this presents. The VCSE research will inform the approach. In response to these points we have been more explicit about the context, the impact of COVID-19 and the VCSE research.
BIF 2 Funding/Budget	
Funding from BIF to support Community Resilience Fund	The proposed Community Resilience Fund and the supporting revenue will respond to the findings of the BSWN/VCSE research and VCSE Strategy commencing 21/22. The details will be developed with community & voluntary sector partners and will be subject of future cabinet report. It is clear from the VCSE research there is a need for capital grants. Priorities emerging from the research include: a) adapting & improving community buildings b) addressing loss of revenue b) digital infrastructure. For VCSE organisations to deliver capital projects they will need revenue. <i>The Community Resilience Fund and aligned funding falls outside of the consultation.</i>
Language of the proposal	
Concern that language of the proposal needs to be clearer and simpler to be more inclusive – to make some of the concepts like asset-based more understandable in the real world.	We acknowledge some of the language we have used is new to some people. We will aim to make the process going forward as accessible as possible by working with partners to provide advice and support through the process.
Outcomes & indicators	
The comments are about the complexity and cost of; monitoring and measuring impact and of co-design	We are committed to finding an approach that works, enables us to tell the story of what is being achieved, share learning and do so without overburdening or reducing everything to 'bean counting'. We are committed to learning from others and welcome the offer re: Bristol Ageing Better and UWE. We propose to work with funded organisations in the first year of the programme to develop this as part of the evaluation work
Collaboration - recognition this takes time and should not be a requirement	
A range of comments – a number of people	BIF 2 is not requiring formal collaboration or

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
requesting support	<p>partnership proposals. However, we are asking for applicants to collaborate formally and/or informally (you decide) where this will have greater impact for citizens, communities and/or organisations.</p> <p>We are working with Voscur and other partners to put together a programme of support to the sector which will include collaboration and collaborative working.</p> <p>We have amended the proposal to allow a 9-month development period to evolve collaborations and/or transition from crisis mode to more sustainable and developmental ways of working.</p>
Funding approach	
There is overall support to continue with small grants and for the £200k p.a. upper limit per application and an upper limit of £100k p.a. for any one organisation.	<p>Small Grants: No changes made to proposal</p> <p>Medium/Large Grants: No changes made to proposal</p>
Hate Crime & Discrimination Services a specific priority with up to £355k funding	
<p>Most people supported the proposal but proposed ring-fence is a high proportion of available fund</p> <p>Some people mentioned that a number of communities are impacted by hate crime</p>	<p>We would like to see a strategic and collaborative approach to funding hate crime and discrimination support services – to this end we are working with partners to explore additional sources of funding.</p> <p>To clarify proposals will be required to support Black and Minority Ethnic communities, Disabled people (including people experiencing emotional and mental distress), Lesbian Gay , Bisexual and Transgender people; people from faith communities.</p>
Evaluation & Monitoring	
<p>92% support money being set aside for Evaluation of BIF 2.</p> <p>There are differences about whether it should be 5% (36%) of fund or 3% (45%) or 4% (20%).</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation – needs to be able to be baselined and easily measured - simple but provide actionable insights</p>	<p>We have amended the proposal so that 4% of the BIF budget will be used for evaluation. because the averaged range of support for different options was 4%</p> <p>We agreed monitoring and evaluation needs to be able to be baselined and easily measured - simple but provide actionable insights</p>
Assessment process	
Concerns ranged from the use of ProContract to addressing the disparity between those with	We note all the concerns and welcome the suggestions to improve the assessment and

