



# Appendix B: Bristol Impact Fund Grant Consultation

**Final report**

**17 December 2020**

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## 2 Introduction: BIF grant consultation

### 2.1 Overview

Voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) play a vital role in the city.

The COVID-19 emergency demonstrated the vitality of community and voluntary groups across the city and the power of citizen action.

The community and voluntary sector are crucial partners in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also be crucial in the recovery, building back better and realising the [BCC Corporate Strategy](#)<sup>1</sup> and [One City Plan](#)<sup>2</sup>. The sector in all its diversity is a reflection of Bristol citizens' drive and determination to improve their own communities.

Bristol City Council has a proud history of grant investment in the community and voluntary sector. This has helped to build the strong foundations which enabled the city to respond quickly at a time of crisis in the COVID-19 emergency.

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. This first round of funding ends in June 2021.

Between 16<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Bristol City Council consulted on the following elements of a new Bristol Impact Fund. The consultation was focused on the following elements:

- The proposed overall goal of the fund
- The proposed 7 ways of working
- The proposed impact of the fund i.e. the difference that we would like the fund to make
- Approach to funding
- Monitoring and evaluation

The detailed proposals that were consulted on can be found in the appendix of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/corporate-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bristolonecity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/One-City-Plan\\_2020.pdf](https://www.bristolonecity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/One-City-Plan_2020.pdf)

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Online survey

An online survey was published on the council's consultation hub (<https://bristol.citizenspace.com/>) between 16<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The survey included links to:

- The Bristol Council Corporate Strategy
- The One City Plan
- A background document that included further information on the background to the proposals such as the current landscape and strategic drivers

Respondents could choose to answer some or all of the questions in any order and save and return to the survey later.

**A total of 88 people responded to the online survey.**

### 3.2 Consultation events

Four public consultation events targeted at VCSE organisations were held between 20<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, one of which was explicitly targeted at equalities organisations. Those attending events were from a wide range of organisations working in Bristol, some of which currently receive Bristol Impact Funding and some of which do not.

Officers also attended a consultation event for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups organised by the Black South West Network (BSWN) attended by 20 people.

**A total of 93 people attended the consultation events.**

In addition, officers also attended a meeting with the Bristol Hate Crime and Discrimination Service at their request.

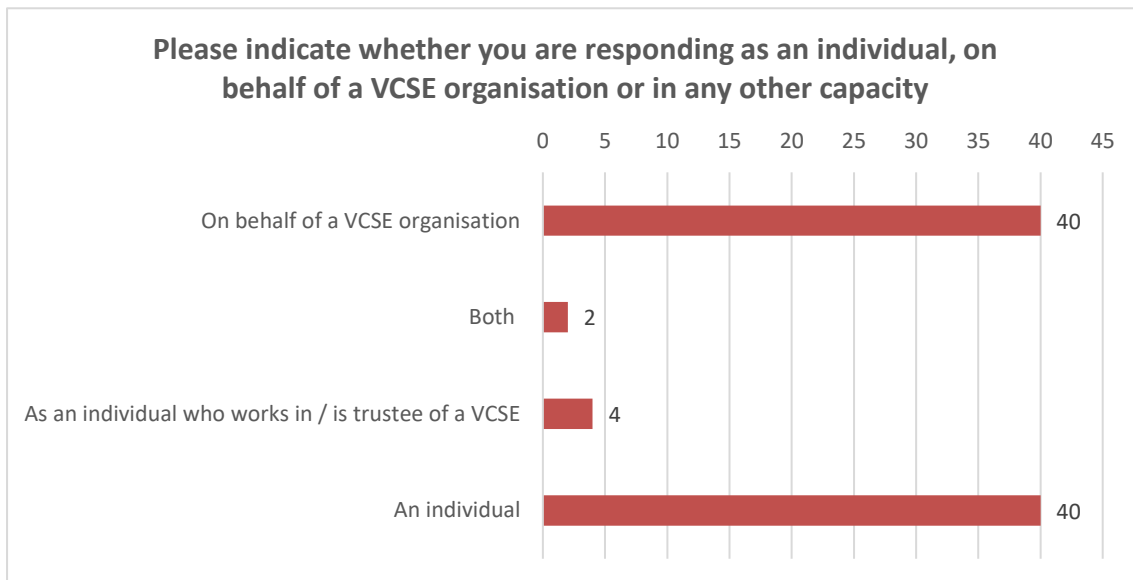
## 4 Survey results

### 4.1 Characteristics of respondents

Respondents were asked whether they were responding as an individual, on behalf of a VCSE organisation, or in any other capacity. 86 respondents answered the question, of which:

- 40 (47%) responded on behalf of a VCSE organisation
- 40 (47%) responded as an individual
- 2 (2%) responded as both
- 4 (5%) responded as an individual who works in / is a trustee of a VCSE

See figure 4.1.1 below.



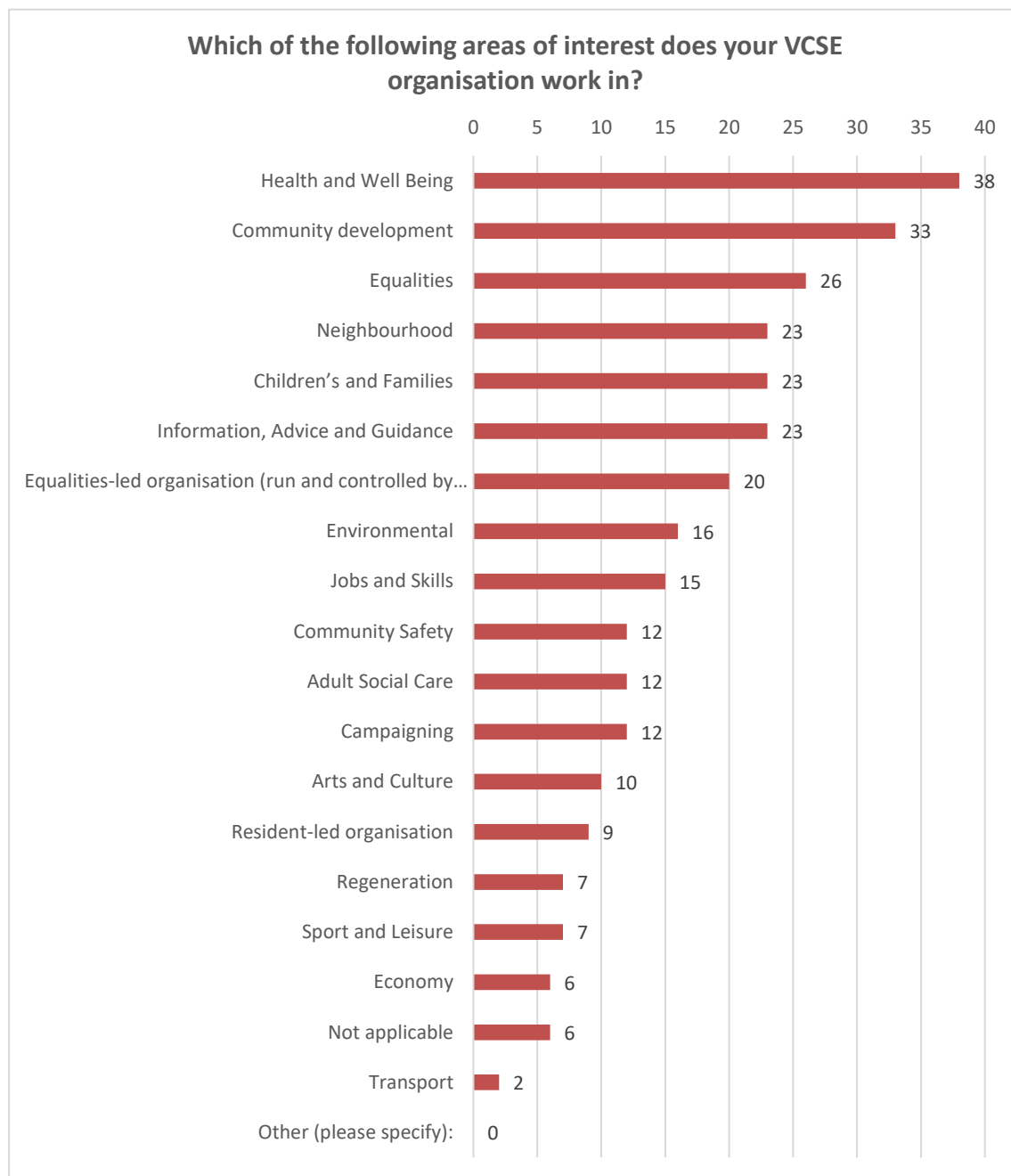
**Figure 4.1.1**

Respondents were asked which areas of interest their VCSE organisations work in.

Respondents selected 19 areas of interest, the most common of which were:

- Health and wellbeing, 38 respondents selected this area
- Community development, 33 respondents selected this area
- Equalities, 26 respondents selected this area
- Neighbourhood, 23 respondents selected this area
- Children's and families, 23 respondents selected this area
- Information, advice and guidance, 23 respondents selected this area

See figure 4.1.2 below.



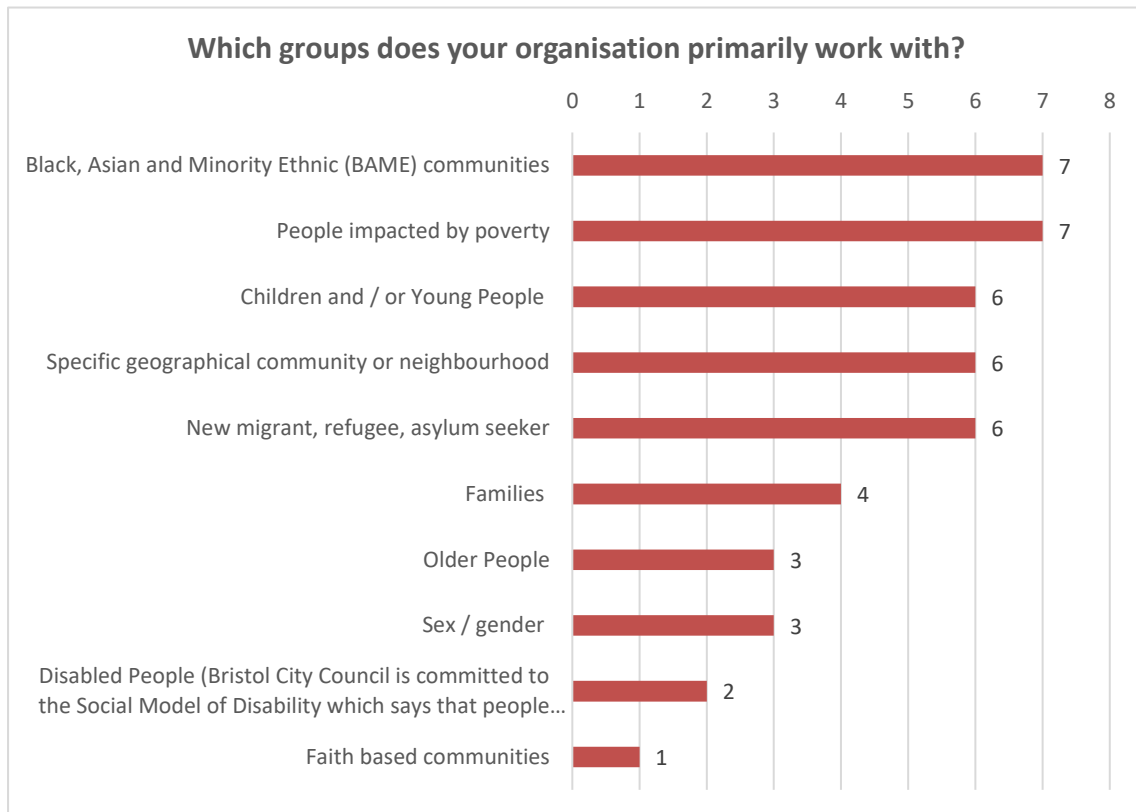
**Figure 4.1.2**

Respondents were asked which groups their VCSE organisations primarily work with. Respondents selected 10 groups that their organisations work with, the most common of which were:

- Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) communities, 7 organisations selected this group
- People impacted by poverty, 7 organisations selected this group
- Children and young people, 6 organisations selected this group

- Specific geographical community or neighbourhood, 6 organisations selected this group
- New migrant, refugee, asylum seeker, 6 organisations selected this group

See figure 4.1.3 below.

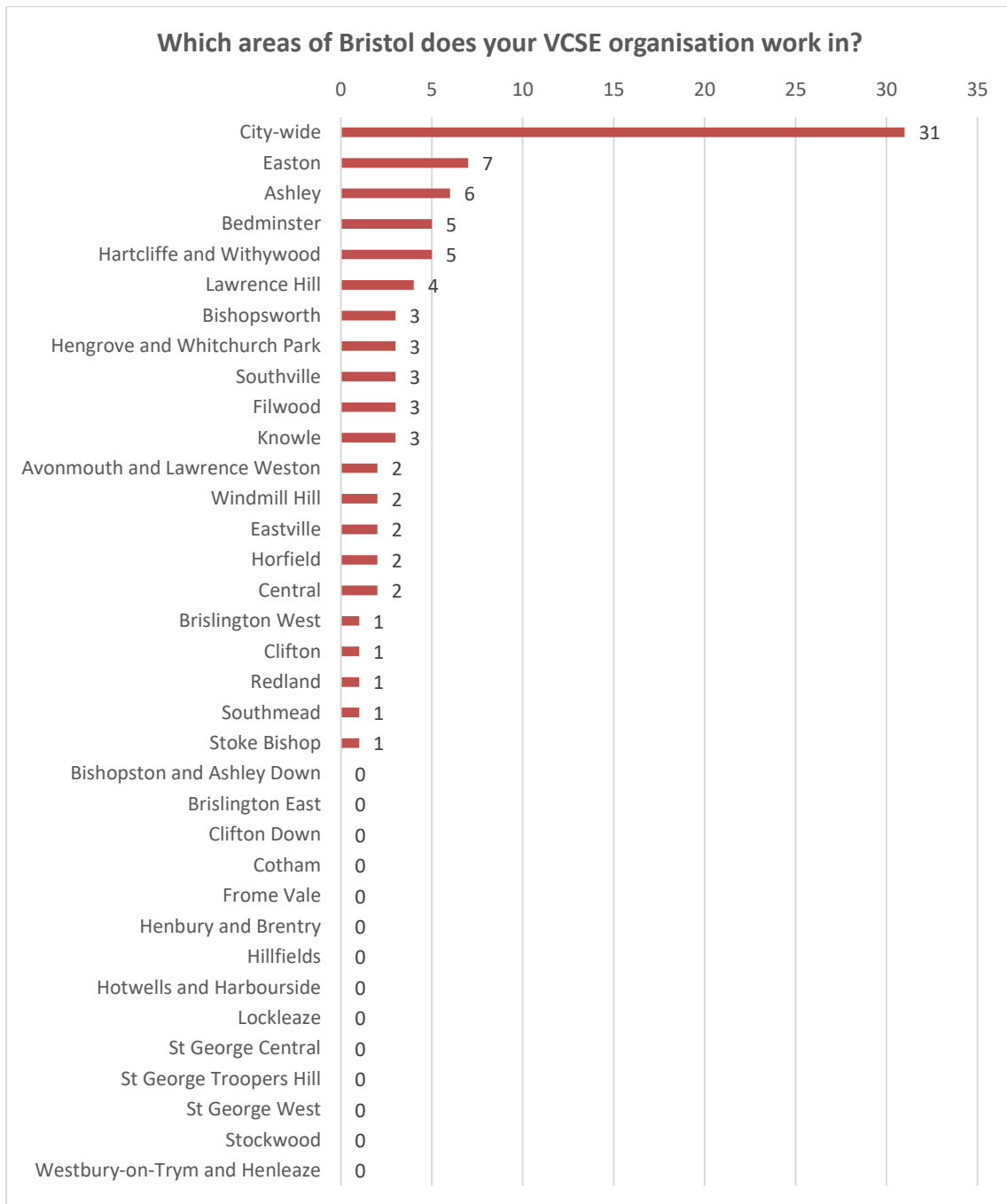


**Figure 4.1.3**

Respondents were asked which areas of Bristol their VCSE organisations works in. 21 areas were selected by respondents, the most common of which was citywide, this area was selected by 31 respondents.

See figure 4.1.4 below.



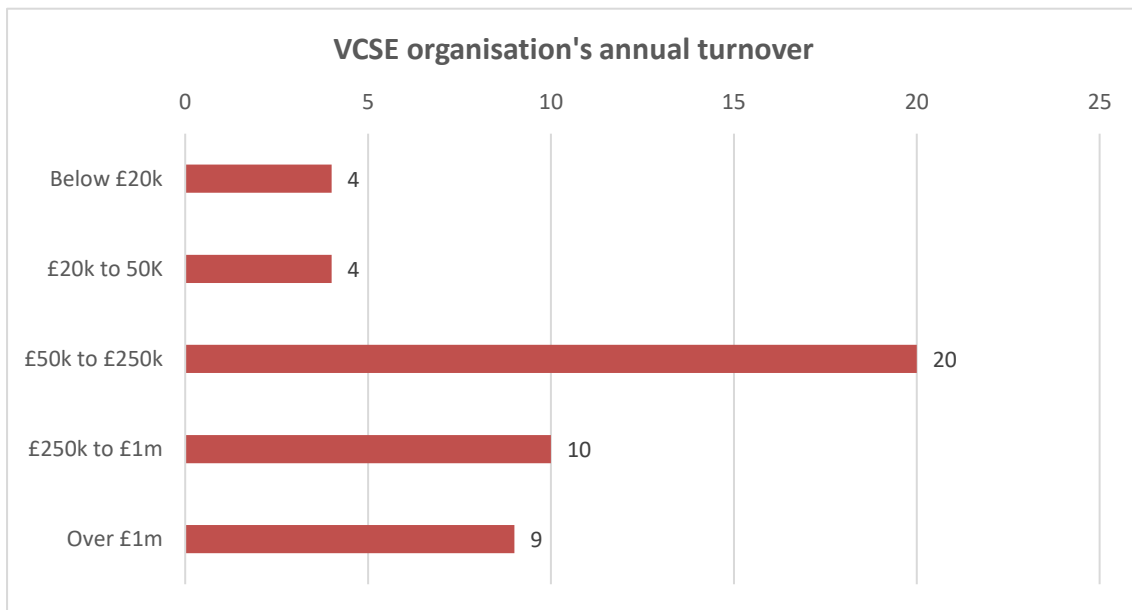


**Figure 4.1.4**

Respondents were asked what their VCSE organisation's annual turnover is. 47 respondents selected their organisation's annual turnover, of which:

- 4 (9%) respondents selected below £20k
- 4 (9%) respondents selected £20k to £50k
- 20 (43%) respondents selected £50k to £250k
- 10 (21%) respondents selected £250k to £1m
- 9 (19%) respondents selected over £1m

See figure 4.1.5 below.

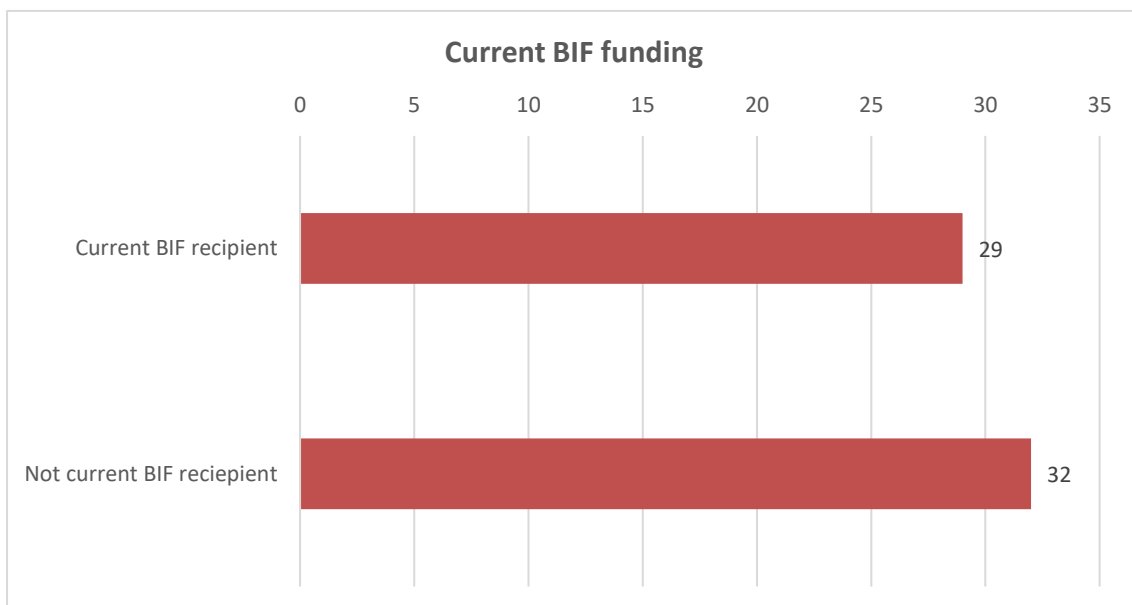


**Figure 4.1.5**

Respondents were asked whether they currently receive a Bristol Impact Fund grant. 61 respondents selected whether they currently receive a Bristol Impact Fund grant, of which:

- 29 (48%) respondents said that they currently receive a BIF grant
- 32 (52%) respondents said that they currently receive a BIF grant

See figure 4.1.6 below.



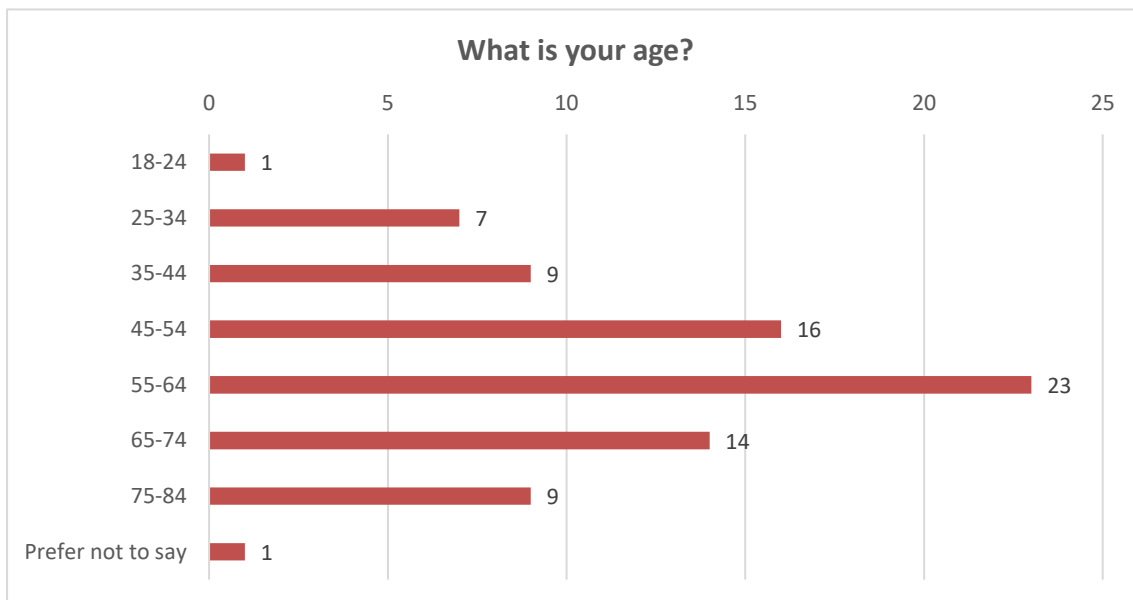
**Figure 4.1.6**

## 4.2 Demographics of respondents

Respondents were asked their age. 80 respondents selected their age, of which:

- 1 (1%) respondent was 18-24
- 7 (9%) respondents were 25-34
- 9 (11%) respondents were 35-44
- 16 (20%) respondents were 45-54
- 23 (29%) respondents were 55-64
- 14 (18%) respondents were 65-74
- 9 (11%) respondents were 75-84
- 1 (1%) respondent preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.1 below.