Summary of issues raised	Amendments to Proposal and responses
more and those with less experience of writing applications and ensuring a fair and equitable process	<p>application process.</p> <p>We are committed to working with council colleagues and partners to address them where possible including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different application forms/process for small grants and medium/large 2. Arranging support for applicants and taking positive action to reach equalities communities. 3. Identifying early how the process could disadvantage or discriminate against equality communities and take positive action to remove or mitigate these risks
Support	
Request for support with applications particularly for smaller and equalities-led groups and help with collaborations	We are working with Voscur and other partners to put together a programme of support to the sector
Timetable	
<p>Concerns about the tight timetable including risk of losing staff, short timescale for applications, developing collaborations and changing ways of working.</p> <p>Request for more time by rolling over current funding</p>	<p>We acknowledge the restrictions of the timetable. We have amended the proposal so that the new programme starts on the 1st October. Existing funding agreements will be extended by 3 months. The application window will be 10 weeks from early March. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in July 2021</p> <p>However, all funding agreements come to an end on 30st September 2021 and there should be no expectation of further funding.</p> <p>In addition there will be the option of a 9 month development period at the start of the funding for - time to evolve collaboration, transition from crisis mode and develop approaches to the ways of working.</p>

3 Background: Changing landscape and strategic drivers

3.1 The strategic context – national & local

- [Bristol City Council’s Business Plan 2020/21 \[Covid-19 Recovery edition\]](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/4629037/BCC+Business+Plan+2020-21+-+Covid-19+Recovery+Edition) ²states: ‘Within Bristol City Council we define ‘Recovery’ as the process of renewing our organisation, public services, communities and economy to function as strongly as possible following

² <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/4629037/BCC+Business+Plan+2020-21+-+Covid-19+Recovery+Edition>

the first wave of Covid-19; whilst taking the opportunity for reform, making positive changes which build resilience, improve sustainability and ensure equality and inclusion'. It sets out a clear statement of Bristol Impact Fund's role in supporting the Fair and Inclusive theme of the Corporate Plan, and highlights a desire to "continue to invest in the voluntary and community sector through the Bristol Impact Fund to deliver life-improving projects to help the city's most disadvantaged people, pending Cabinet approval"

- [Bristol One City Recovery Statement of Intent](#) sets out under its Inclusive principle the intention to ³ "Create a fairer, healthier and sustainable city, one which is people-centred and has a resilient economy that supports inclusive, equitable communities"
- The recent report by the Director of Public Health, Christina Gray, [Investing in Bristol's mental wealth: The theory and practice of Thrive-o-nomics](#) ⁴ sets out the case for building community capacity and power as a major contribution to the mental health of the city
- The VCSE Strategy Group has commissioned research by Black South West Network, with Locality and Voscur, to collect evidence for an informed VCSE Sector recovery & strengthening strategy. Their interim findings ["Priority areas of investment for an effective VCSE recovery post Covid-19 Interim Report"](#) ⁵ highlights key issues reported by VCSE groups impacting the communities they serve and the priority needs of the sector to be able to respond
- [Coronavirus Recovery Phase Proposal](#) ⁶: Quartet have published a strategic four point plan to bring new resources in to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the West of England. Estimating a cost of £30 million the report sets out 4 key areas to address: Stabilisation; Sector Support; Addressing long-standing inequalities and support for local action and social cohesion.
- As highlighted in the [Marmot Review 10 Years On](#) ⁷ (February 2020), health is closely linked to the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and inequities in power, money and resources – the social determinants of health. Inequalities in life expectancy have increased over the last 10 years, and systemic inequality has proven the fault-line for different impacts of COVID-19.

³ <https://www.bristolonecity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/One-City-Economic-Recovery-Statement-of-Intent.pdf>

⁴

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/305531/Director+of+Public+Health+Report+Bristol+2019+to+2020.pdf/bd9ac205-dd87-3c68-571b-31eeb373d2ca>

⁵

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594948a7414fb5804d2b4395/t/5f86ee9929b7f63df7c7ad64/1602678441541/VCSE_Report.pdf

⁶ <https://quartetcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Recovery-Phase-Proposal-June-2020.pdf>

⁷ [https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_executive%20summary_web.pdf)

[03/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_executive%20summary_web.pdf](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_executive%20summary_web.pdf)

- [The Community Paradigm](#) proposes a transformational shift to shift the power, responsibility and resources to communities to enable them to create places that prevent crisis⁸
- [We Were Built For This](#) report by Locality drawing lessons from the community response to COVID-19– including an example from Knowle West in Bristol – to shape a transformatory recovery placing communities at the heart of change⁹

3.2 Learning from COVID-19 and the impact on communities

There is a growing body of research about the impact of COVID-19 on citizens and communities. It is now well established that existing deprivation and inequality has led to far worse outcomes for those communities. For this reason BIF is focused on supporting and empowering those communities experiencing the greatest inequality.

[We want to change and they have the power](#)¹⁰

[Bristol A City Divided?](#)¹¹

[BSWN report Impact of COVID-19 on BAME led Businesses, Organisations & Communities](#)¹² sets out how Covid-19 has worsened their position

Disabled people have also been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19: [Abandoned Forgotten and Ignored](#)¹³ and [covid-19-and-the-rights-of-disabled-people-statement](#)¹⁴ detail the impacts and concerns of disabled people nationally

Older people are well-documented as being especially at risk and the impacts are set out in the Centre for Ageing Better report: [The experience of people approaching later life lockdown](#)¹⁵

⁸ https://www.newlocal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/The-Community-Paradigm_EXEC-SUMMARY.pdf

⁹ <https://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/We-were-built-for-this-Locality-2020.06.13.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594948a7414fb5804d2b4395/t/5ebe9f79325e776361d7f0cf/1589550987896/Power+to+Change+Full+Report.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/CoDE%20Briefing%20Bristol%20v2.pdf>

¹² https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594948a7414fb5804d2b4395/t/5ec3ee32a5b5c27385219625/1589898876817/Covid19_Report_v2_compressed.pdf

¹³ <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Abandoned-Forgotten-and-Ignored-Final-1.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/news/covid-19-and-the-rights-of-disabled-people-statement>

¹⁵ <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/experience-of-people-approaching-later-life-lockdown.pdf>

3.3 Background to Bristol Impact Fund

The 2017 launch of the Bristol Impact Fund signalled a new strategic approach to grant investment, with the city council pooling eight grant budgets to provide a four-year grant investment programme for VCSE organisations in Bristol.

The first Bristol Impact Fund aimed to reduce disadvantage and inequality, improve health and wellbeing, and increase resilience by funding projects that deliver support to people facing disadvantage and inequality in the city.

We want to continue to build on the success of the first round of the Bristol Impact Fund. We want to work with community and voluntary sector organisations to find ways to maximise this investment. We want to invest in our future, building collaborative relationships and growing the power of communities working together to build resilience.

The Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) was first launched in 2017 and represented a radical shift in the way that Bristol City Council funded the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. The fund aligned council spending in order to reduce disadvantage and inequality, improve health and wellbeing, and increase resilience. £3.2 million was made available per year over the four years (2017 – 2021), with a 15% funding taper built in to the 3rd and 4th years to encourage sustainability. BIF 1 had a total investment of £11.9 million.

The fund was focussed on 5 challenges:

- Reducing financial, food and fuel poverty;
- Tackling unemployment;
- Improving access to information, services and opportunities in the city and increasing digital inclusion;
- Enabling influence and participation in the community;
- Reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing.

[An independent evaluation of the first 2 years of BIF](#) ¹⁶ sets out the following impacts:

- Significantly benefitted people in the poorest areas of the city and equality communities
- Increased funding to equalities-led groups particularly small grants
- Impact on 5 challenges: evidenced by people benefitting and powerful case studies
- Greatest impact: health and wellbeing, access to services and opportunities.
- People have moved from crises to being active in their communities

¹⁶ <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32598/Bristol+Impact+Fund+Evaluation.pdf/c2bee069-7d17-3540-8ebe-1d092addffca>

- Added value: £2.2m additional funding was levered into the city by BIF-funded organisations – a leverage rate of 69% - and engaged 7000 volunteers at an estimated £10.3m value (using Office on National Statistics rate of £14.43 an hour)
- Shared impact methodology would improve evaluation
- Recommended building in a budget for evaluation from the start of a future programme

Thus second round of BIF is looking to build on the successes of BIF 1 whilst also reflecting the significant changes in knowledge, policy, practice, funding and impact of COVID-19.

3.4 The funding environment

Bristol Impact Fund is just a small part of the VCSE funding landscape. The city council is having to make very difficult financial decisions. We know we cannot fund everything and everyone – we have to be targeted. We want our grant funding to be part of a working relationship with the VCSE sector to strengthen its capacity and impact.