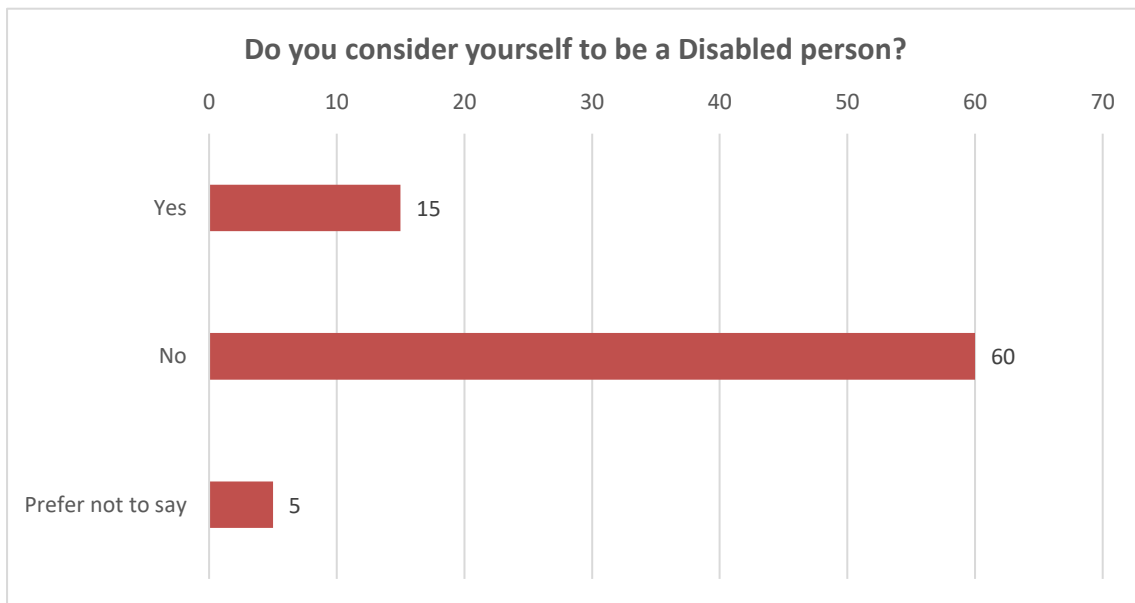


**Figure 4.2.1**

Respondents were asked whether they consider themselves to be a Disabled person. 80 respondents responded, of which:

- 15 (19%) respondents considered themselves to be a Disabled person
- 60 (75%) respondents did not consider themselves to be a Disabled person
- 5 (6%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.2 below.

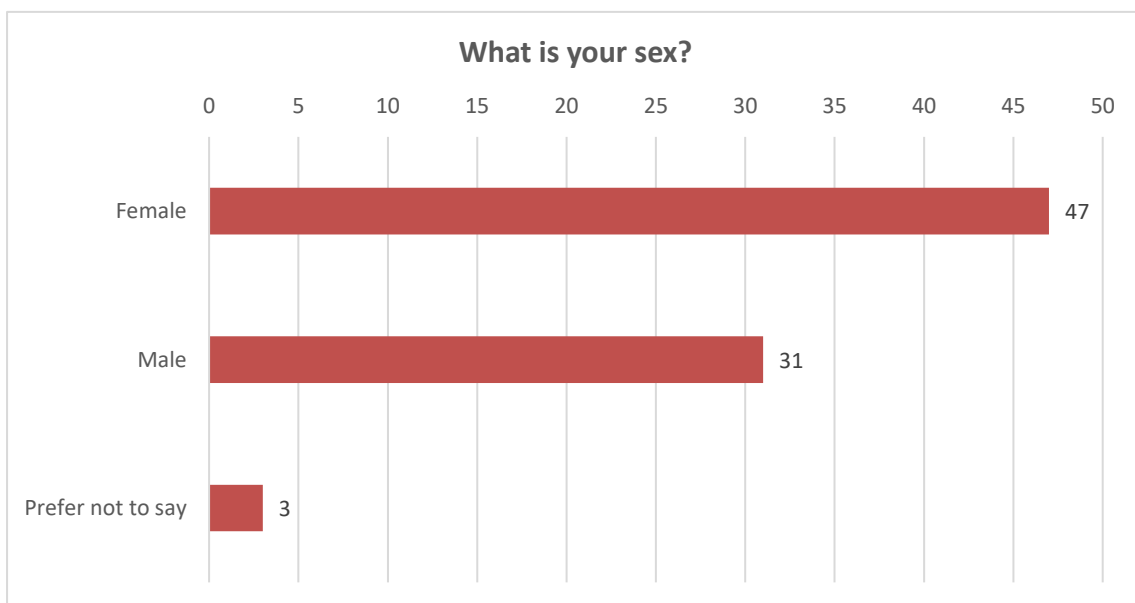


**Figure 4.2.2**

Respondents were asked their sex. 81 respondents selected their sex, of which:

- 47 (58%) respondents identified as female
- 31 (38%) respondents identified as male
- 3 (4%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.3 below.

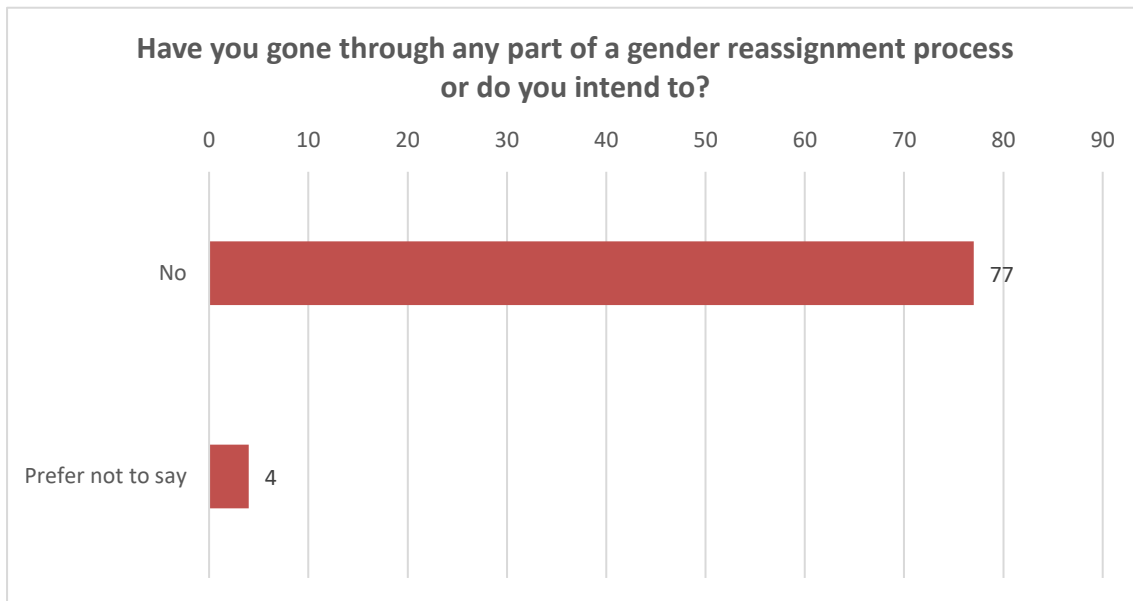


**Figure 4.2.3**

Respondents were asked whether they have gone through any part of a gender reassignment process or whether they intend to. 81 respondents responded, of which:

- 0 (0%) respondents said yes
- 77 (95%) respondents said no
- 4 (5%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.4 below.

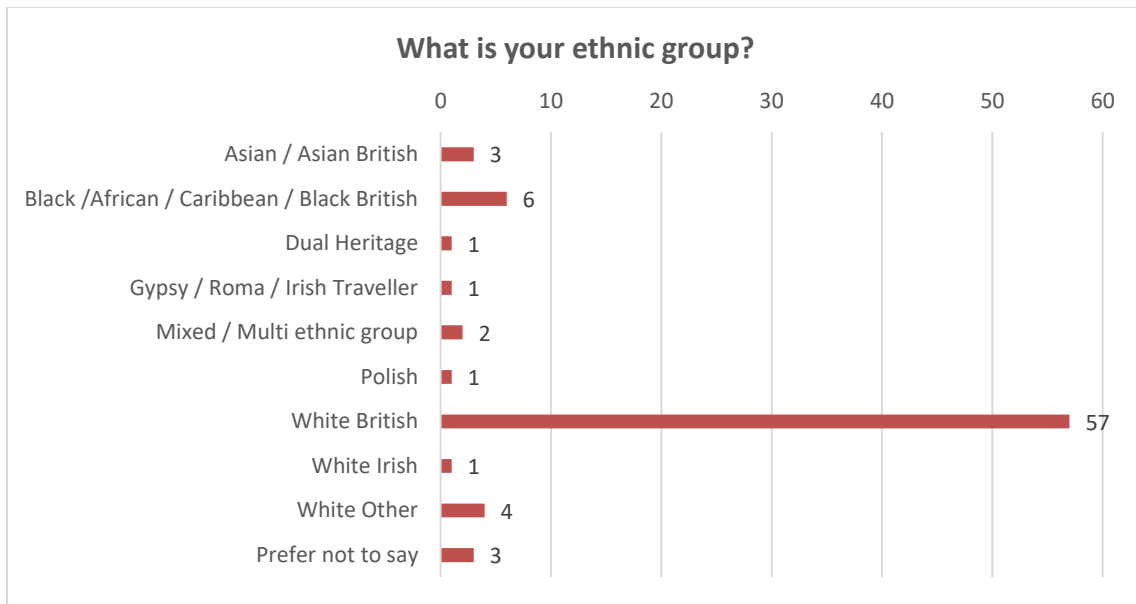


**Figure 4.2.4**

Respondents were asked their ethnic group. 79 respondents selected their ethnic group, of which:

- 3 (4%) respondents selected Asian / Asian British
- 6 (8%) respondents selected Black /African / Caribbean / Black British
- 1 (1%) respondent selected Dual Heritage
- 1 (1%) respondent selected Gypsy / Roma / Irish Traveller
- 2 (3%) respondents selected Mixed / Multi ethnic group
- 1 (1%) respondent selected Polish
- 57 (72%) respondents selected White British
- 1 (1%) respondent selected White Irish
- 4 (5%) respondents selected White Other
- 3 (4%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.5 below.

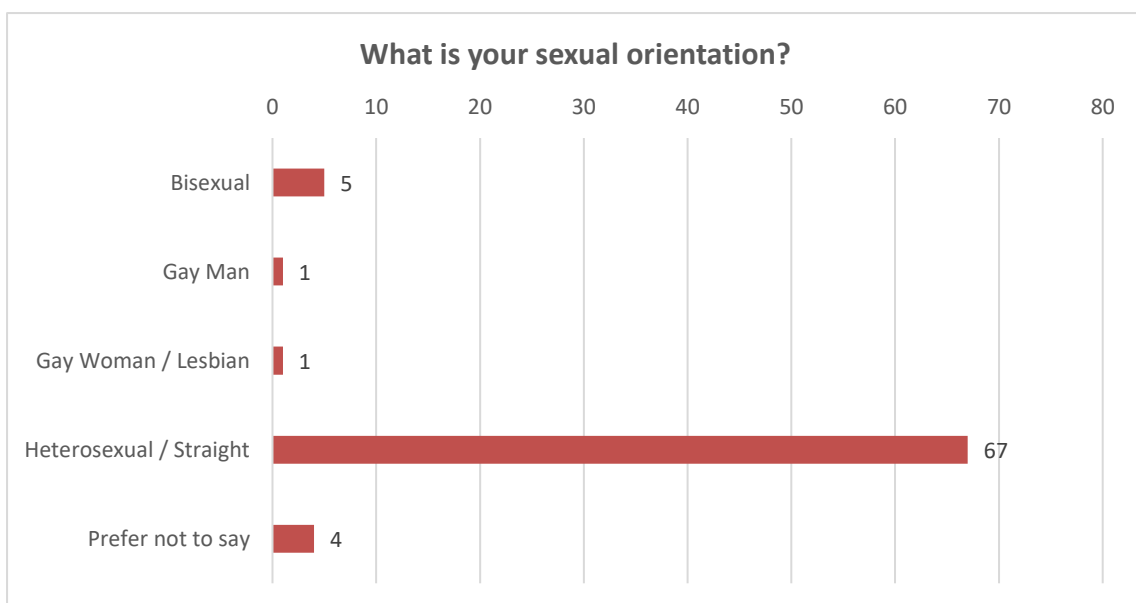


**Figure 4.2.5**

Respondents were asked their sexual orientation. 78 respondents selected their sexual orientation, of which:

- 5 (6%) respondents selected Bisexual
- 1 (1%) respondents selected Gay man
- 1 (1%) respondents selected Gay woman / Lesbian
- 67 (86%) respondents selected Heterosexual / Straight
- 4 (5%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.6 below.

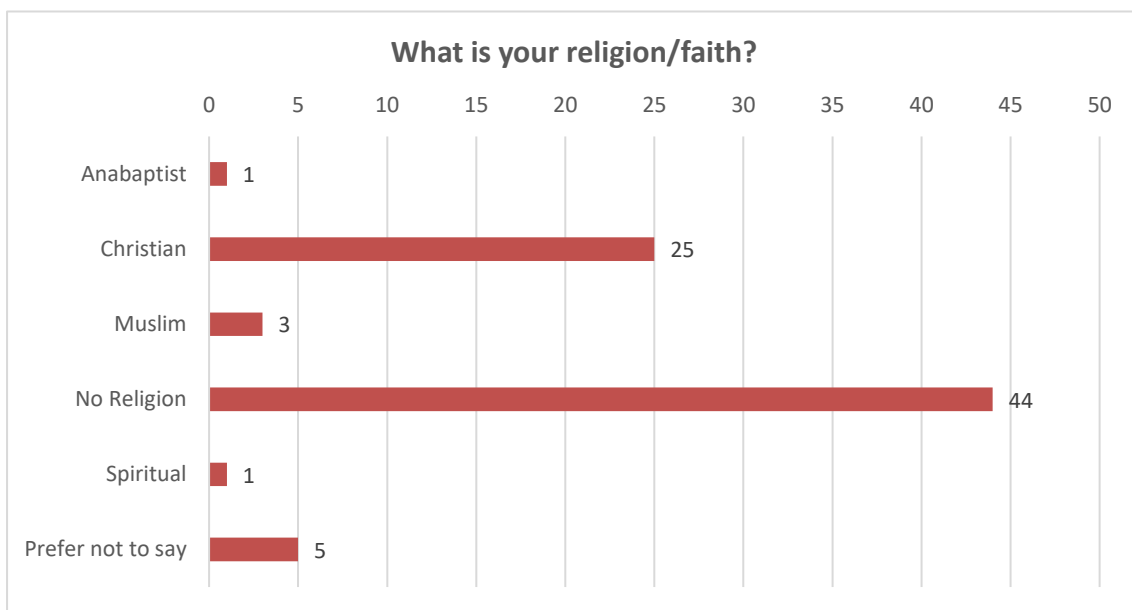


**Figure 4.2.6**

Respondents were asked their religion / faith. 79 respondents selected their religion / faith, of which:

- 1 (1%) respondent selected Anabaptist
- 0 (0%) respondents selected Buddhist
- 25 (32%) respondents selected Christian
- 0 (0%) respondents selected Hindu
- 0 (0%) respondents selected Jewish
- 3 (4%) respondents selected Muslim
- 44 (56%) respondents selected No Religion
- 0 (0%) respondents selected Pagan
- 0 (0%) respondents selected Sikh
- 1 (1%) respondents selected Spiritual
- 5 (6%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.7 below.

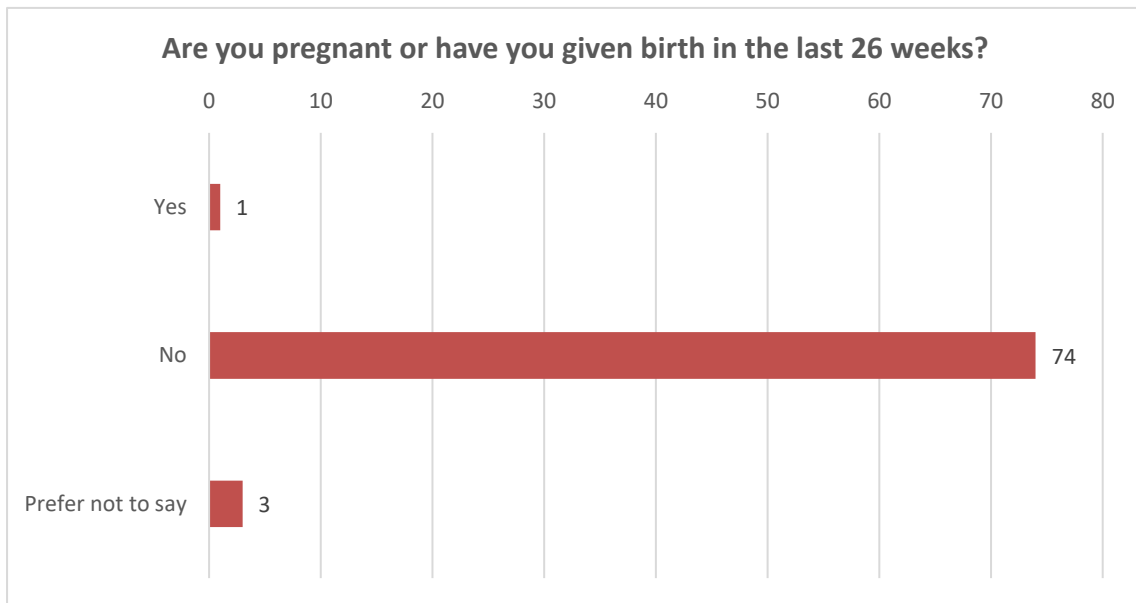


**Figure 4.2.7**

Respondents were asked whether they are pregnant or have given birth in the last 26 weeks. 78 respondents responded, of which:

- 1 (1%) respondents said yes
- 74 (95%) respondents said no
- 3 (4%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.8 below.

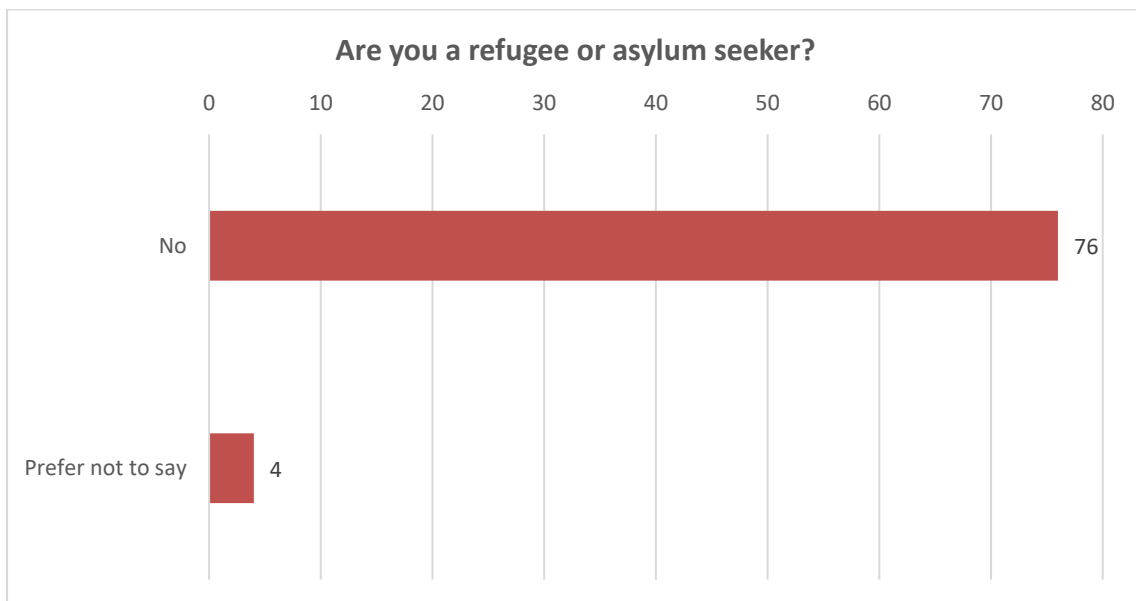


**Figure 4.2.8**

Respondents were asked whether they are a refugee or asylum seeker. X respondents responded, of which:

- 0 (0%) respondents said yes
- 76 (95%) respondents said no
- 4 (5%) respondents preferred not to say

See figure 4.2.9 below.



**Figure 4.2.9**



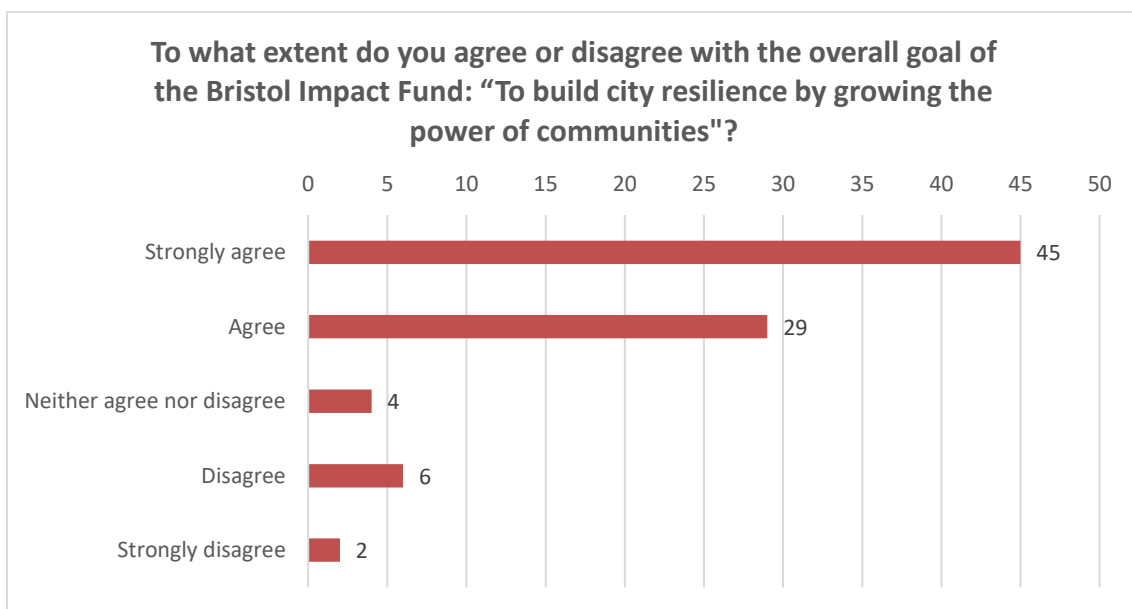
### 4.3 Overall goal of the Bristol Impact Fund

Respondent were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the overall goal of the Bristol Impact Fund: “To build city resilience by growing the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality”.