Bristol City Council is part of the Bristol Funders Network. We are committed to working with other funders to find ways to align our approaches, learn from the Community and Voluntary Sector and each other. For example, our approach reflects the priorities set out in Quartets Coronavirus Recovery Phase Proposal: Quartet have published a strategic four point plan to bring new resources in to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the West of England. Estimating a cost of £30million the report sets out 4 key areas to address: Stabilisation; Sector Support; Addressing long-standing inequalities and support for local action and social cohesion.

Quartet, City Funds and Power to Change are partners in the VCSE Strategy Group and the ambition to align funds to support the recovery of the VCSE and deliver the VCSE strategy.

3.5 BIF as part of a whole system

It is communities coming together and creatively using our collective resources that will build our city resilience and community wealth. Grant investment is an important but small part of the solution. BIF is one of the ways the City Council invests in the VCSE – see attached summary of investment.

We recognise we will only achieve the impact we are all looking for by changing systems and structures and reimagining the way we work to grow the power of communities. The scale of the challenge is not underestimated but tangible progress is being made. For example;

- Procurement and social value

- Changing the way we commission to make it more accessible to VCSE partners
- Working with Locality to 'Make it Local' – piloting new approaches the VCSE to find new ways to support older people in their communities.
- Growing the Power of Communities – how we apply community building approaches in the way we work

3.6 What we mean by 'Growing the Power of Communities'?

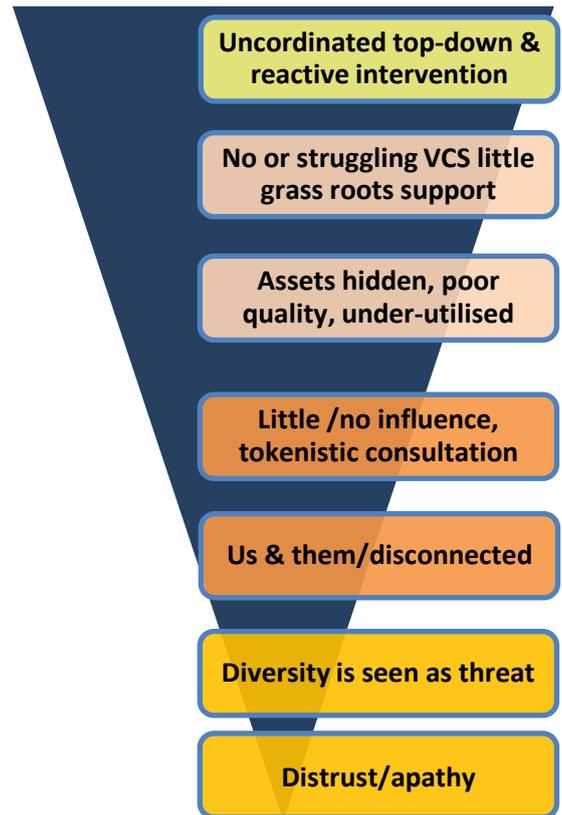
'... we do have social capital in the Bristol savings account, and there are real opportunities to build on this through a forensic focus on connecting people to each other and connecting people to power.'

Investing in Bristol's mental wealth: The theory and practice of Thrive-o-nomics
Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019-2020

The diagrams below set out two contrasted illustrations of some of the characteristics of, on the one hand, a more active powerful community rooted in a strong foundation of community action and getting things done with the support of local agencies (diagram a); on the other, where local people are disconnected from top down decision making (diagram b). The left diagram (a) shows characteristics of community life where power is shared with many more people rather than the few. The ways of working described above are focused on producing these characteristics or an eco-system which renews and sustains itself.



a.



b.

This second Bristol Impact Fund is looking to support Community and Voluntary organisations to work in ways which intentionally support their communities to develop towards the state shown in diagram a.

The diagram below illustrates the direction of travel which the second Bristol impact Fund is looking to support:



Bristol Impact Fund aims to support work which builds relationships based on the ‘with the people’ and ‘by the people’ approaches, rather than ‘to the people’ and ‘for the people’ approaches in order to strengthen the base of empowered, connected citizens within our communities.

3.7 What do we mean by communities experiencing the greatest inequality?

The council recognises that we need to build both thriving neighbourhoods and thriving equalities communities within the city. Structural inequality is about power. It is tightly woven into the way our systems work – financial, environmental, cultural and social. The impact of discrimination is very real. It leads to whole communities of people dying prematurely, being poor and being alienated and disconnected from decisions which have a profound impact on their lives.

This is powerfully illustrated most recently by the Black Lives Matters movement, by the increased incidence of hate crime over recent years and by the higher severity of impacts of COVID-19 experienced by older people, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, Disabled People and by poorer, more deprived communities.

Young people have been hit by the economic impact of managing COVID-19.

The council is proposing that BIF2 will prioritise its funding to support the self-organisation, capacity and resilience of Equalities groups: those communities which experience Racism;

Disablism; Homophobia, Transphobia and Heterosexism; Ageism, Sexism and inequality rooted in class, poverty and low income.

Communities in Neighbourhoods: While Bristol is a wealthy and successful city there are many neighbourhood communities which experience persistent inequality and multiple disadvantages. They feature in the [Indices of Deprivation for England report 2019](#)¹⁷. The mapping in the report identifies where disadvantage and inequality is distributed in the city's neighbourhoods within electoral wards. Place-based deprivation is often used as a way of describing poverty and is sometimes regarded as a proxy for 'working-class'. Poverty is more likely to be experienced by BME, Disabled people, or women and so areas of deprivation tend to be places where there are higher concentrations of equalities communities. We are looking to strengthen community and voluntary groups focused on areas of deprivation and to grow activity which is rooted in and led by the communities themselves.

¹⁷ <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32951/Deprivation+in+Bristol+2019.pdf>

4 Appendix: Summary of Available VCSE funding from Bristol City Council

4.1 Other Bristol City council grants opportunities

Bristol City Council Information Advice and Guidance Grant	
Total annual amount available	£560,000
Duration/term of grant	1st April 2019 to 31 st October 2021 with the option to extend for a further two and a half years to 30 th April 2024.
Purpose of grant	Provision of a community based advice network providing generalist and specialist services across the city.
Eligibility requirements for organisations	Bristol based VCS organisations (charitable or not for profit) who were in possession of the Legal Services Commission Quality Mark who comply with BCC Baseline Standards.
Date of next application round	This grant is in place until 31 st October 2021. It will be reviewed then.
Contact email and website address for further information	investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council VCS Infrastructure Support Grant	
Total annual amount available	£316,608
Duration/term of grant	Current grant run until 31 st September 2022
Purpose of grant	To provide support in developing the voluntary sector
Eligibility requirements for organisations	Charitable or not for profit organisations with a track record of VCS infrastructure support.
Date of next application round	TBC
Contact email and website address for further information	investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council Cultural Investment Program - Originators Fund	
Total annual amount available	£100k per annum
Duration/term of grant	1 year
Purpose of grant	Grants available from £500 to £5k to make Arts and Culture accessible for all Bristol citizens Priorities for the fund include arts and culture activity in neighbourhoods in the lower 10% of multiple deprivation, and with Bristol citizens with protected characteristics
Eligibility requirements for organisations	Priority is given to projects delivered by Bristol based individuals, community groups and organisations.
Date of next application round	Open for applications in winter 2020/21 for grants issued in April 2021.
Contact email and website address for further information	cityartsfund@bristol.gov.uk www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/arts-and-culture-funding

Bristol City Council Cultural Investment Program: Imagination Fund	
Total annual amount available	£230k per annum
Duration/term of grant	2 years
Purpose of grant	Up to 2 years funding for innovative and ambitious medium-large scale projects, programmes or events/ festivals with an arts and culture focus; undertake organisational development or support professional development within the arts and culture sector; work with communities that will increase access to arts and culture.
Eligibility requirements for organisations	Bristol-based organisations with at least 6 months of accounts and proven track record.
Date of next application round	Current grants run until March 2022.