86 respondents expressed a view, of which:

- 74 (86%) agreed or strongly agreed with the overall goal
- 4 (5%) neither agreed or disagreed and
- 8 (9%) agreed or strongly disagreed

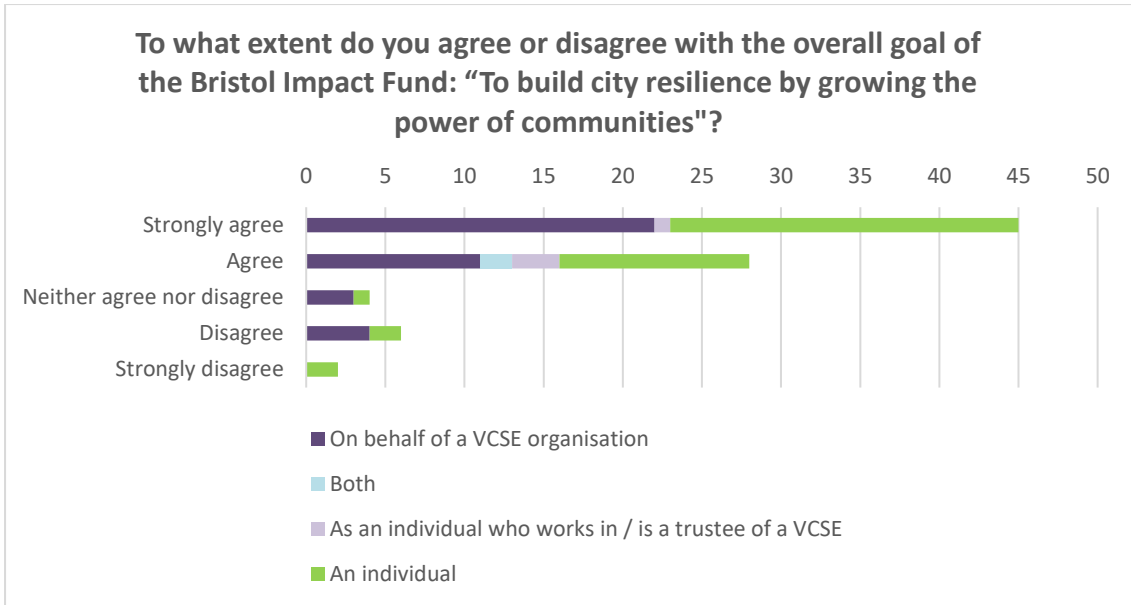
See figure 4.3.1 below.



**Figure 4.3.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the overall goal.

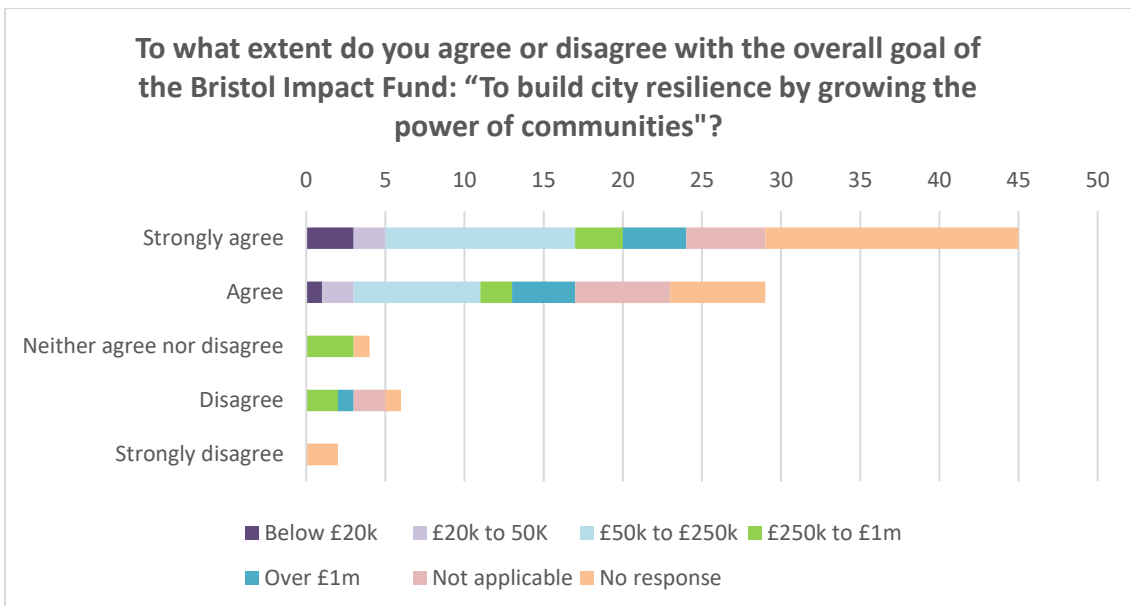
See figure 4.3.3 below.



**Figure 4.3.2**

86 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated the annual turnover of their VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations agreed or disagreed with the overall goal, broken down by annual turnover.

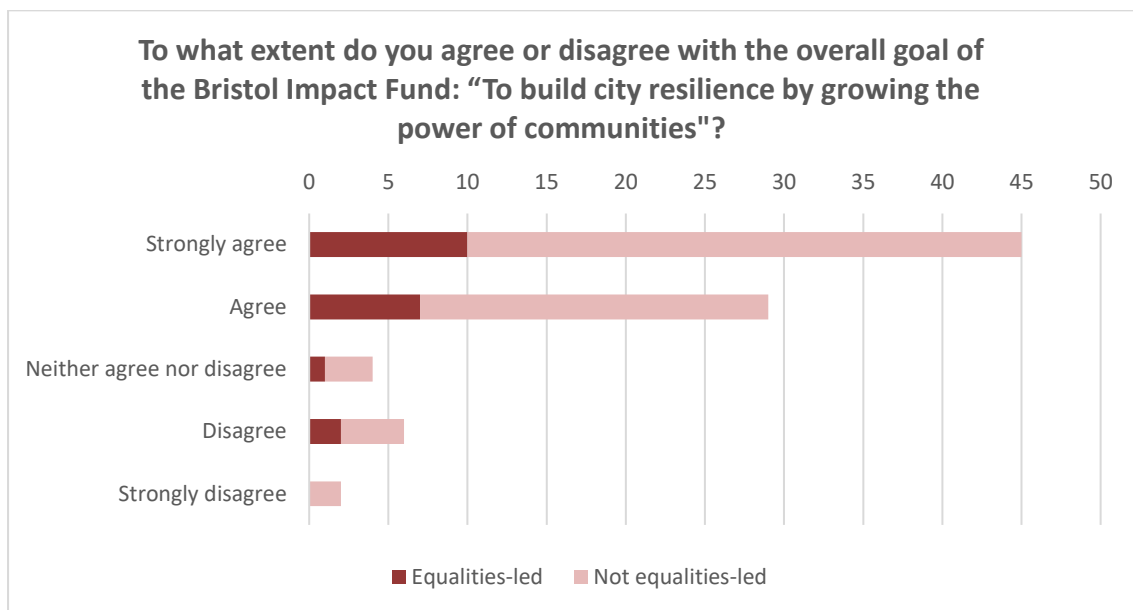
See figure 4.3.3 below.



**Figure 4.3.3**

86 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were an equalities-led organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations agreed or disagreed with the overall goal, broken down by equalities-led (n=20) and non equalities-led organisations or individuals (n=66).

See figure 4.3.4 below.



**Figure 4.3.4**

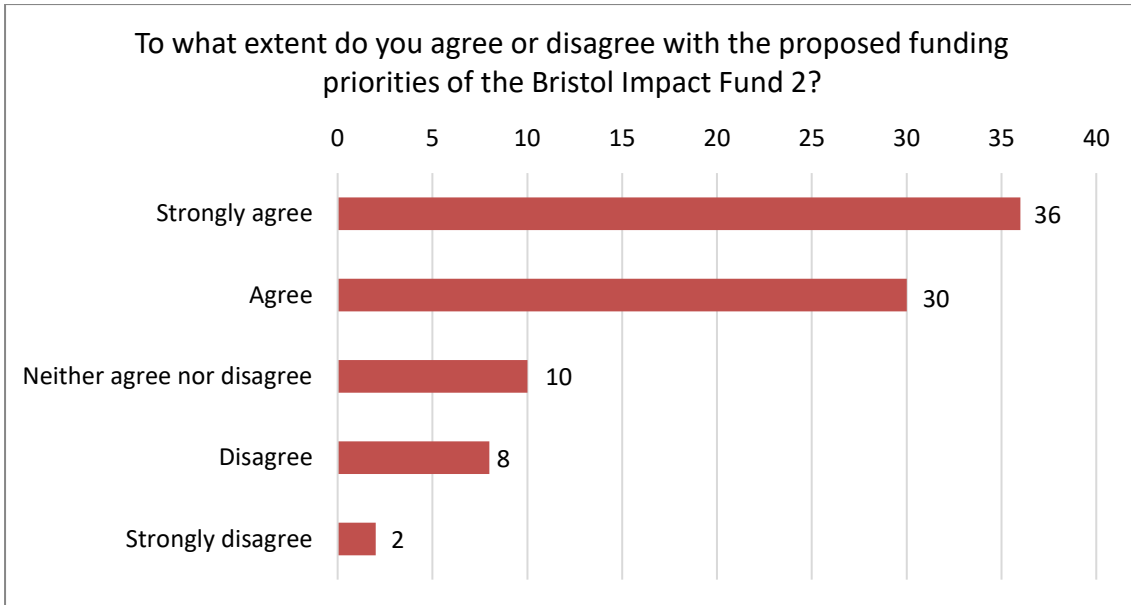
#### **4.4 Priorities of the BIF grant**

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposed priorities of BIF Grant.

84 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 66 (79%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed priorities
- 10 (12%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 3 (4%) respondents disagreed with the proposed priorities

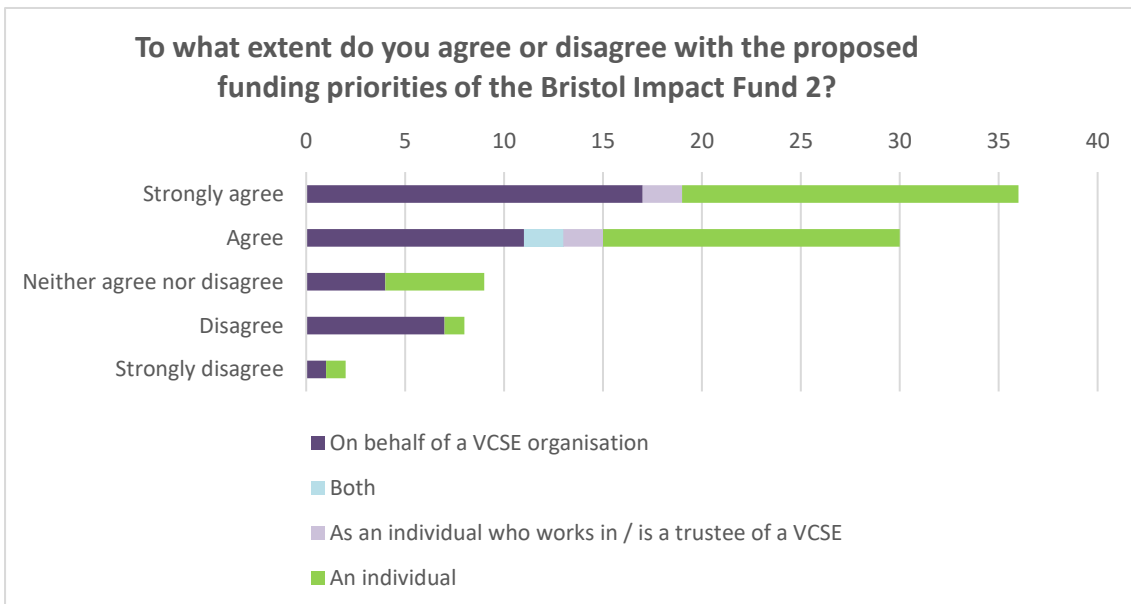
See figure 4.4.1 below



**Figure 4.4.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the proposed priorities.

See figure 4.4.2 below



**Figure 4.4.2**

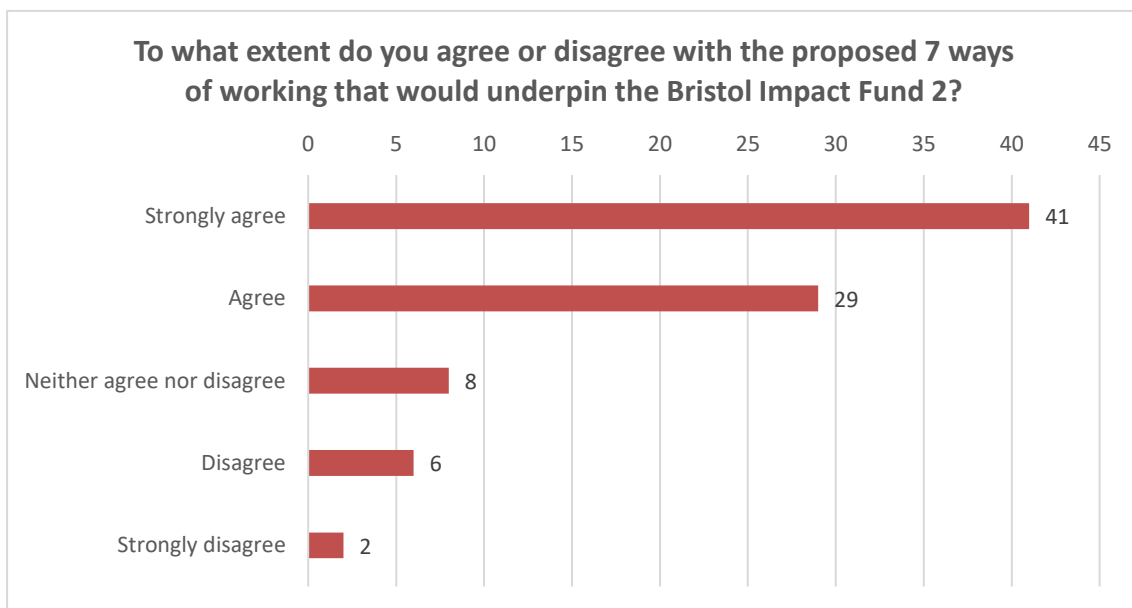
## 4.5 Proposed 7 ways of working

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposed 7 ways of working that would underpin the Bristol Impact Fund 2.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 70 (81%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed ways of working
- 8 (9%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 8 (9%) respondents disagreed with the proposed ways of working

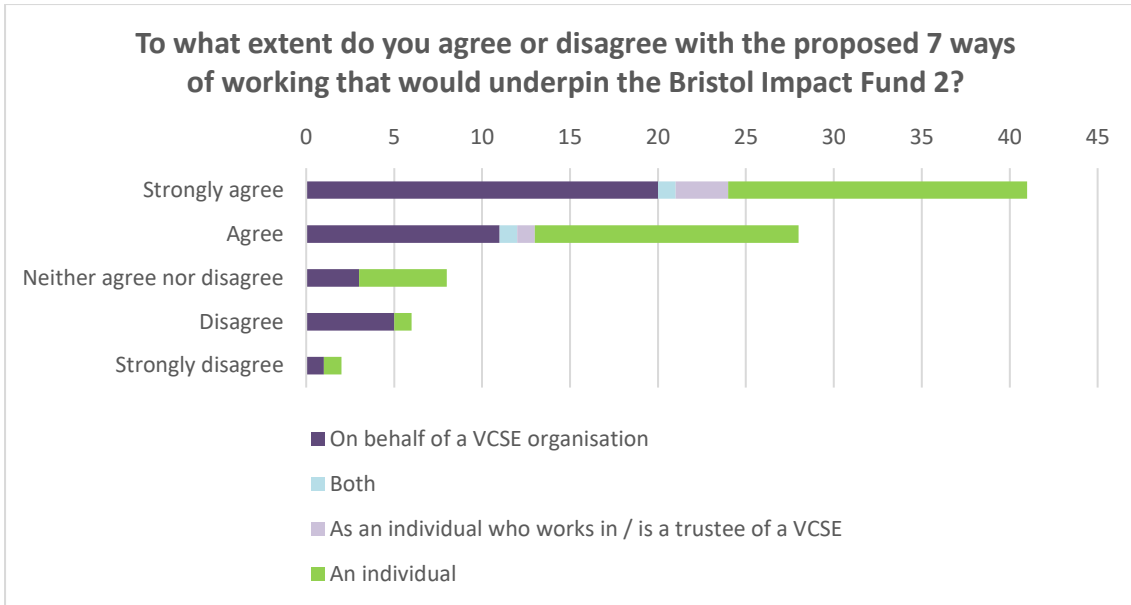
See figure 4.5.1 below.



**Figure 4.5.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the proposed ways of working.

See figure 4.5.2 below.



**Figure 4.5.2**

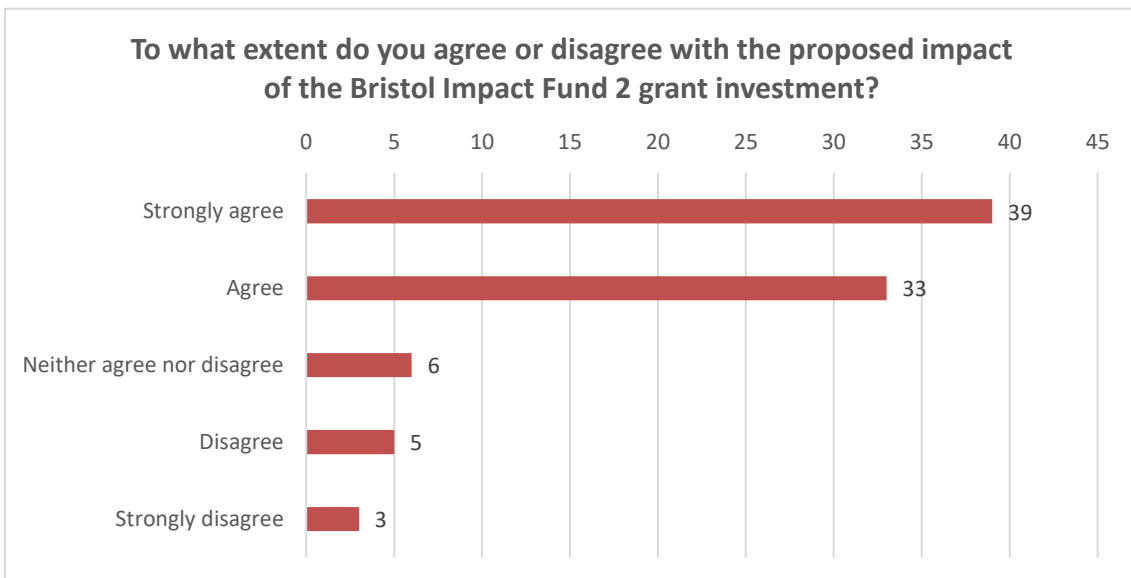
## 4.6 Proposed impact

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposed impact of the Bristol Impact Fund 2.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 72 (84%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed impact
- 6 (7%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 8 (9%) respondents disagreed with the proposed impact

See figure 4.6.1 below.



**Figure 4.6.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the proposed impact.

See figure 4.6.2 below.

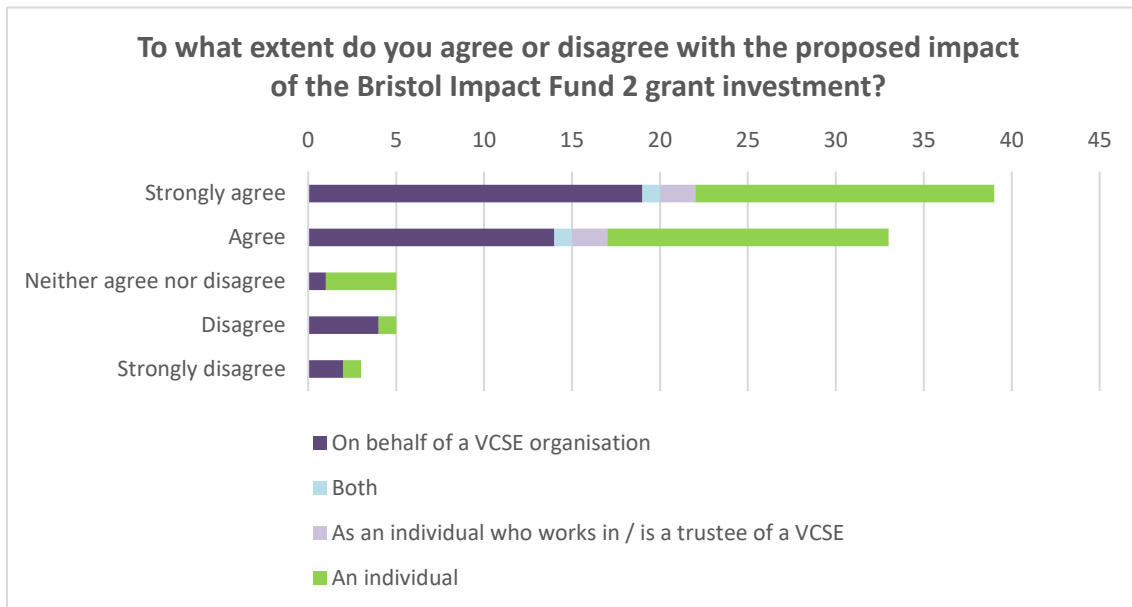


Figure 4.6.2

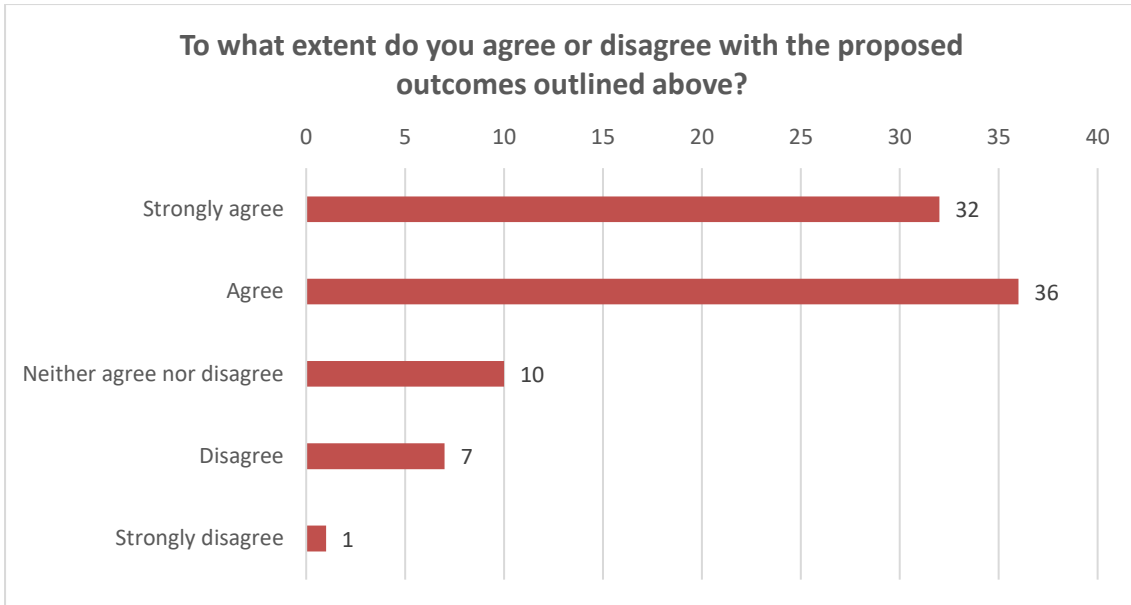
## 4.7 Proposed outcomes

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposed outcomes of the Bristol Impact Fund 2.

85 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 68 (80%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed outcomes
- 10 (12%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 7 (8%) respondents disagreed with the proposed outcomes

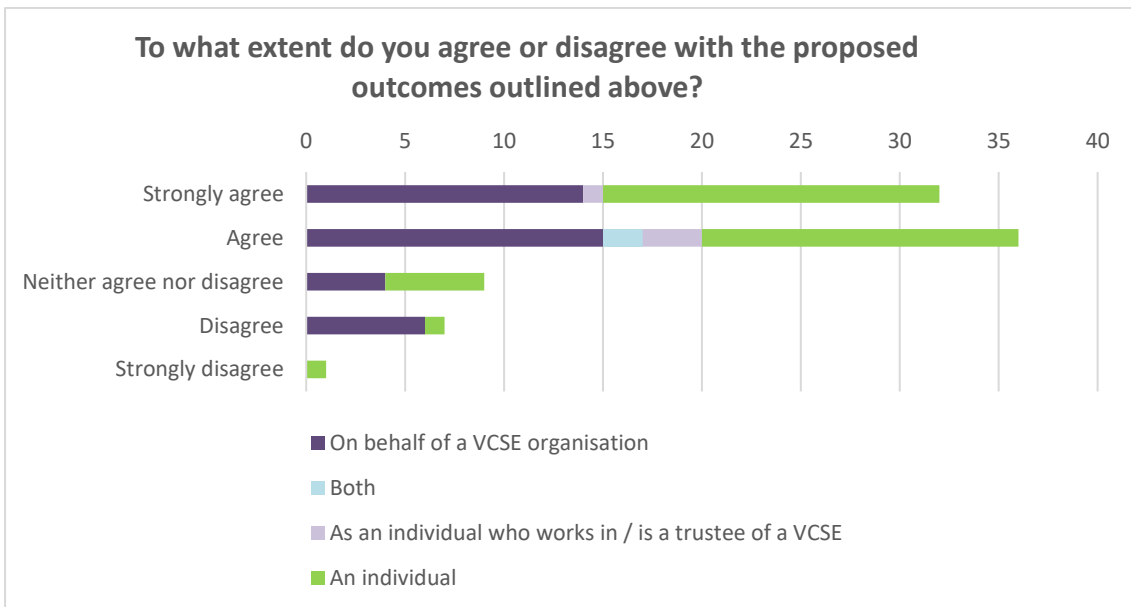
See figure 4.7.1 below.



**Figure 4.7.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the proposed outcomes.

See figure 4.7.2 below.



**Figure 4.7.2**

## 4.8 Approach to developing indicators

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposed approach to developing indicators of success in delivering against the proposed outcomes.

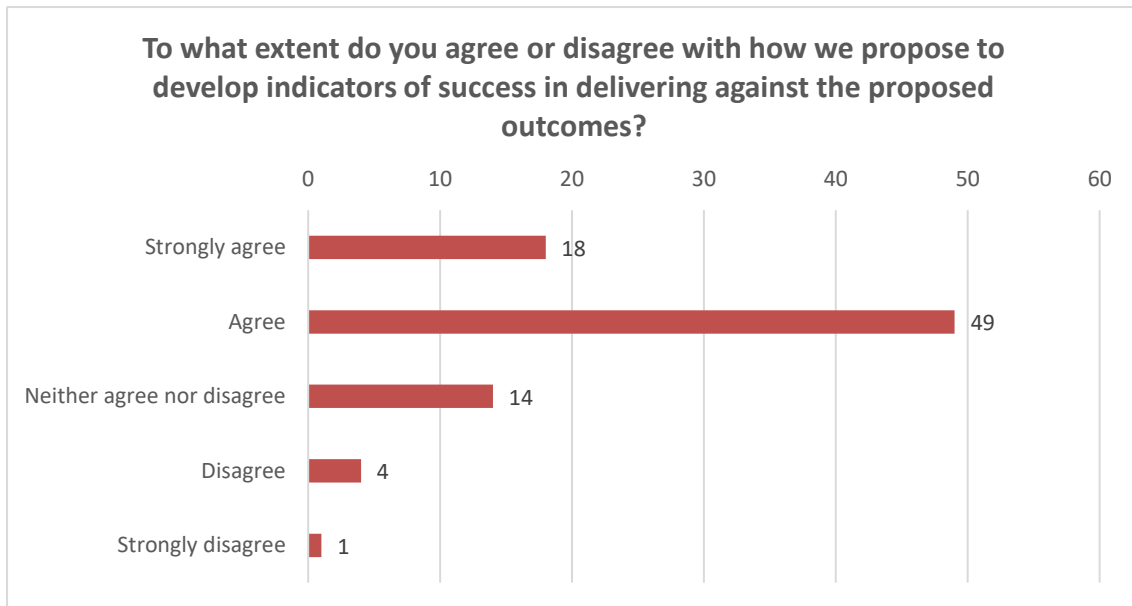


85 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 67 (79%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed outcomes
- 14 (16%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 4 (5%) respondents disagreed with the proposed outcomes

A number of comments were gathered on this as part of the open text responses, which are represented in Section 6.

See figure 4.8.1 below.



**Figure 4.8.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the proposed approach to developing indicators of success in delivering against the proposed outcomes.

See figure 4.8.2 below.

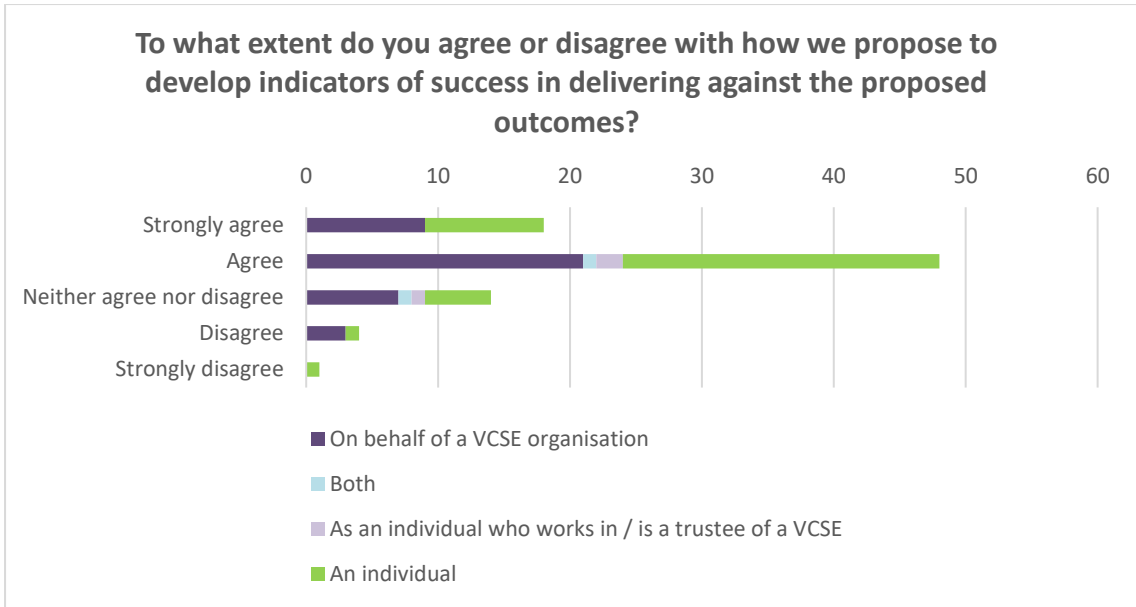


Figure 4.8.2

#### 4.9 Provision of a small grants fund

Respondents were asked whether they support the provision of a Small Grants fund as part of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 programme.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 81 (94%) respondents said yes and
- 5 (6%) respondents said no

See figure 4.9.1 below.

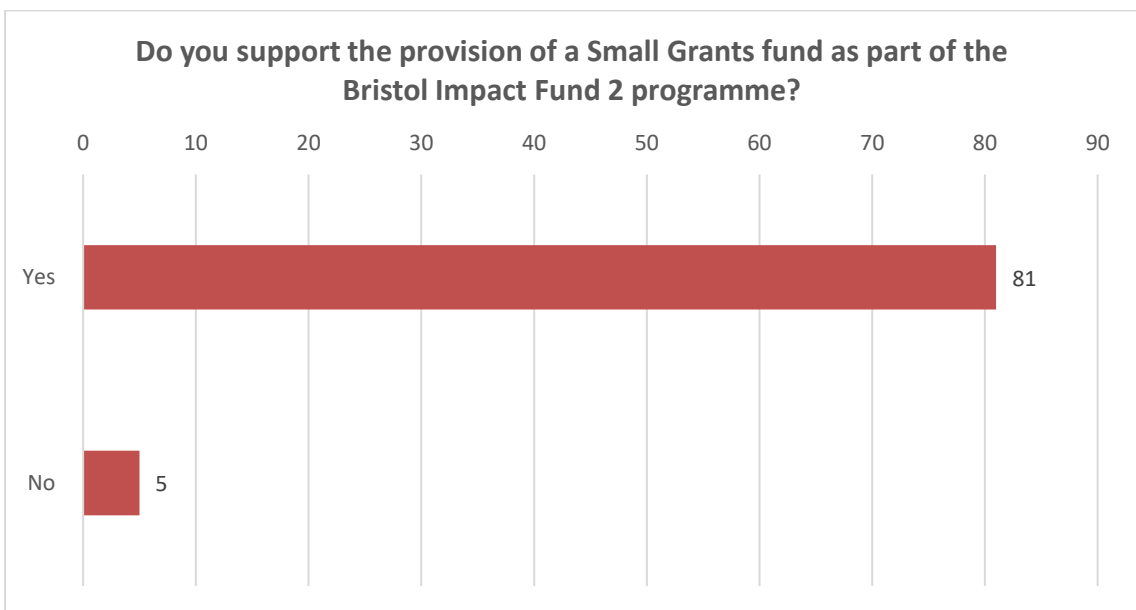
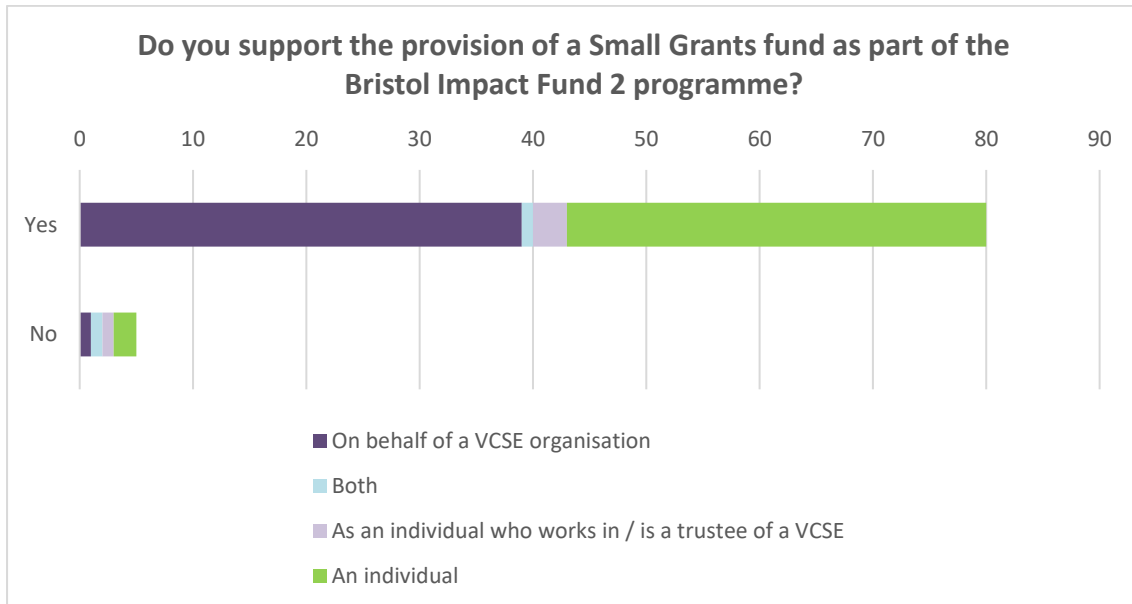


Figure 4.9.1

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the split of organisations and individuals that support or don't support the provision of a Small Grants fund as part of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 programme.

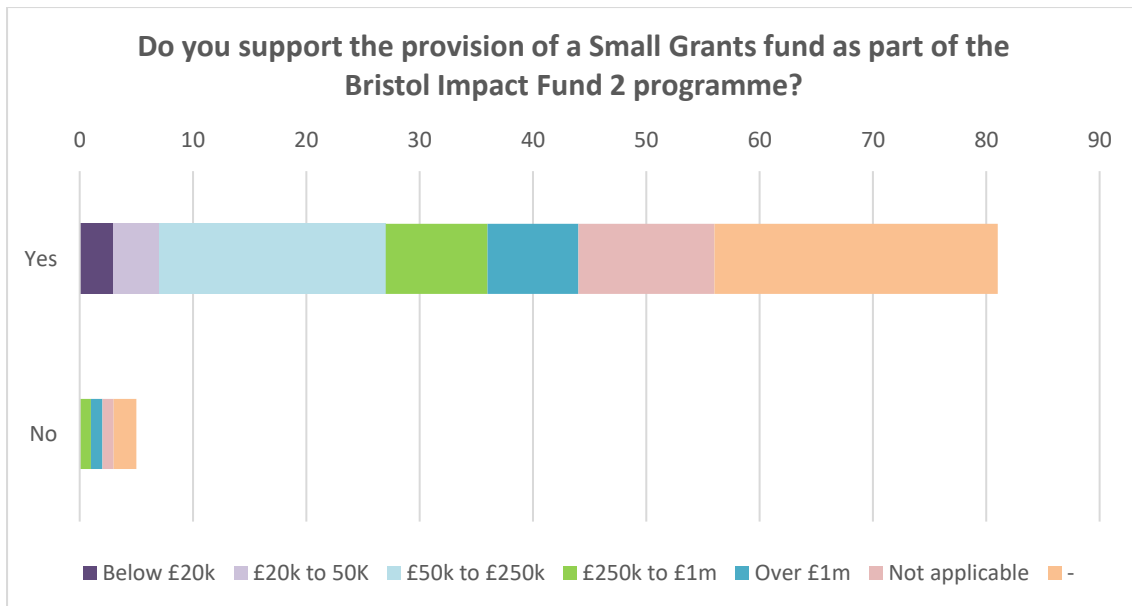
See figure 4.9.2 below.



**Figure 4.9.2**

86 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated their organisation's annual turnover. The following graph shows the annual turnover of organisations that support or don't support the provision of a Small Grants fund as part of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 programme.

See figure 4.9.3 below.



**Figure 4.9.3**

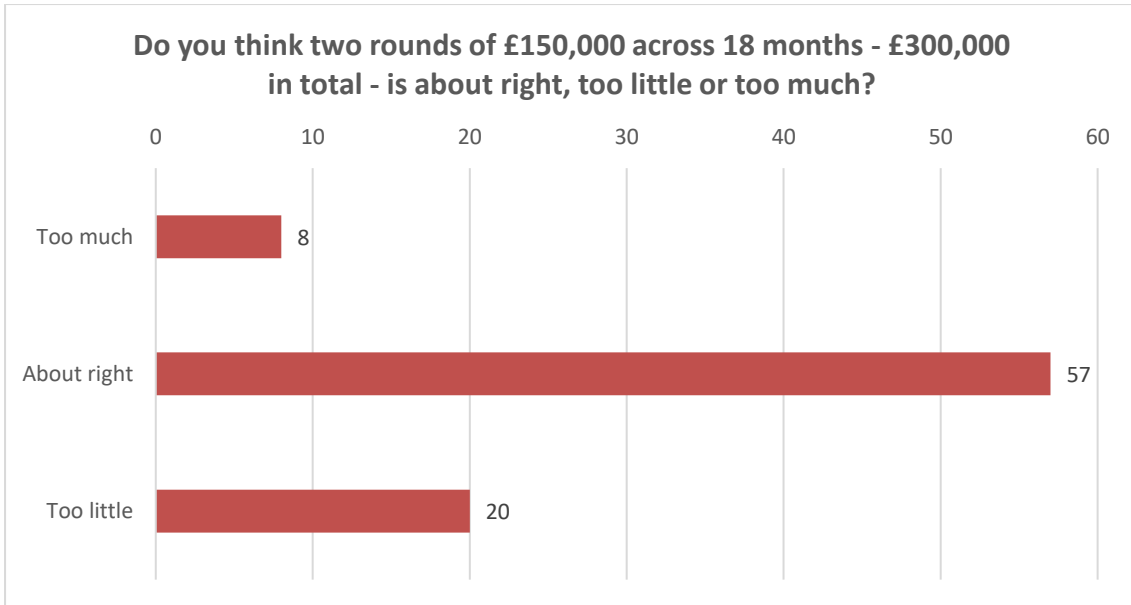
#### 4.10 Size of small grants fund

Respondents were asked whether they thought two rounds of £150,000 across 18 months - £300,000 in total is about right, too little or too much.

85 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 8 (9%) respondents thought two rounds of £150,000 across 18 months - £300,000 in total is too much
- 57 (67%) respondents thought it is about right and
- 20 (24%) respondents thought it is too little

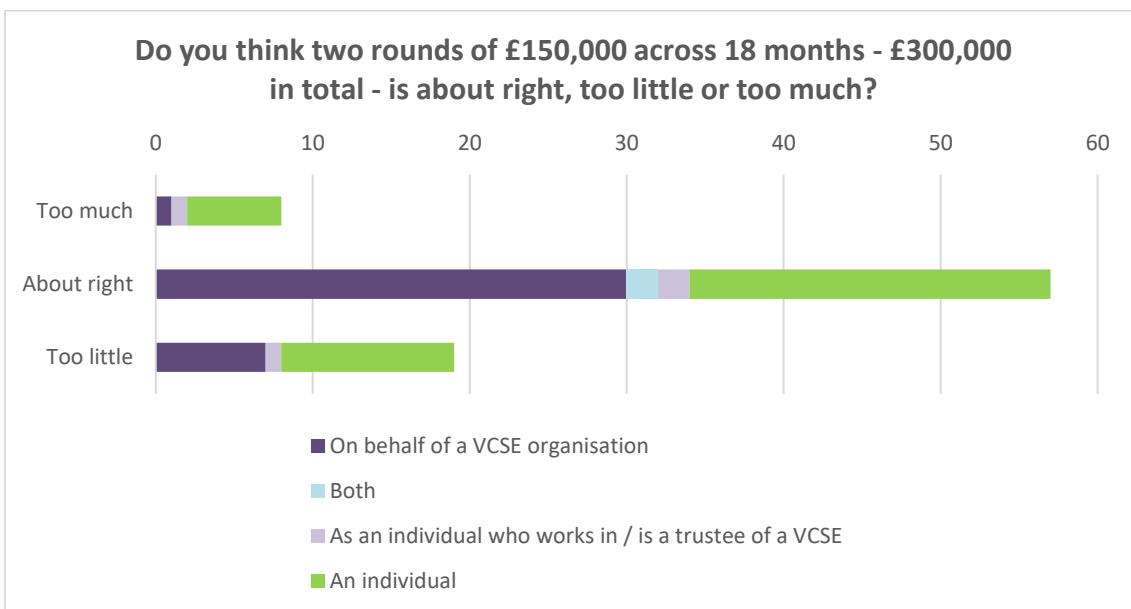
See figure 4.10.1 below.



**Figure 4.10.1**

84 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the split of organisations and individuals and their thoughts on the size of a Small Grants fund as part of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 programme.

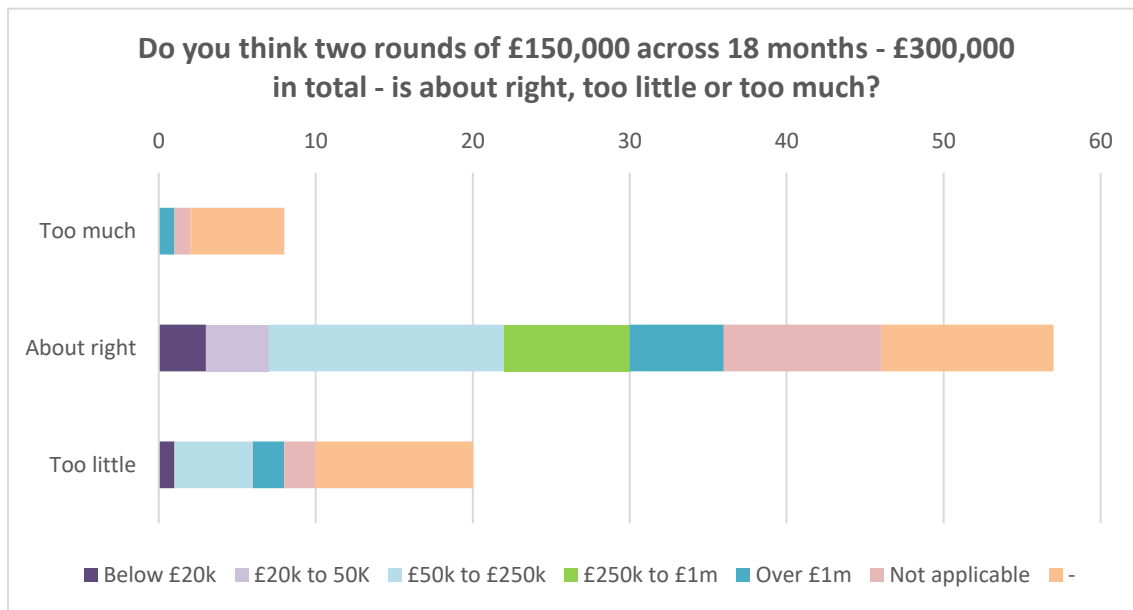
See figure 4.10.2 below.