Bristol City Council Youth Sector support fund	
Contact email and website address for further information	cityartsfund@bristol.gov.uk www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/arts-and-culture-funding
Bristol City Council Cultural Investment program - Openness	
Total annual amount available	£480k per annum
Duration/term of grant	4 years
Purpose of grant	Contributes to core funding for established arts & cultural organisations with a year round programme that support the cultural ecology, contribute to Bristol's cultural identity and demonstrate leadership and generosity for the wider sector. Grant funding of no more than 5% of annual turnover and tapering over the duration of funding.
Eligibility requirements for organisations	Organisations with at least 12 months of accounts and proven track record
Date of next application round	Current grants run until March 2022.
Contact email and website address for further information	cityartsfund@bristol.gov.uk www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/arts-and-culture-funding

Total annual amount available	£162k for grant distribution in year 3 per annum
Duration/term of grant	One year
Purpose of grant	Between £10 or up to £30k for partnership projects to support Bristol's play and youth sector organisations for the benefit of children and young people aged 8 – 19.
Eligibility requirements for organisations	This grant programme is open to youth work and play work organisations from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups based and working in the City of Bristol. Groups must have a constitution and a bank account.
Date of next application round	Online application via Quartet. (see link below). Applications can be made at any time - panel meets throughout the year.
Contact email and website address for further information	More information can be found here https://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/bristol-city-council-youth-sector-support-fund/

4.2 Other sources of VCSE support from Bristol City Council

Community Infrastructure Levy

As part of the planning process, a developer often has to give money to the council to pay for improvements in the area that they're developing in. This is usually through a planning charge called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) but is sometimes through a planning 15% of CIL funds and relevant local S106 funds are made available for local decision making by councillors through Area Committees. This is particularly so for highways improvements, parks improvements and tree planting funds. Areas with a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) receive 25% of CIL funds raised within their area to support the priorities they've identified. Local councillors allocate the funds to support local priority projects, such as improving community centres or parks.

In 2019/20, £3.3 million was allocated (CIL £2.8 million; S106: £0.5 million), of which approximately £1.1 million of this was allocated directly to community groups and VCSE organisations.

Leasing or renting council assets

We lease more than 170 properties to voluntary and community organisations, often at reduced or minimal rents, or preferential terms to the value of approx £1.3 million. These arrangements range from short-term licences to long leases and this process is known as 'Community Asset Transfer' (CAT)

Local people are often best placed to manage community facilities in their area. They already make extensive use of these assets and their local knowledge and hands-on management often results in lower overheads and better value-for-money. Community organisations also use volunteers and take great pride in their local area.

Managing these facilities helps to empower local communities and can bring opportunities for greater independence and financial sustainability. When done well, CAT can create lasting change in local neighbourhoods.

We are fully committed to using our assets to form long-term partnerships with suitable third sector organisations, in order to create stronger, more cohesive and more sustainable communities.

We have adopted a Community Asset Transfer Policy, which sets out the criteria for organisations wishing to apply for CAT. The policy also contains details of the various stages of the application and decision-making process, together with anticipated time scales. Information about the policy is available [here](#)

4.3 Bristol City Funds

Bristol City Funds BCH Health and wellbeing grant	
Total annual amount available	Grants of up to £20,000 per year
Duration/term of grant	maximum of 2 years
Purpose of grant	Between £10 or up to £30k for partnership projects to support Bristol's play and youth sector organisations for the benefit of children and young people aged 8 – 19.
Eligibility requirements for organisations	<p>Voluntary, community, charity and social enterprise organisations based and working in the Bristol local authority area which provide health & wellbeing services, prioritising those that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect BCH's historic services, including services in the community for adults and children, and services working with offenders • Focus on prevention and early intervention • Run projects supporting self-care • Support people with or at greater risk of developing long-term health conditions, or • Want to make changes to their organisation that will improve their resilience to public sector contract loss or funding cuts.
Date of next application round	Online application via Quartet. https://quartetcf.org.uk/grant-programmes/bch/
Contact email and website address for further information	grant-support@bristolcityfunds.co.uk https://bristolcityfunds.co.uk/