**Figure 4.10.2**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated their organisation's annual turnover. The following graph shows the annual turnover of organisations and their thoughts on the size of a Small Grants fund as part of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 programme.

See figure 4.10.3 below.



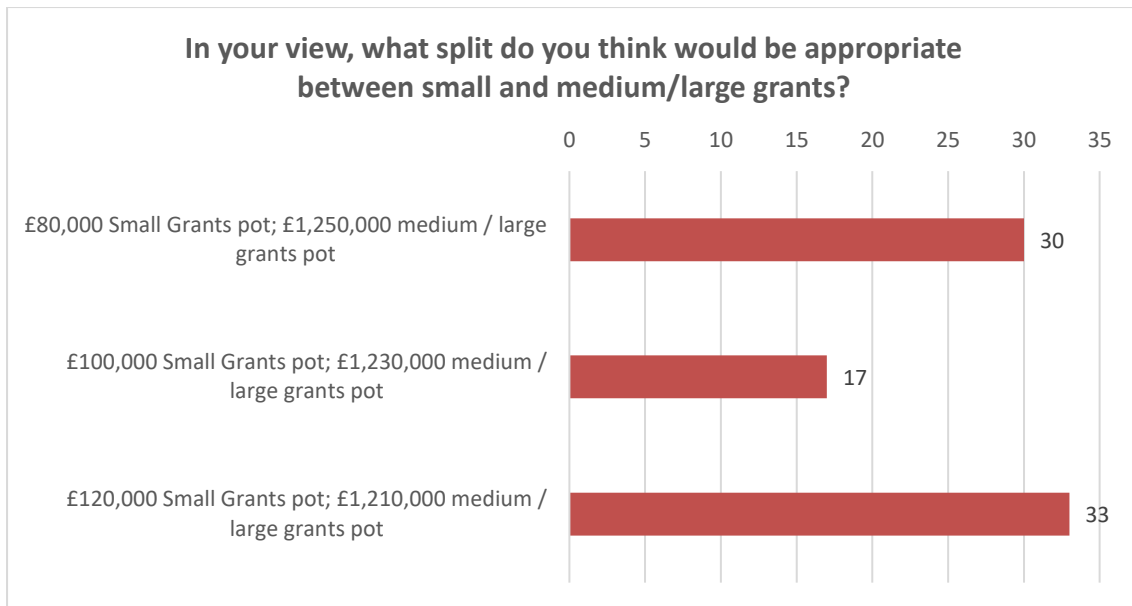
**Figure 4.10.3**

Respondents were then asked what split they think would be appropriate between small and medium/large grants.

80 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 30 (38%) respondents selected a split of £80,000 per year for small grants and £1,250,000 per year for medium / large grants
- 17 (21%) respondents selected a split of £100,000 per year for small grants and £1,230,000 per year for medium / large grants
- 33 (41%) respondents selected a split of £120,000 per year for small grants and £1,210,000 per year for medium / large grants

See figure 4.10.4 below.



**Figure 4.10.4**

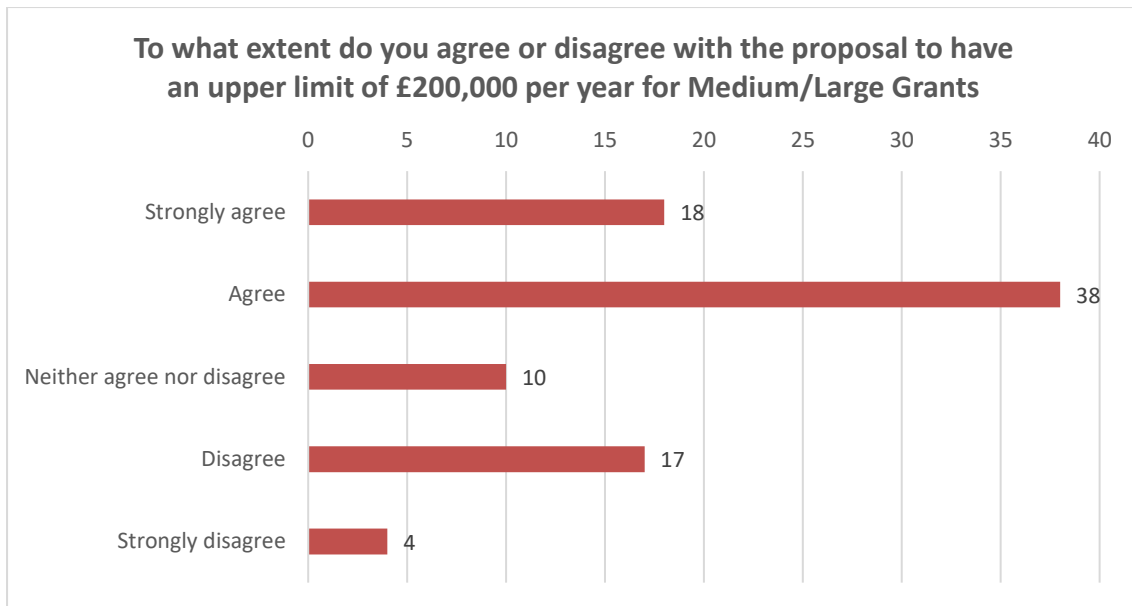
### **4.11 Upper limits on proposals**

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposal to have an upper limit of £200,000 per year for Medium/Large Grants.

87 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 56 (64%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to have an upper limit of £200,000 per year for Medium/Large Grants
- 10 (11%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 21 (24%) respondents disagreed with the proposal to have an upper limit of £200,000 per year for Medium/Large Grants

See figure 4.11.1 below.



**Figure 4.11.1**

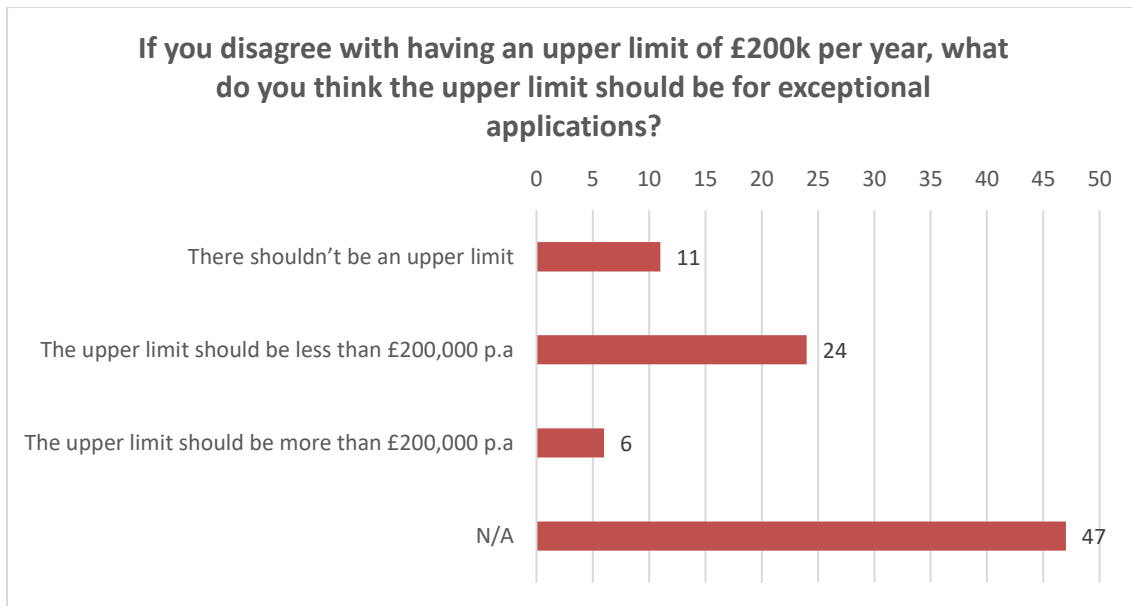
If respondents disagreed, they were then asked what they think the upper limit should be for exceptional applications.

41 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 11 (27%) respondents thought there shouldn't be an upper limit
- 24 (59%) respondents thought the upper limit should be less than £200,000 per annum
- 6 (15%) respondents thought the upper limit should be more than £200,000 per annum

See figure 4.11.2 below.





**Figure 4.11.2**

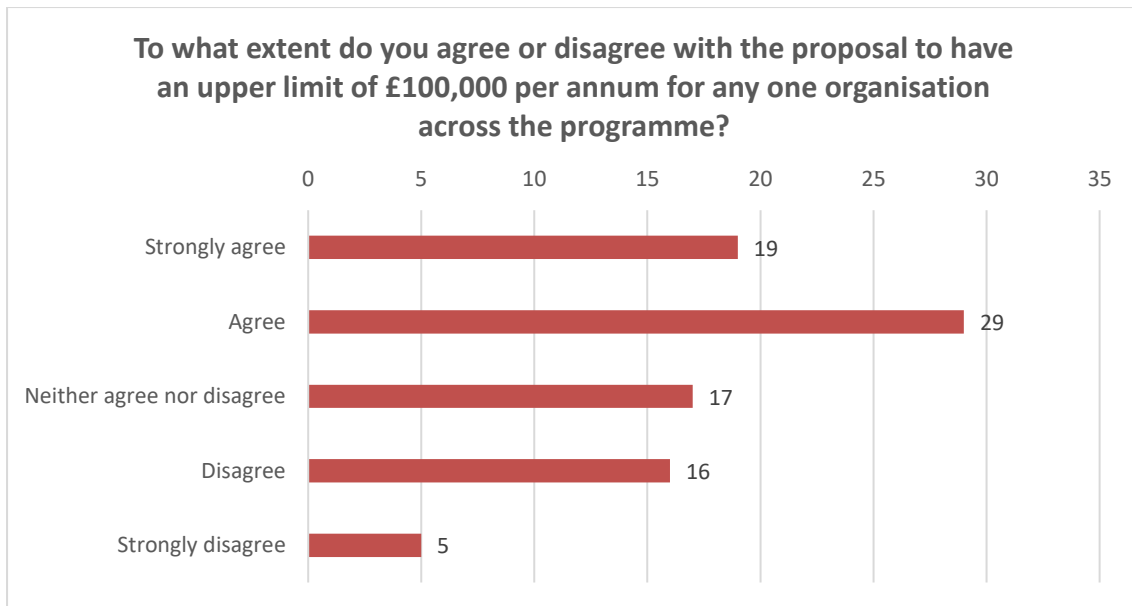
#### **4.12 Upper limits on any one organisation**

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the proposal to have an upper limit of £100,000 per year for any one organisation across the programme.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 48 (56%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to have an upper limit of £100,000 per annum for any one organisation across the programme
- 17 (20%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 21 (24%) respondents disagreed with the proposal to have an upper limit of £100,000 per annum for any one organisation across the programme

See figure 4.12.1 below.



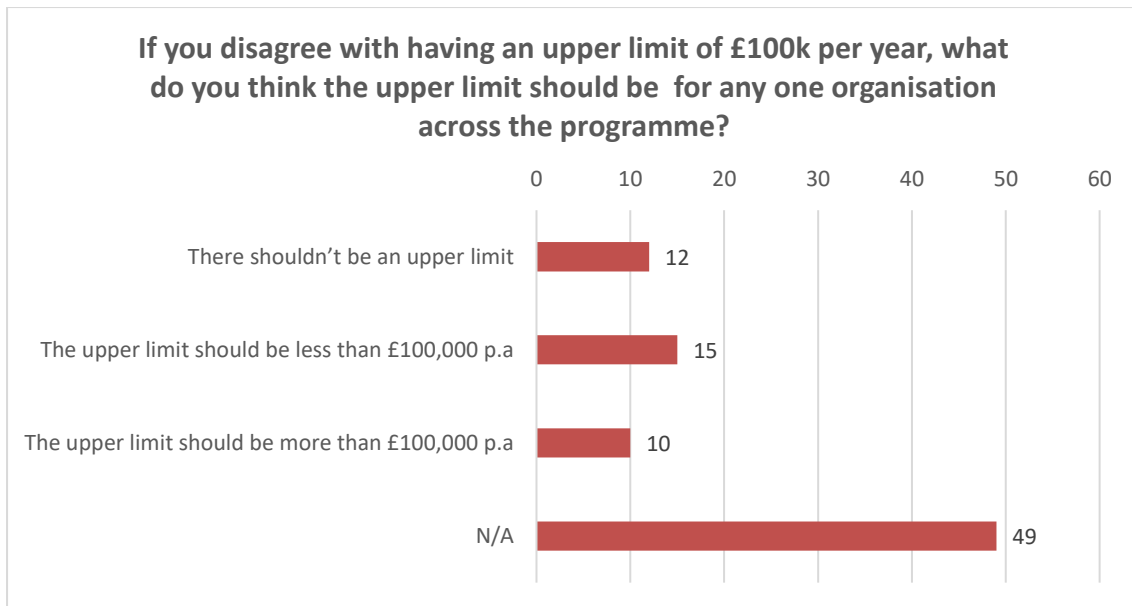
**Figure 4.12.1**

If respondents disagreed, they were then asked what they think the upper limit should be for exceptional applications.

37 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 12 (32%) respondents thought there shouldn't be an upper limit
- 15 (41%) respondents thought the upper limit should be less than £200,000 per annum
- 10 (27%) respondents thought the upper limit should be more than £200,000 per annum

See figure 4.12.2 below.



**Figure 4.12.2**

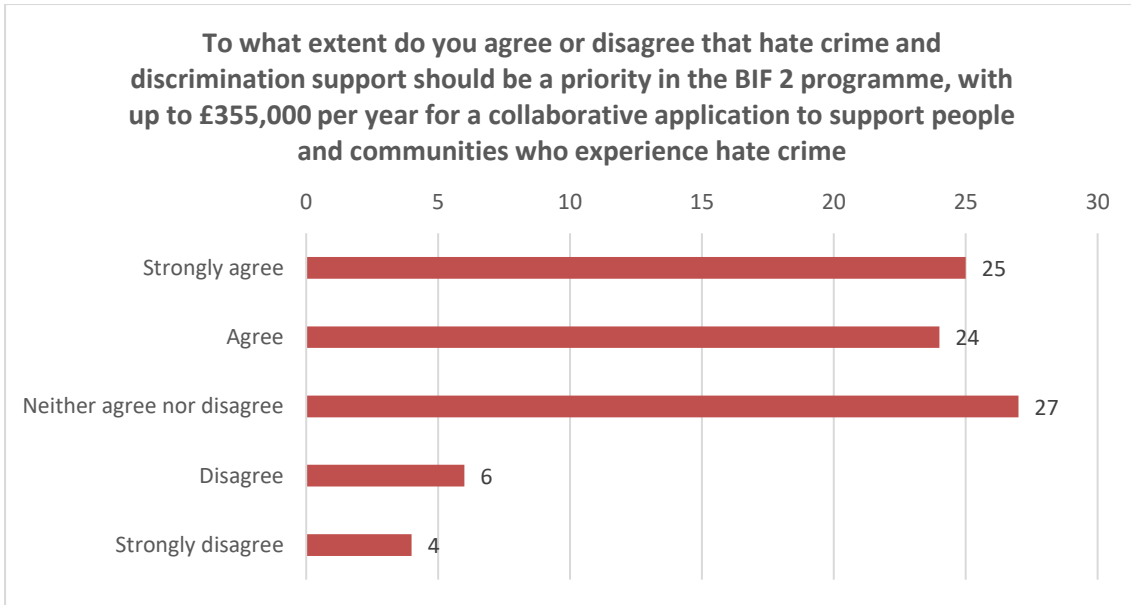
### **4.13 Hate crime and discrimination support**

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree that hate crime and discrimination support should be a priority in the BIF 2 programme, with up to £355,000 per year for a collaborative application to support people and communities who experience hate crime and discrimination.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 49 (57%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal
- 27 (31%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 10 (12%) respondents disagreed with the proposal

See figure 4.13.1 below.



**Figure 4.13.1**

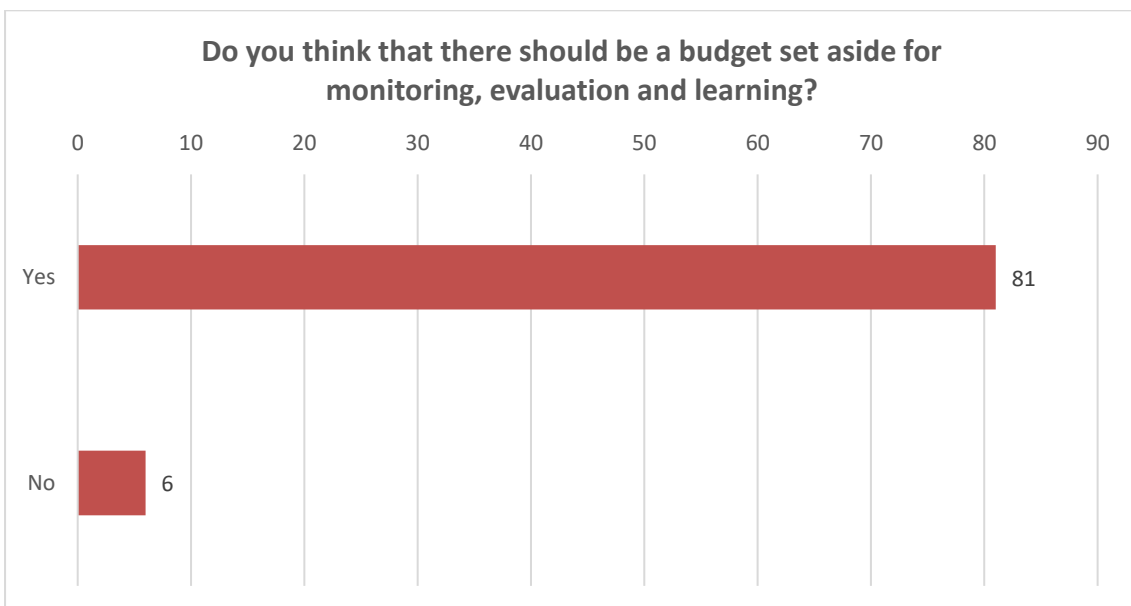
#### **4.14 Monitoring, evaluation and learning budget**

Respondents were asked whether they think that there should be a budget set aside for monitoring, evaluation and learning.

87 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 81 (93%) respondents said yes
- 6 (7%) respondents said no

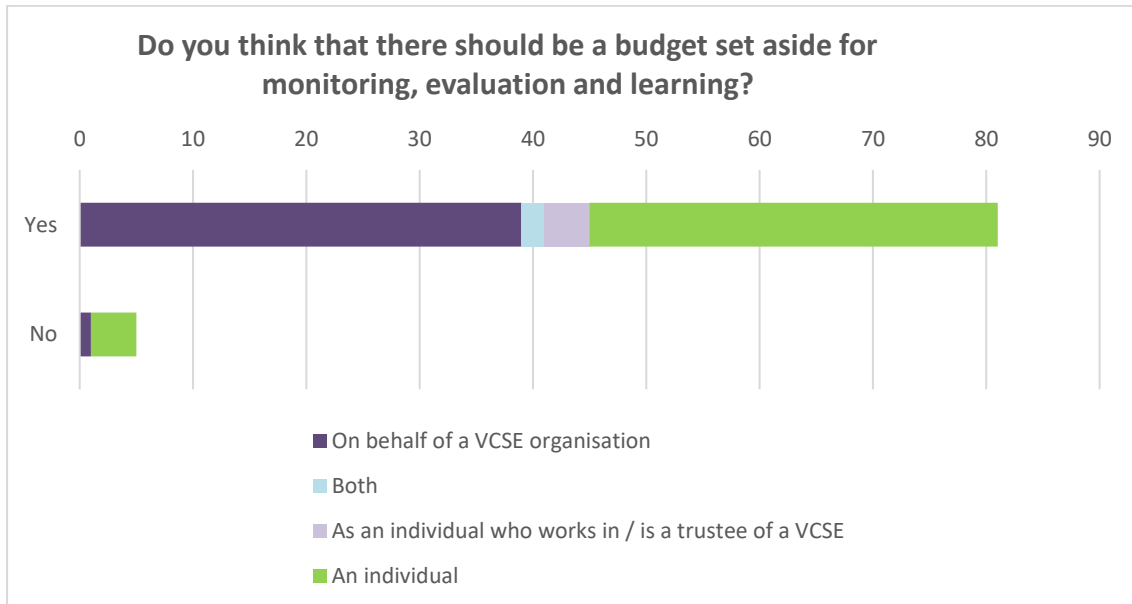
See figure 4.14.1 below.



**Figure 4.14.1**

86 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the split of organisations and individuals that thought that there should be a budget set aside for monitoring, evaluation and learning.

See figure 4.14.2 below.



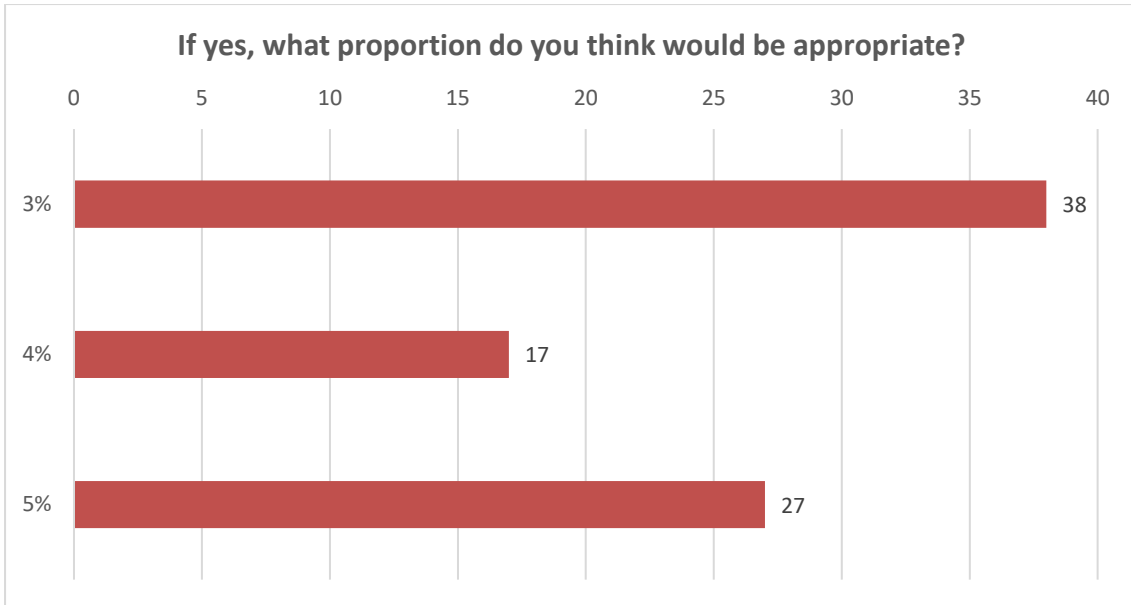
**Figure 4.14.2**

If respondents answered yes, they were asked what proportion they thought would be appropriate.

82 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 38 (46%) respondents said 3% of the total budget
- 17 (21%) respondents said 4% of the total budget
- 27 (33%) respondents said 5% of the total budget

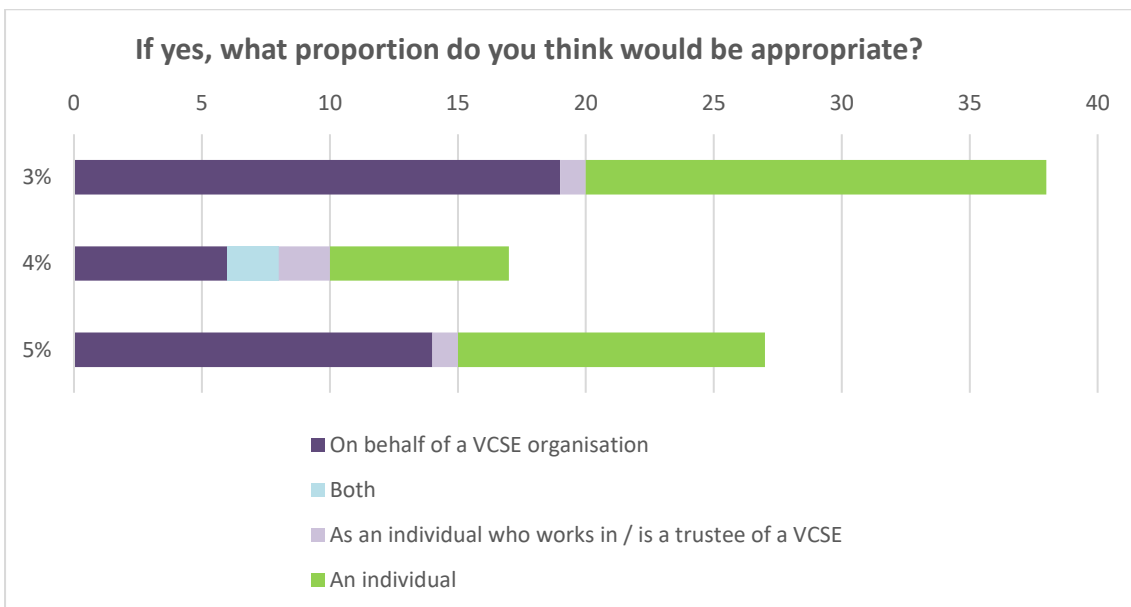
See figure 4.14.3 below.



**Figure 4.14.3**

82 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the split of organisations and individuals and the what proportion of the budget they thought was appropriate.

See figure 4.14.4 below



**Figure 4.14.4**

82 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were an equalities-led organisation. The following graph shows the proportion of the budget they thought was appropriate, broken down by equalities-led (n=20) and non equalities-led organisations or individuals (n=62).

See figure 4.14.5 below

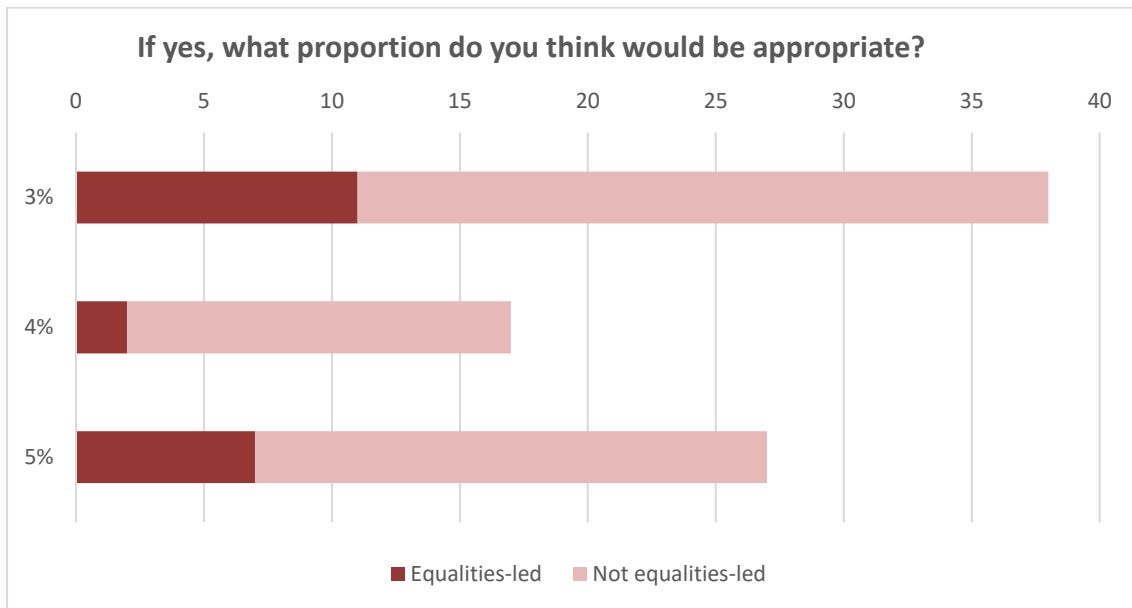


Figure 4.14.5

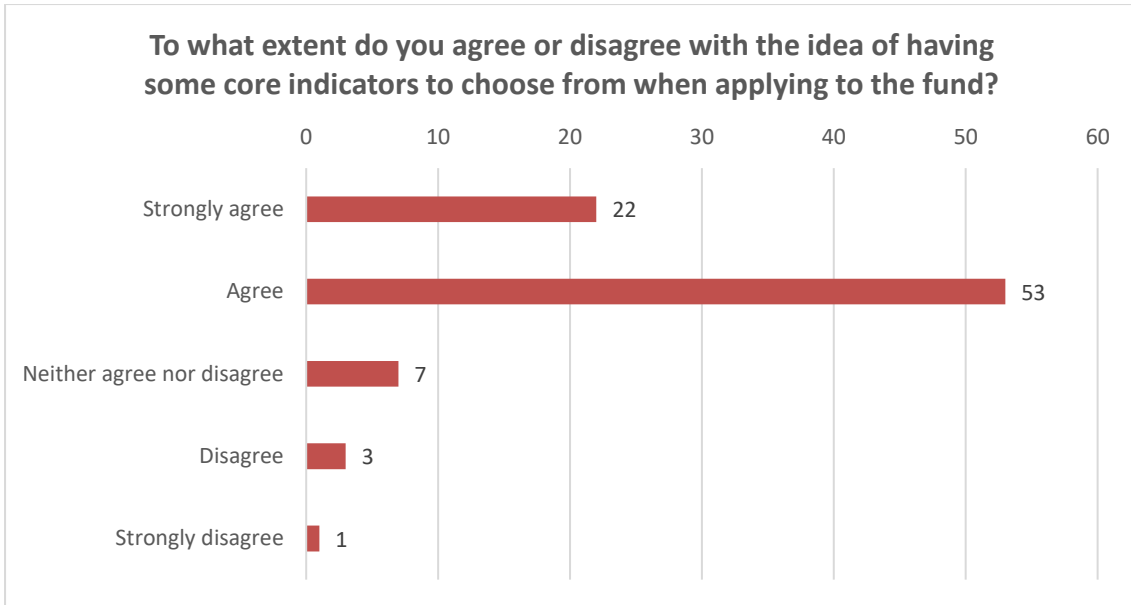
#### 4.15 Monitoring, evaluation and learning approach

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the idea of having some core indicators to choose from when applying to the fund.

86 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 75 (87%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the idea of having some core indicators to choose from when applying to the fund
- 7 (8%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 4 (5%) respondents disagreed with the idea of having some core indicators to choose from when applying to the fund

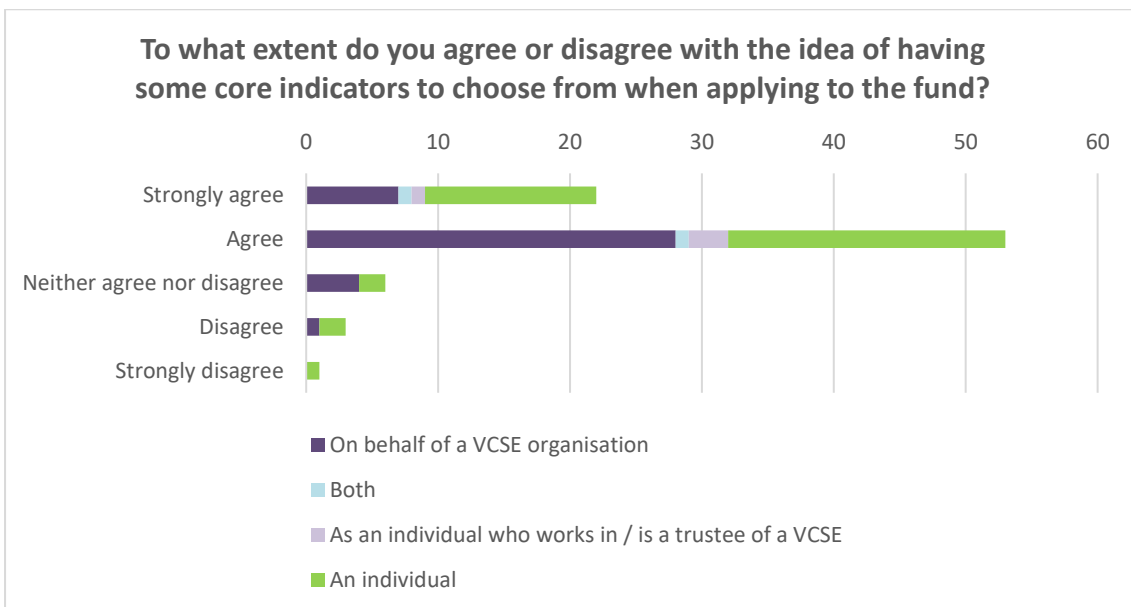
See figure 4.15.1 below.



**Figure 4.15.1**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the idea of having core indicators.

See figure 4.15.2 below.

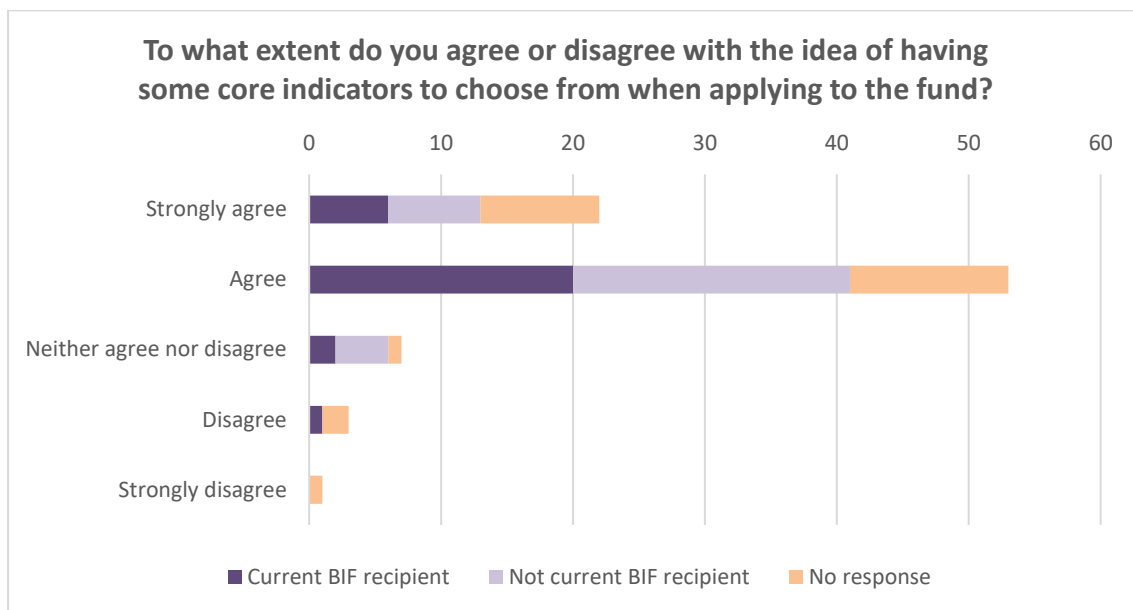


**Figure 4.15.2**

86 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were currently receiving BIF funding. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the idea of having core indicators.



See figure 4.15.3 below.



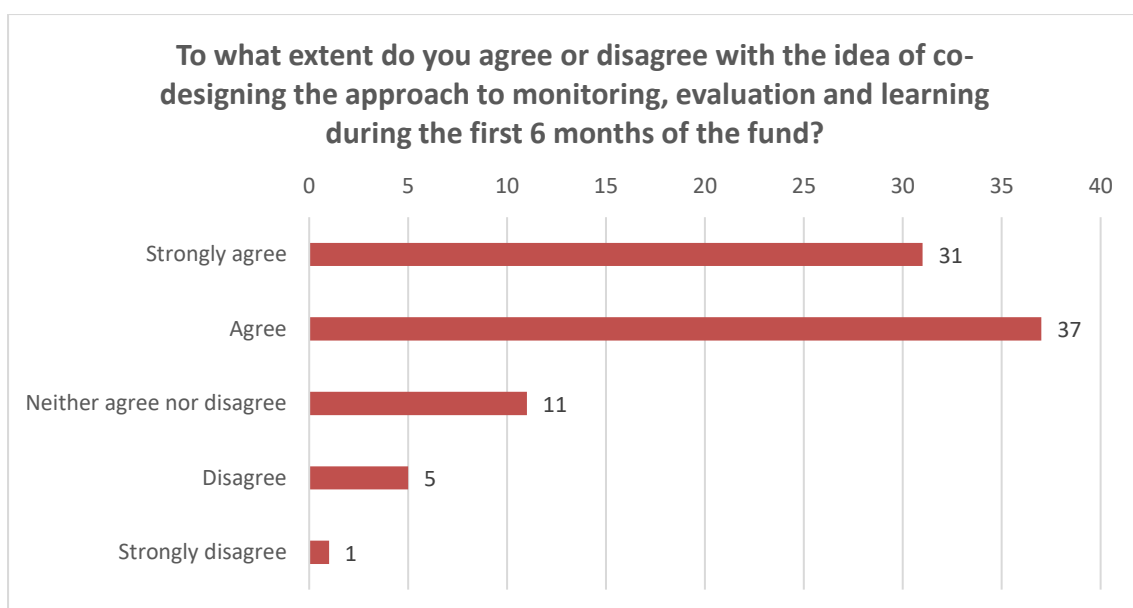
**Figure 4.15.3**

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with the idea of co-designing the approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning during the first 6 months of the fund.

85 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 68 (80%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the idea
- 11 (13%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and
- 6 (7%) respondents disagreed with the idea

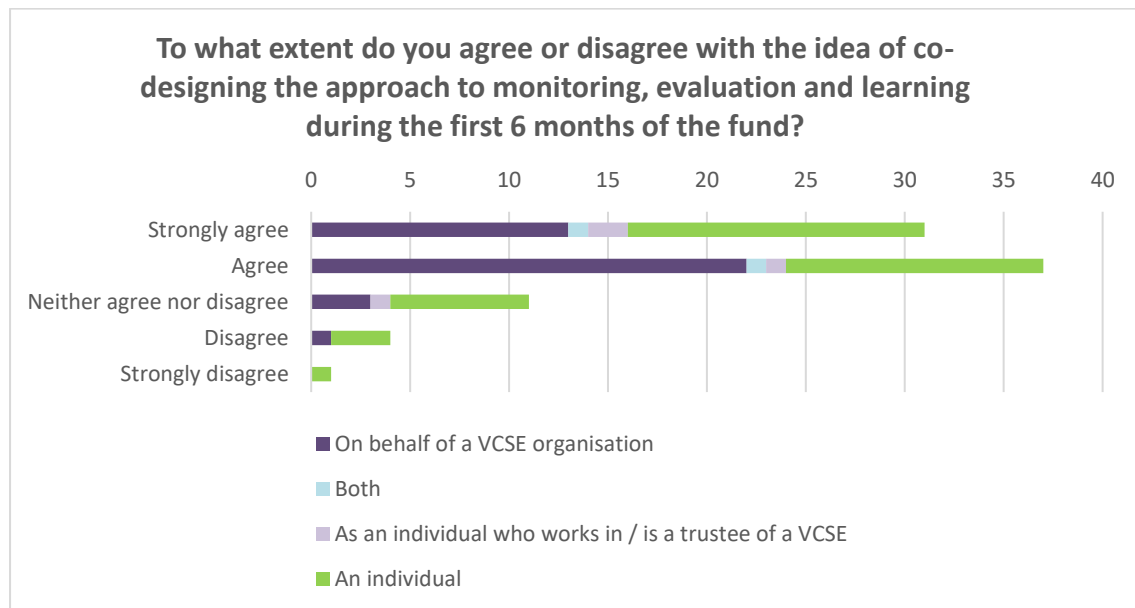
See figure 4.15.4 below.



**Figure 4.15.4**

84 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were responding as an individual or on behalf of a VCSE organisation. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the idea of co-designing the approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning during the first 6 months of the fund.

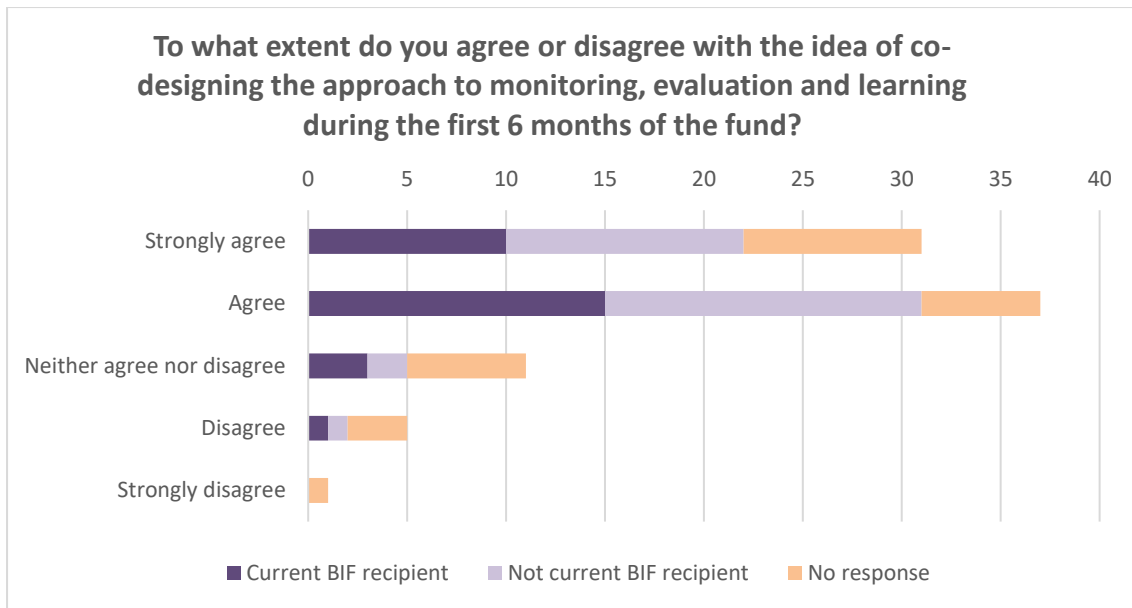
See figure 4.15.5 below.



**Figure 4.15.5**

85 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were currently receiving BIF funding. The following graph shows the extent to which these organisations and individuals agreed or disagreed with the idea of co-designing the approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning during the first 6 months of the fund.

See figure 4.15.6 below.



**Figure 4.15.6**

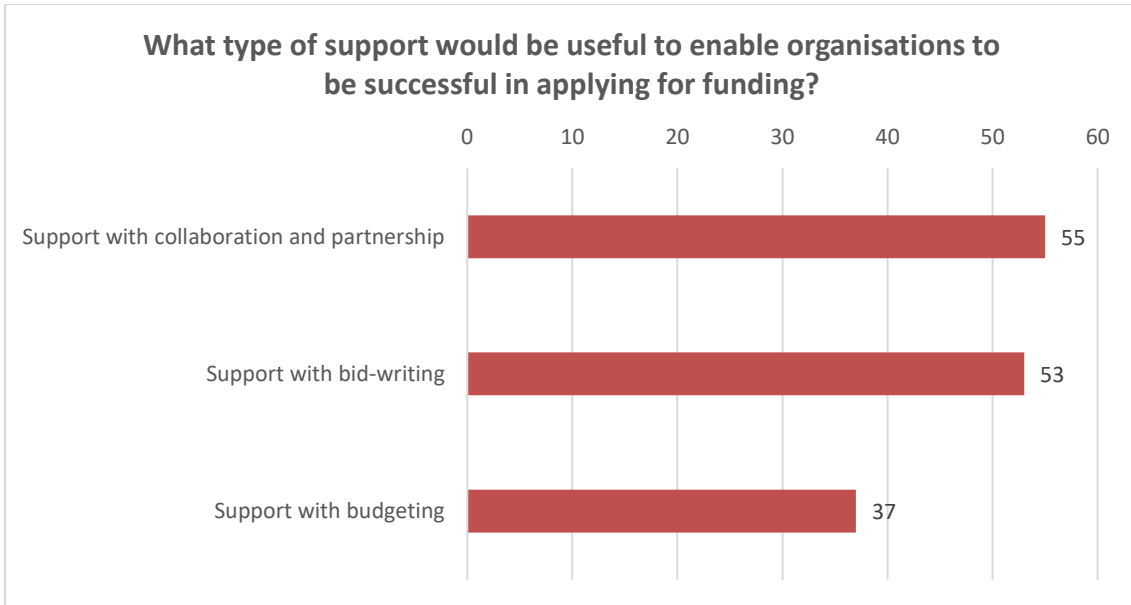
## 4.16 Support

Respondents were asked what type of support would be useful to enable organisations to be successful in applying for funding.

88 respondents expressed a view of which:

- 55 (63%) respondents selected support with collaboration and partnership
- 53 (60%) respondents selected support with bid-writing
- 37 (42%) respondents selected support with budgeting

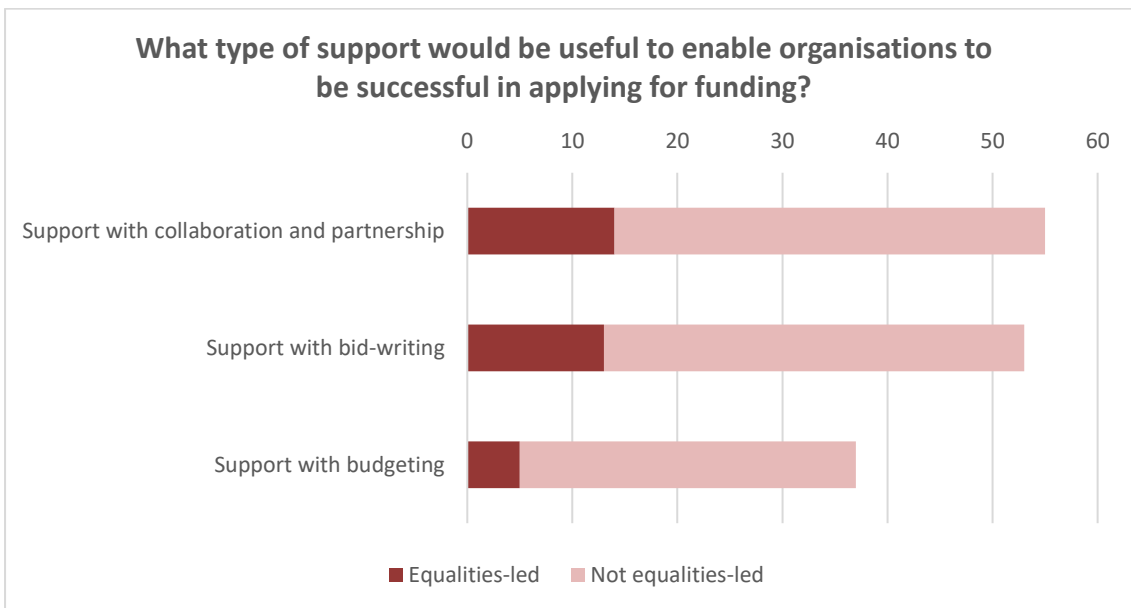
See figure 4.16.1 below.



**Figure 4.16.1**

88 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated whether they were an equalities-led organisation. The following graph shows the support requested, broken down by equalities-led (n=20) and non equalities-led organisations or individuals (n=68).

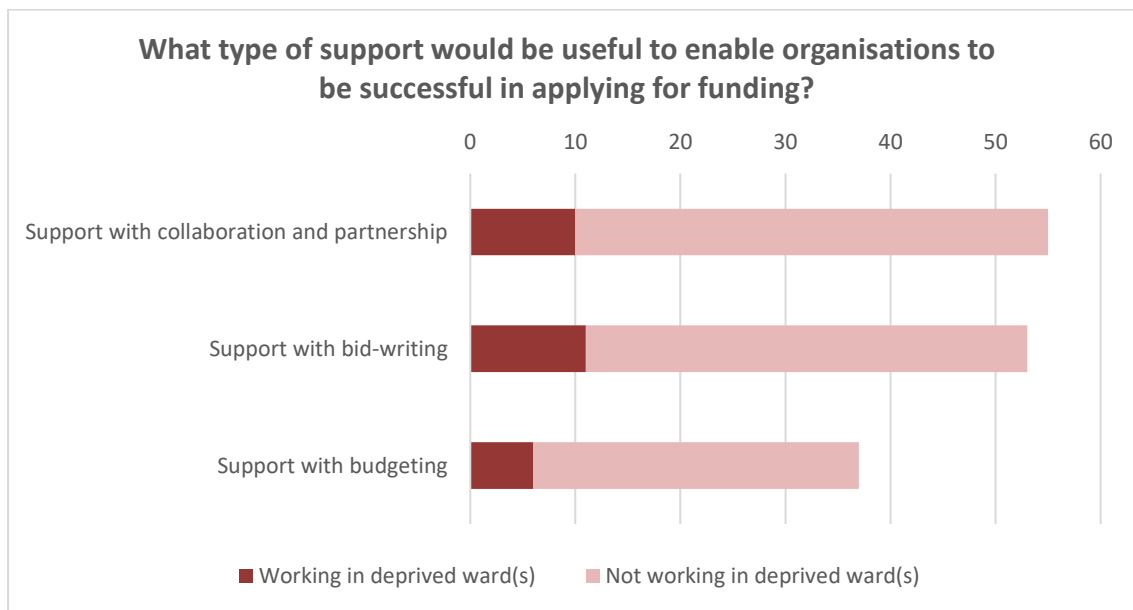
See figure 4.16.2 below



**Figure 4.16.2**

88 respondents expressed a view of this proposal and stated which areas of the city they worked in. The following graph shows the support requested, broken down by organisations working in deprived wards (n=17) and organisations or individuals not working in deprived wards (n=71).

See figure 4.16.3 below



**Figure 4.16.3**

Respondents were also given the option to list other forms of support they would find useful. The following support was noted:

- 3 respondents requested more time / extended timescales
- Other respondents mentioned:
- Time support - deprived communities often include many people who have to balance paid work time with forms of care and are not only cash poor but time poor too
- To form effective partnerships based on equality, respect and mutual commitment to common values and objectives takes time - at least a year - and to have such systemic seismic change, introduced so quickly feels rush and counterproductive to the stated aim of partnership development. It is also exclusive and small organisations, often representing the most marginalized people are often excluded from partnership development opportunities as they lack the capacity to respond in such short spaces of time. This process will favour existing partnerships only. This is particularly the case during the current lock down restrictions. The fund would be better to fund for one year and offer the support above to enable partnership development and then to fund for the longer term (four years) once there has been the opportunity to respond more effectively to the change, and to the new requirements. The timescale of this process precludes any time for reflective thinking and innovative response
- Long term funding
- Ongoing mentoring for small groups
- New social media platform to allow young generation to take part in bid writing with an aim to chance the bid writing
- Understanding the criteria which will be used to make the grants.
- Extra consideration to smallest organisations
- Keep the process simple and short, plain language

- Very clear guidelines regarding exactly what you are after so that we don't waste time trying to second-guess what you/ those who are going to judge our applications, are after

## 5 Qualitative survey feedback and engagement

Qualitative feedback was gathered through 5 consultation events and 3 free text boxes in the survey.

During the consultation events, respondents were asked the following questions:

- What do you support or find helpful in the BIF 2 proposals?
- What concerns or issues do you see in the BIF 2 proposals
- What ideas do you have to improve the BIF 2 proposals?
- Small Grants: comments, issues
- Medium/Large Grants: comments, issues
- Evaluation, monitoring, learning: comments, issues
- Support: comments, issues

**93 people attended the consultation events and fed back in breakout groups.**

In the survey, respondents were asked if they would like to comment further with regards to:

- the proposed goal, the funding priorities, 7 ways of working and impact indicators of the Bristol Impact Fund 2
- the allocation of funding of BIF2
- the timeline or support available for applying to BIF2.

**61 people responded to at least one of the open text sections on the online survey. A total of 123 comments were received.**

The themes from the consultation events and free text from the survey have been analysed together as both qualitative data gathering activities have generated many of the same themes.

Due to the nature of the consultation events, which were often large in size and held online, it was not possible to quantify all comments in terms of the number of people in support of those comments. This is because participants were split out into breakout rooms, with one representative feeding back on behalf of their groups. Therefore, when one comment was made, this may well have been on behalf of a number of people from that group.

### 5.1 General comments on the approach

**General feedback from the engagement events included positive feedback on the overall approach, along with concerns around how organisations will adapt to the approach in current circumstances, and whether it was the right approach for the fund.**

12 comments were made at the events that were a **positive reaction to the general approach**

- Like the focus on resilience and strength
- Asset based is really positive. Great to see.
- Emphasis on co-creation really good but not always easy and feel that it needs to be built in.
- We are already working in this way so really positive to see it reflected the fund.
- Agree with aims and purpose and community building.
- Great way of working – Similar to the way that reaching communities work. Really good to see how funders want us to work.
- Felt more focused and clearer what it wanted to achieve
- Like the focus on equity, assets and grassroots organisations
- Liked emphasis on collaboration (and particular informal collaborations) – formal was very challenging
- Does reflect the fundamental work that smaller organisations have coordinated and done a lot of during Covid19
- Opportunities for communities to develop their own services so that individuals aren't passive
- Welcome emphasis on underrepresented groups and call for more money in for underfunded groups

1 comment in the online survey echoed this:

- I would also add weight to organisations that use an asset-based, community development approach to the work.

#### **4 comments were made in the events about adapting to the new approach**

- Concern around how we change the work practices in our own organisation to meet the ways of working. May be hard for some organisations.
- Quite focused on supporting individuals at the moment and that it would make it difficult to transition from one to another and that a transition period of time would be useful
- Transition time needs to be built into delivery time
- Some organisations struggling to picture what it would like in their organisations

#### **3 comments in the events questioned if it was the right approach for the fund**

- It is Asset Based Community Development model which is great, but that can have an assumption that there is a big layer of community work that just needs to be discovered so that it can turn into something self-sustaining In Bristol, it's probably been discovered already so perhaps that isn't going to have the outcomes that are being looked for
- BIF 2 priorities and outcomes look right for an infrastructure development fund
- What would some of the most disadvantaged communities that we are all working with say about this? I think they would say - we need support - practical, fundamental, empowering support.

1 comment in the online survey echoed this:

- The whole programme looks like a shift from being responsive to both communities and individuals in the city by undertaking key initiatives that support their wellbeing,



employment, and financial security and safety, to one which is about building capacity of certain groups - this would be better placed within an infrastructure framework.

## 5.2 Capacity

**A number of comments were made in both the events and the online survey about capacity of organisations, community groups and individuals to respond in the ways that the fund envisages, particularly in the context of the Covid19 pandemic. Comments were also made on how individuals experiencing extreme disadvantage or crisis are not in a position to self-organise as well as concerns that small or new organisations can run out of steam without professional support.**

9 comments were made in the events about **the capacity needed for the approach to work:**

- Concern around the current capacity of individuals, communities and organisations to anything other than deal with current crisis
- Organisations currently in crisis asking them to adapt a lot
- Getting a community of people that have been disproportionately affected by recent events (Black lives matter, COvid-19) to take possession of their community is a big ask.
- If people are coming to a place for support, then they may not be in a place to build capacity.
- If we are asking people who are the most discriminated against it might be difficult in reality to take that leap.
- Individuals felt that the word change is a big ask for a time like this
- Been through pandemic, the thought of making big steps is quite challenging
- Lack of capacity in community organisations and leaders to adapt to a big change like this
- We are all exhausted the level of effort that is happening at the moment isn't sustainable

5 comments were made in the events around **concerns that people experiencing the greatest inequality may not be in a position to self-organise and therefore be left behind:**

- Always concerned that those who need help don't have the infrastructure to be able to complete a funding bid.
- If we are asking people who are the most discriminated against it might be difficult in reality to take that leap.
- Feels very big society – very about the communities doing it for themselves
- Not everyone is ready to make organisations
- Need to have something about empowering people – but this has gone far the other way

12 comments were made in the online survey on the same theme:

- 2 respondents highlighted that some of the most excluded individuals in Bristol are also those with less capacity to lead an organisation at the point they are experiencing the issues contributing to their disadvantage
- 2 respondents raised that for people to engage with decision making and self-organisation, they need their own needs to be being met; the fund needs to recognise that empowerment can only happen where services are meeting needs
- Equalities-led' organisations shouldn't be defined solely as those currently facing disadvantage.
- I think some communities experiencing high levels of deprivation may need direct encouragement from Bristol City Council to develop their community systems and enable them to make an appropriate application for a grant. Are there local leaders already identified in these places who can be encouraged to take on a wider role?
- Note that those who have faced inequality have faced this for 100s of years. We can't turn this round in 4 years to 'grow the power of communities.' Growing the 'power of communities' under Covid is not what people will most need. This is basically saying 'help people to help themselves' and a time when people need crisis intervention and preventions.
- I have strong reservations about the capacity of exhausted communities, reeling from the impact of Covid and Brexit to self-organise in any coordinated ways to achieve the outcome you desire.

4 comments were made in the survey about **small or new organisations running out of steam without professional support:**

- "My experience of working with start-up voluntary organisations is that they start with best intentions, achieve positive results, but rely on a very small number or even solo champion(s) to maintain momentum. This can lead to burn-out for those champions."
- Some organisations then lose their way without professional support. I would imagine funding dedicated officers to provide close support would be vital.
- "My experience of grants is that they get project off the ground but after the period, the project flounders / fails. So a post-grant plan is essential.
- "My experience of small grants to inexperienced organisations is that they are wasted. Especially if they are managed by youngsters who may start off with ideals but run out of steam."

### **5.3 Language and accessibility of the proposal and consultation**

**Comments were made in the open text responses about the language and accessibility of what was being proposed:**

- 3 respondents raised concerns about accessibility of the language used, which could influence who applies / be off-putting to equalities groups
- 2 respondents felt the consultation is too binary and does not allow for interested parties to give any kind of nuanced response to the questions.
- Ensure that information shared is accessible, i.e. BSL, captioned, other languages.

- Nothing to indicate what lies below the rhetoric of equal rights, diversity, empowerment, etc. What does it mean in real terms?
- I'm deeply sceptical of the gap between bland feel good rhetoric and the way the world works. I'm soured by decades of watching the political process operate in favour of one vested interest or another, and it doesn't make a blind bit of difference whether the 'interest' is on the right or left, so forgive me if I can't summon much enthusiasm for this exercise.

A number of comments in the workshop also echoed this:

- What does asset based in the real world how we make it more decipherable.
- Improve by making language a bit more inclusive
- Is there any guidance on what levelling up means?

#### **5.4 Communities experiencing the greatest inequality**

**5 comments were made in the consultation events around people experiencing inequality not necessarily being part of a “community”, which were as follows:**

- This fund is aimed at people who have a voice. That is at the expense of and the elimination of those for those that are voiceless. We have kicked the bucket away from those that are least able to defend themselves
- In focusing on communities, you focus on those communities best able to have a voice. People that have a common experience and can come together and act on it. The people that we work with don't have that voice and can't come together to express themselves in that way.
- Rely on us identifying as people as communities, but it may be that those communities that aren't self-identifying. That could be tricky to work around.
- An underlying assumption with ABCD that people naturally belong to communities
- People don't naturally come into groups together. They may have protected characteristics, but they don't necessarily come into communities
- Need to think in terms of intersectionality. Not just people who fit into one box

This was echoed in the open text responses, in which 7 comments were received on the ways in which people experiencing inequality don't necessarily fit into a shared community, which were as follows:

- I largely agree with the approaches above. However, I remain concerned about organisations that work with individuals who are united as a community of need, I'm not entirely sure that this would meet either of the definitions at the start of this consultation
- Communities as explained here is a concept that is divisive, both of Bristol and as a symptom of more general disintegration of British society.
- Many of the people experiencing the greatest inequality in the city may not see themselves as part of 'a community' whose power can be grown. Additionally, while there may be communities of common interest; these are not always cohesive communities as they may be geographically or culturally disparate. Some of the causal factors of inequality in the city are very deep rooted; unequal access to and

provision of employment, housing, education, health which all often exacerbated by the effects of discrimination.

- It all feels very much focussed on communities helping themselves. What about those that are isolated and not connection within their community? What about those that suffer prejudice and discrimination? The city is even more divided which is quite clear from all for the marches, related to covid, BLM etc so whilst these priorities may be suitable in four years' time, surely the focus should be on providing support to people that need it rather than focussing on communities helping themselves. What about specialist services?
- Trading the funding for support activities to provide better connections and helping people to help themselves is not always an option - many individuals don't see themselves as 'a community' they are simply individuals experiencing an issue - this being mental health, food poverty, domestic violence or racial abuse. These individuals do not want to come together to tackle their problem, they don't even want to identify with it. They need support 'there and then' and perhaps in a few years' time they can help another person in that situation but not at this stage in time.
- While the funding mechanism changed, the aim of the funding retained many of the priorities that the council had previously supported. The new priorities seem more indicative of a big society approach which may not address the needs of the most vulnerable who are not part of 'communities' or who are ostracised / discriminated against by the geographical communities within which they live. There are no references to some of the key problems for the most vulnerable people in the city e.g. getting and keeping people safe; improving individual wellbeing; reducing inequality; reducing social isolation?
- Many of the most vulnerable people within the city are not part of communities, whether geographically or culturally.

5 comments were made in the events around **the importance of individual 1-to-1 support:**

- We're in the business of defending people's rights – people come individually for this
- Need to give room to that individual support. It does change the way people provide a service – what we are dealing with are individuals
- We all work with people who aren't ready to join a group and need support. BIF1 supports work to both 1-1 and wider groups. Seems like we are only funding groups at the expense of those individuals that are in need of that support.
- A lot of people need support and help now
- A major part of our work is signposting, resources are disappearing, few places to signpost them to

Feedback in the open text responses for the online consultation echoed these themes, with a further 7 comments discussing the importance of supporting individuals:

- We are interested to know whether BIF2 will exclude hyper-local therapeutic and mental health support activities which under-resourced and deprived communities are desperately in need of. In turn these services provide one of the first building blocks for people to become stable and to be able to engage with their community.

- We are concerned because an important part of our work is to provide trauma based mental health support for people in the community and this work cannot be citizen or community lead if it is to be meaningful, safe and effective.
- Agree with all the above, but I think it is important to recognise that in order to begin the "levelling up" process, it is crucial to ensure that sufficient support is offered to the most vulnerable members of the community in order for them to fulfil their potential - and to recognise that they have the ability to make the changes which will enable them to do so. This can be a long process. I am thinking in particular of people, often women, who have endured many years of abuse of all kinds, leading to deep-seated trauma-based mental illness.
- There's little mention of a 'preventative' agenda that avoids prioritising crisis management.
- Sadly, it is probably the case that the number of individuals needing help at the right time has grown since BIF1 was drawn up. BIF 2 should respond to that need. It does the reverse and puts forward a community development/Big Society approach which might have come out of David Cameron's filing cabinet. Given that we have a Labour mayor and council in this city it is deplorable.
- These priorities, ways of working may mean that existing agencies providing excellent work are trying to adjust their work to fit into these, i.e. trying to put a square peg into a round hold and all of this specialism and expertise gets lost as it does not fit into these. E.g. are local communities supposed to come together to deal with hate incidents themselves, or legal advocacy, or restorative interventions/mediation when it is vital that these are delivered by specialists that are independent.
- Many citizens of Bristol do not naturally align themselves to groups, but rather are facing greater uncertainty and anxiety, not least because of the pandemic, in respect of their employment, their reliance and access to state benefits, their ability to meet essential requirements, their vulnerability to debt and thus their security in respect of housing, those who already face discrimination, are at greater risk of these insecurities and due to the current climate ( both pandemic and Brexit) are more vulnerable to mental health challenges, safety and security issues, isolation. - we do not see how through this programme, agencies offering a range of support to tackle both disadvantage and discrimination and respond at various levels across the City, have a place in BIF 2.
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## 5.5 Equity and inclusion

**A number of respondents commented on the focus on equity and inclusion, some of which were positive, but some of which felt the focus on equity and inclusion detracted from being able to have the biggest impact.**

- It's great that equity has been included as a priority.
- Putting the funding into the communities of greatest need and strengthening the VCSE sector to support these groups is vital and creates long-term sustainability and impact.
- The fund should prioritise people experiencing multiple oppressions and disadvantage.

4 respondents **pointed out that women were missing from the list of equalities groups**, citing a number of reasons why they must be included:

- Women have been hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and many women in the city are amongst the most disadvantaged and yet have been omitted in your priority list. BAME women face particular issues with regard to prejudice which affects health outcomes. Families headed up by lone parents are overwhelmingly headed by women who often struggle to be economically active and balance the demands of work and family. They are also the backbone of the community. whilst the Voice and Influence Partnership may not be funded in the same way it is critical that equality led city wide partnerships or communities of interest are able to continue their valuable work.
- The funding priorities are, rightly, marginalised and minoritised people but we are concerned that women and girls are not listed. Women experience disproportionate disadvantage across a range of areas, as it well documented. These disadvantages are compounded when sex intersects with other forms of identity-based or socioeconomic oppression. Throughout the Covid-19 restrictions this year we know women have experienced greater proportion of domestic violence and even murder; young women and girls are more at risk than young men and boys from sexual abuse perpetrated by fathers, siblings and friends of both - lock down has dramatically increased the risk of this form of child sexual abuse.
- Women have born most of the caring responsibilities, had experienced disproportionate economic disadvantages and mental ill health. Young mothers and single mothers re more likely to be unemployed or insecurely employed than their male counterpart and many experience insecure accommodation and homelessness. Recent research from Bristol Women's Voice through the City Listening Project and the Covid-19 research also echoes these nationally evidenced findings. And the list goes on...
- If BIF is to target the most disadvantaged communities and people, women must be recognised a one of these groups.

3 other comments received pointed out key groups that should be targeted:

- This reads as though it's mostly targeting BAME service users. I'd expect it to cover all disadvantaged citizens including but not limited to elderly / isolated, people with learning difficulties / mental health issues, etc - without detracting at all from the budgets already in place for those areas.
- The most important priorities, as identified. are tackling inequality and discrimination - for us that would be ageism, but at the same time recognising the dynamics of intersectionality, particularly race, gender, sexuality, disability and class.
- One group which seems to be regularly overlooked is the impact of Brexit on European citizens who chose to make the UK their home. To date they have no paper-based evidence of their right to live in the UK. Their Settled Status is contained in a digital only database. This will inevitably lead to discrimination from landlord or employers who do not understand the system. Given the choice between a British citizen or a Settled European worker or tenant they will choose the former. Furthermore, people with Pre-Settled status face additional issues. For instance, if their absences from the UK go over a certain period of time, they might not be

allowed back. This is nothing to say for vulnerable EU citizens who might fall between the gaps of the Settled Status process by June 2021. These people need to be kept in mind when the Council reflects on the goals, priorities and impact indicators of Bristol Impact Fund 2.

- We support the overall proposal but are a little concerned that the documents cited as relating to the formation of the BIF2 priorities are not as even-handed as we would want them to be in their consideration of the barriers equalities communities and the working-class face. We would therefore like to see more data/evidence specific to the different priority groups provided so we have a better picture of what you have based your proposals on. We also feel the research undertaken by the infrastructure group would have benefited from the inclusion of other equalities infrastructure organisations as part of the group and led to a more insightful interim report.

5 comments related to issues with the **focus on equity and inclusion, or suggestions on how this should be approached differently in terms of education and integration:**

- I'm disturbed by the focus on essentially every form of minority, and the assumption of disadvantage. I'd aim at the biggest measurable improvements possible not the most equality possible
- Too many minority groups seem to benefit in today's world, leaving the needy majority with breadcrumbs.
- The distribution of funding is heavily biased by PCness. True equality is lacking, to the disadvantage of many
- There needs to be a broader educational aspect to this to educate majority communities about cultural differences and the importance of developing inclusive supporting systems.
- I expect you may reply that the divisions are there already, but I feel a better approach would be to start with integration to mainstream society, inclusion at the level of each individuals through better education that leads to full integration into the healthy working adult taxpaying law-abiding general population.

## **5.6 Participation, voice and influence**

**A number of comments were made in the online survey on the theme of participation, voice and influence. Themes included the importance of people solving their own issues and taking ownership and the importance of people's voices being heard.**

- For long-term success with projects, people need to feel ownership of them and should, therefore, be totally involved in creating the end product (assisting professional input) and consulted at ALL stages of development of projects from design thru to decor. Groups need to creatively participate in the creative processes of the projects in consultation with (and, where appropriate, under supervision of) experts, such as architects, builders, lawyers, medical professionals etc. People do not respect things that are handed to them on a plate. They need facilitation to create, rather than just being provided with the end product.
- Making sure that users are involved in all parts of the organisation, developing policy, designing effective ways of working and delivering the services

- Financially disadvantaged citizens need the opportunities to improve their financial circumstances. Food parcels and grants will not lift them out of poverty.
- It might be useful to look at the level of involvement of community volunteers since the emphasis will be very much on Community involvement and empowerment. There is also the element of added value that volunteers bring and therefore value for money for BCC.
- I am keen to see communities themselves receiving maximum grant so that they can use funding to solve their own issues as best they can. It may be necessary to fund VCS agencies to assist/enable but the focus should be overwhelmingly on providing resources to deprived communities directly.
- All disadvantaged groups and minorities can only be empowered if their voices can be heard. Pathways for bottom-up dissemination of information, ideas and views should be created so that ongoing communication with council departments is facilitated.
- Also prioritising projects that are working with and advising BCC and other public sector partners to improve and strengthen service delivery

## 5.7 Context of the Covid19 Pandemic

6 comments at the events related to **a sense that the Covid19 context hasn't been considered sufficiently in the proposals**, while 2 other comments felt that it was overly focused on Covid-19

- Doesn't take into account the Covid-19 context
- Impact of Covid19 hasn't been considered in the fund Disappointed that it doesn't contextualise it in terms of Covid19 on communities and individuals
- The narrative isn't acknowledging what is happening with Covid19 – unemployment rocketing – a lot of that is disguised discrimination
- What about: reducing disadvantage and inequality; improving health and wellbeing; increasing resilience Can't see why these would be removed for BIF 2 under Covid19.
- African heritage males and how Covid19 has impacted on them - This money should be used to address some of that impact
- Wonder if it is a bit Covid focus, but it may change. Needs to be flexible over the next four years.
- Feels like there is a lot around mutual aid that has sprung up around the summer, don't know what the longevity around that is they sustainable? Keeping them going through non crisis is difficult and takes a lot of energy.

Two comments in the online survey mentioned **the importance of agility in adapting to Covid19 and that this should be taken into account:**

- Because the City Council is expecting funded organisations to be able to be "agile" and flexible in responding to changing needs over the period of the BIF2 grant lifetime, perhaps it would be useful to also look at how organisations adapted services or developed new services to respond to the Corona 19 situation and meet community needs.
- Also looking at their responses to Covid how agile have they been, have they been able to adapt to continue in other ways



**2 comments in the events raised that some areas feel that they weren't supported in Covid-19:**

- Many parts of Bristol feel they missed out on support in Covid-19
- In Covid19 some communities felt they missed out on getting help and support and felt forgotten

## **5.8 Bristol Impact Fund 1**

**A number of comments were made in both the events and the open text responses about changes between f BIF1 and BIF2 including: concerns that some positive elements of BIF1 were being lost, work being done by organisations funded through BIF1 being under threat, and the need to acknowledge what has worked well in BIF1 and retain that.**

**8 comments in the events expressed a concern that the good work of the first round of the Bristol Impact Fund will be lost:**

- No one can argue with the rationale of this funding its good. But it's at the expense of a lot of good work that has been done under BIF 1
- important to point out that there are dozens of organisations that have benefited from BIF1 that provide crisis services for citizens of Bristol that isn't funded by anyone else in Bristol. This fund feels like this is next step from BIF 1. But at the expense of your foundations.
- Will mean that a lot of the good work that has been done under the first Bristol Impact Fund will be lost
- BIF 1 had a very broad focus which broadly low income. That isn't necessarily the case under BIF 2. Focused on groups that haven't had a voice that haven't looked at in the past and they will focus on a particular group or a particular area. Which means that you won't get the broad service that you did under BIF1
- Things that are working well aren't acknowledged. Often about innovation, but building on working well
- in BIF1 Ways of Working is giving individuals the right help at the help at the right time – we have spent years endeavouring to help people, giving the right help at the right time
- With the evaluation in the feedback, by adjusting with the feedback from that, did we lose the things that were positive in BIF1?
- Does feel like it's about new ideas and new work - are we wasting time to reinvent ourselves to access funds rather than funding work we are doing that is already meeting objectives in the city

Some of these concerns were also echoed in the open text responses, with 6 comments relating to the elements of BIF1 that people felt had been lost in BIF2, as well as a further 4 comments relating to concerns about the work currently being delivered through BIF1 coming to an end:

- Why isn't this building on BIF 1 – is the BIF 1 goal not still absolutely relevant – if not more relevant with Covid? BIF 1 was realistic in the current climate. BIF 2 is not realistic. BIF 1 was better for the current world under Covid - this was: "In 4 years', time we want to see that this co-designed approach to VCS grant funding is resulting in less disadvantage and inequality experienced by Bristol's residents and for those who are experiencing disadvantage being more able to cope or manage, not just day-to-day but for the longer term".
- I strongly believe that BIF2 misses the focus on individuals, which BIF1 had; the support they need - 'giving the right help at the right time' which was one of the strongest points of BIF1. BIF2 is missing the Key Challenges identified by co-design before the launch of BIF1: Reducing financial, food and fuel poverty; Tackling unemployment and underemployment; 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 wellbeing mental health and wellbeing
- I feel that not much been added to the BIF2, but a lot has been taken away by this updated proposal. Improving resilience was one of the aims of BIF1. Covid-19 pandemic continues to prove that the VCSE sector is very resilient in Bristol and that local organisations are responding to crisis really well following the BIF1Aims, Challenges and Ways of Working.
- "Proposed goal The goal of BIF 1 was 'In 4 years', time we want to see that this co-designed approach to VCS grant funding is resulting in less disadvantage and inequality experienced by Bristol's residents and for those who are experiencing disadvantage being more able to cope or manage, not just day-to-day but for the longer term.' This goal encouraged the development of projects targeted at collective and individual problems. The goals for BIF2 should be looking to build upon this dualistic approach."
- It is difficult to see how much change can be achieved towards the new goal within a 4-year period – and the degree to which change can be embedded so that if in 4 years' time the focus of VCSE funding is shifted again. The goals of BIF 1 seemed realistic within the timescale, that of BIF2 seem less realistic especially with the added potential impacts of Covid.
- I feel the targets for building communities is admirable but not reflective of the current climate and not accessible for all people I work with. I feel the targets would be good if building on BIF 1, giving the right help at the right time.
- Doesn't address whether the proposals are more important for the city than the currently BIF funded work; or whether it will be possible for them to be achieved if currently funded work has to cease.
- Will be extremely challenging for current BIF funded organisations
- BIF2 appears to be have conceived either by people who have not heard of BIF1 or were aware of it and disliked it.
- I would like to propose that if organisations currently funded under BIF1 apply for BIF2 their track record in delivering on BIF 1 outcomes is taken into account in assessing funding under BIF2.

## 5.9 Outcomes and impacts

**7 comments were made in the events around outcomes and impacts. Themes within this topic included clarity of the outcomes and impacts in BIF2, and in some comments a desire for more defined impacts or issues to address.**

- Good to be given a clear idea of how you want us to work
- Has a clearer focus than BIF 1
- Clarity wanted around people choosing their own outcomes or themes that people pick? How fixed will the outcomes be?
- Doesn't define the issues just the approach, makes it hard to know what projects we should be focusing on.
- Some of the outcomes are very repetitive in BIF2
- How can it not have fundamental elements overarching objectives – reducing poverty, tackling inequality, improving wellbeing?
- Some of the aspirations about creating community involvement are going to take a lot longer than 4 years

**Some of these themes were echoed in the open text responses in the online consultation. 4 comments were received suggesting specific impacts or outcomes:**

- Suggestions for specific impacts to focus on included the systematically detrimental education landscape for some young people, the impact of the city's jobs and employment sector on disadvantaged communities and apprenticeships in different sectors for ethnic minorities.
- Getting people to work together is important but you will only address inequality if you can address key issues of employment, education and health. A multi-faceted approach is needed.
- For many organisations improving wellbeing and mental health, preventing and helping with hate crime as well as creating an inclusive space and activities is a goal, so no one organisation (or five) should be awarded priority funding to cover support for those challenges as they are not only ones who are addressing it.
- There are a number of other impacts that are missing; reducing disadvantage and inequality; improving health and wellbeing; increasing resilience.

2 comments related to the outcomes being unrealistic, either in terms of the types of outcomes or the way they can be evidenced:

- The outcomes seem rooted in a mutual-aid model that is flavour of the month following the surge in that activity through lockdown. It's unrealistic to think that this can be sustained beyond crisis (already volunteer numbers have dropped).
- The outcomes are difficult to evidence and almost impossible to attribute to specific actions. You may be setting up organisations to fail if they need to evidence these changes are down to what they've done.

**6 comments were received on the lack of outcomes related to individuals:**

- Where is the impact for the individual resident here? It is all for agencies and not for beneficiaries. It should be much more beneficiary focused. There must be at least one impact for individuals out there who are facing the brunt of inequality. There is a

disconnect from your above priorities and these impacts. Would like to see an impact where people's quality of life improves because of the work you have done. It shouldn't all be about the organisations being stronger. Missing are: reducing disadvantage and inequality; improving health and wellbeing; increasing resilience – last year's outcomes. We would argue for these in favour of the BIF 2 Impacts.

- These outcomes miss the incredible disadvantage equalities communities are in and the fact that so many front doors have shut for them now. Frontline services are diminished. BIF2 needs to help mitigate this – with Covid and the huge cuts ahead – we need to be all about keeping people out of crisis.
- These outcomes should be for you as a grant giving body – not for us as BIF 2 organisations. You can achieve this by funding VCS organisations that are by the community for the community. For Hate Crime & Discrimination Services – we cannot forget the casework service and impacts and outcomes linked to this. We have to show how we impact individuals.
- The indicators are very focussed upon agencies or collective impacts, BIF1 had a greater focus upon individual beneficiaries which appears to be absent here. For example, many of the problems faced by people with mental health problems cannot be solely addressed by the pursuit of collective priorities. Bristol Mind currently has two BIF funded projects both of which successfully support some of the most vulnerable people in the city to improve their lives; but the support offered from the services is on an individualised basis, tailored to their needs, whether this is through our Hate Crime casework service or our telephone support line.
- The proposed Outcomes once again focus on networks and organisations and not on individuals which is a loss.
- We would like to see impacts which also focus upon the individual, where the improvement of the quality of life of an individual person is recognised as a worthy target under the funding.

## 5.10 Priorities and ways of working

**7 comments in the online survey were broadly supportive of the priorities with some comments for improvements, 4 comments were more critical of the overall goals and priorities. Themes included a need for more clarity in the goals, as well as system-wide change:**

- Levelling up communities and digital inclusion are key factors
- We would strongly support the focus on strengthening the power of communities that experience the greatest inequalities. This would include older people in Bristol, some of whom are isolated and have limited support networks.
- I believe the most vulnerable people in our communities should be supported by self-serving resilient networks that enable them to live free from inequality discrimination and hate. By investing in voluntary sector providers who work alongside people and who understand these priorities people will become stronger more resilient citizens more able to effectively contribute to the communities where they live
- This needs to continue to create lasting change! Especially after the financial and social impacts of COVID 19.

- Ensuring that organisation can make a clear 'offer' to BCC and partners, both in terms in delivering real change and working in collaboration with other service providers.
- Funding priorities should include enabling and strengthening local systems to support communities
- I agree with the overall thrust of what you are trying to achieve. The people connecting to people goal seems a bit vague. If one was to host networking events will that suffice?
- The above are good aspirations and very much in-line with all, or most, VCSE charitable objects, values and approaches. However, to make a real and sustainable difference the statutory sector systems, approaches, thinking, etc also need to align to the above stated approaches so that the citizen is at the centre of everything that we collectively do, supported by their immediate networks, their community(ies) and as required cascading from there. Without a fundamental change to the current systems, services, thinking, approaches, etc what is being proposed is good, but it will never 'solve' the issues.
- The BIF 2 goals are repetitive – all about connections and asking people to better help themselves. Not realistic at the moment under Covid, with resources being cut back and Brexit looming.
- I understand some of the aims of this, but it sounds a bit too much like expecting people to "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps" - a bit Thatcherite. Since neighbourhood partnerships have gone, nothing has really replaced them. Community development does require money - the current administration seem to be leaning a bit too much towards pandering to property developers and not enough towards helping local communities!
- The reasons we disagree with the above, is not because these issues should not be tackled and supported in Bristol, but BIF 2 is not the vehicle in which to achieve this.

3 comments were specifically related to ways of working:

- We will not be the only community-based organisation that runs programmes that integrate across one another. This means that whilst we might agree or strongly agree on some of the principles overall because they generally reflect our ways of working - the programmes that we would seek funding from the next BIF round for will be unable to comply with the 7 ways of working for reasons of safeguarding, professional ethical practice and the need to ensure confidentiality and privacy for those who use those programmes.
- We agree with some of them as being a good idea e.g. Equity, Inclusion, Asset based. Don't disagree with the others which are similar to BIF 1 but really do feel we must keep the BIF1 Way of Working: 'Giving the right help at the right time.' this should not be removed. The Goal and Ways of Working are very 'Big Society.' Presuming that there is lots more capacity in the people and VCS out there to do more for themselves, to strengthen, to get empowered, to sort things without help. That is not how it is out there. The community cannot do it all for themselves.
- In BIF1 one of the key Ways of Working was 'Giving the right help at the right time'. This recognition of the benefit of an individualised approach that can be reactive to the needs of vulnerable people should be included within BIF 2. These ways of working again suggest that the development and strengthening of communities is the key to resolving to the ongoing problems faced by individuals.

A further 2 comments discussed **innovation and new and old ways of working**:

- "It is important that we use all the talents of the city, new ways of working and old, to combine the needs of the city with old and trusted ways of working as well as the new, skills, new ideas, and experience working together. In the excitement of the new, we must not forget the value of the old."
- Just look for innovative new approaches. some of the organisations which regularly receive funding are good at writing bid applications but are not necessarily innovative. We need some fresh blood to deliver change.

**In addition, 5 of the responses highlighted specific issues that needed addressing, including support for young people, tackling mental health issues, preventing violence across BAME communities, addressing domestic violence, poverty, unemployment, physical health, low engagement, exclusion and isolation, discrimination and crime and violence.**

- If you want to encourage applications from young people, ring fence money that will be only available to that group. All well and good saying you want to encourage applications but if that doesn't do much if they then don't receive anything.
- Priorities should include supporting mental health improvements and supporting the prevention of violence across BAME communities including domestic violence
- "It needs to go to real causes, not headline needs. Equality is the key! Not evident today!"
- "The rise in domestic abuse and violence during lockdown is resulting in deaths. Mental health problems, Suicide and I can't see it getting better any time soon. It's a huge area to be tackled Is there any part of this fund that can be used to address some of these issues?"
- 2 comments were very similar around specific challenges - If you look back at challenges of BIF1 – BIF2 has moved completely away from some very serious issues e.g. and they are still far from resolved and worsened by Covid.
  - poverty (financial poverty, food poverty, fuel poverty)
  - unemployment and underemployment
  - physical and emotional ill health
  - lifestyle deprivation (not being able to access services and opportunities in the city)
  - low engagement (not participating in the community)
  - physical, social and digital exclusion or isolation
  - discrimination
  - crime and violence. Where is getting and keeping people safe; improving their wellbeing? Isn't this preventative? Where is the need to educate and raise awareness? Where is reducing inequality? Where is reducing social isolation?

## **5.11 Organisations**

**Some comments were made at the events that related to organisational change in a broad sense:**

#### **The council needs to change**

- The council need to think about how they change too
- Council need to come out and hear from first hand from service users and coordinators – making it sound wonderful on a piece of paper – need to come out and see
- Not just about the action that communities take but about how much the council listens

#### **Too focused on organisations rather than individual need**

- Very organisational focus BIF2 is worded about the organisation
- It's about the organisational focus Not individual need and how those can be progressed and met
- It seems to be more organisational focussed rather than individual

Comments in the online survey focussed more on **the need to support small or new organisations:**

- We applied for Impact funding previously and turned down. We are a small Children's Charity. Many groups like ours have closed. Just be aware that small groups can show huge impact in local communities.
- We are desperate for funding to survive, please don't forget the small groups across the City
- I would like to encourage more funding opportunities for 'new players' in Bristol so that young and innovative generation is strategically sought for an engagement. Rather than just making online proposals for grants/funding, active contact with talented and motivated young people is required for a real change to happen. For decades the 'same players' have been awarded with grants and no change or little change has been achieved, if any.
- I am member of a great organisation called Khaas, my whole family has been supported by them for many years. I have learnt their current funding is coming to an end and this may lead to the closure of their carer's services for families such as mine. This would be devastating for so many families who are in similar situations such as us. Please could you ensure this organisation as well as others who are doing amazing work in VCE sector be supported with this funding so they can continue to provide services.

## **5.12 Collaboration**

**11 comments were made on collaboration in the consultation events. Themes included implications for smaller organisations within collaborative models, and the need to actively promote larger organisations working with smaller organisations and facilitate collaboration.**

- Encouraging that big organisations encouraged to work with smaller organisations

- Worried that small organisations might have a problem with resources to do this
- Liked emphasis on collaboration (and particular informal collaborations) – formal was very challenging
- Worried that big organisations might skew how things are done – not be as responsive to local need and smaller organisations
- Would like more support with collaborations
- Partnerships and collaboration take time to develop and build trust, do it in phases. A year of initial funding and then longer funding once those collaborations and infrastructure is established.
- List of bigger organisations that are looking to collaborate would be helpful
- What are the parameters
- Be clear if you are looking for collaboration
- support for collaboration but not for collaborations sake
- Give us examples of good collaboration as you see it

One comment in the online survey related to collaboration:

- There was £3mn per year and now we have about £4.5mn over 4-5 years - so I think collaboration has to happen as not every group will be funded.

### **5.13 Amount of funding available and general comments on funding**

**A number of comments were made in the events about the amount of funding available and general comments on funding.**

- That pot of money for BIF2 – now that a lot has been taken away for infrastructure
- We also felt more funding should come into BIF2 from the other pots - more on supporting communities to avoid crisis and reduce the pressure on frontline, statutory services - empower people to get through the tough times we are in.
- Concern that the funding lower in first year with all the set-up costs
- Concern about the amount of output for a substantially smaller pot of money
- If funding isn't available for the big community groups, then they won't be around to support the smaller organisation
- There is real anxiety about you're expected lack of interest in core funding. There is an issue as to whether the lack of core funding in this funding will grow the potential for small community focussed organisations per se, or at the expense of mid to larger organisations, or whether some of the existing smaller orgs will be simply subsumed into larger orgs? I'm not sure we can entirely predict this but there is definitely a risk of a counter intuitive impact which is worth putting in some mitigations around maybe
- Think it would be really helpful to give some examples of what we would fund and level of funding

**8 comments were about the reduction in funding:**

- The fund is significantly smaller than the current BIF grant fund pot; and yet the city Council has relied on the flexibility of BIF funded organisations during Covid to meet the needs of the city.
- I feel that the funding is severely reduced when compared to the previous round.



- As there is significantly reduced funding available from 2021 onwards, it should be targeted at the less well-resourced groups who meet the required criteria.
- We applaud the BIF is addressing the fault line of systemic inequality is faultline in the city. However, the bottom line is that funding £880k budget allocated Q2'21 to Q4 '22 is a reduction in funding and the funds filtered down to grassroots organisations is derisory and there is no tangible support for these effective community-based charities that are hand to mouth and it is where (as recognised by the report) disparity is effectively addressed.
- Services providing vital frontline support, to survivors of sexual violence across all the protected characteristics, for example, will be severely disadvantaged by this type of reduction of in funding they can apply for.
- Continue funding the third sector to ensure no communities are left behind.
- Urgent help is needed ASAP we are struggling!
- Not mentioned so far in this consultation questionnaire is how the budget will be divided up. From other information available it is clear that a very large slice of the total budget will be ring fenced for capital projects and a further large slice allocated for facilitating. This is a very large depletion in the revenue funding available and if it is to an allocation of nearly 50% of the total the Resilience support element of £850K should come from the £4m set aside for it . What is the rationale for the Resilience fund which is a very large slice of the budget - what is that intended to do ?

**5 comments related to suggestions on different funding approaches such as match funding and investment funding, as well as 2 comments that it isn't a good use of taxpayer's money:**

- Funding should be available only for areas of high deprivation.
- I strongly believe that such a fund should be 'match-funded' - i.e. by public appeal, maybe through a charity, then supported by council taxpayers.
- Personally, I'm not sure that 4 years of funding for small organisations has the impact we need. Not all communities (esp. geographical) see themselves as communities and they have lots of different needs and voices. Ongoing, secure funding to address all the issues that contribute to the cycle of inequality is needed.
- In view of our understanding that many Covid-19 grants from central Government have been claimed fraudulently - not necessarily in Bristol but in the UK - I think it essential that requests for grants are carefully assessed and monitored to ensure they are only given to bona fide people and organisations who will use the money appropriately.
- "Another approach would be to invest in the VCS; target those organisations that could provide the greatest lasting impact for their communities; ones that are able to work within the 7 Principles that you have outlined. But not only that, the VCS organisations that BCC invest in would also be tasked to working with the statutory sector (in this case at least BCC) to co-produce change to the existing systems and services to move them away from how they are and to far greater alignment and embracing the stated 7 Principles. I doubt that BCC has the appetite to adopt an investment approach to the VCS for all of the funding that has been ear-marked for the VCS, but you could be brave and take a dual approach of some investment

funding and some competitive grant funding. Those organisations that receive investment funding can be mandated to also work with other VCS organisations, especially local and smaller organisations, either via a partnership approach and/ or through a supportive approach."

- 2 respondents didn't think it is a good use of taxpayers' money.

#### **5.14 Size of grants and upper limits**

**A number of comments were received via the online survey about the size of grants and appropriate upper limits etc.**

**6 comments were about the size of grants, with the majority of comments favouring smaller grants distributed among more organisations:**

- 3 respondents discussed spreading the large grants out to as many organisations as possible by lowering the maximum grant would be preferred over huge grants to a small number of organisations.
- We all operate in a VCSE 'ecosystem' - if one or two organisations fail when a major grant of £30k could have saved them, the knock-on effect could be significant on many more partners of them
- No large grants - large portions of these just usually get spent on bureaucratic costs and not towards delivery of the aim .
- I believe that BIF investment should be spread as widely as possible across the VCSE in Bristol as local organisations will secure additional funding form Trusts and Foundation towards their work, activities and services as a direct result of receiving Bristol Impact Fund. For many this investment will allow the core functions and the grants will be more than doubled if they continue their provision. As there is less money, I would cap the largest grants considerably lower at £60,000, no single organisation should receive anything in areas of £200,000 and no ringfencing should take place.
- I think rather than having lots of small projects it would be better to have one or two large projects per area that is covered by the funding. That way you are more likely to get the most delivered.
- I think you need to be clear on how many high value applications you would approve, in order to ensure there was a clear and fair distribution of funds and not to have orgs further along the journey take up funding from groups who might be less well placed but the funding might better help them be prepared in future.

**4 comments remarked on the challenges on responding to questions on grant sizes without knowing the level of competition and previous funding amounts:**

- So many of these questions are meaningless in the context of a consultation. We have no idea what organisations will apply so we don't know what their grant requirements will be therefore we cannot comment on the suitability of grant sizes.
- We also have no idea what sort of competition there will be (i.e. less money = more competition so presumably the money has to stretch further. Are you really expecting organisations to do any meaningful calculations (other than based on

- assumptions about who might be applying and the financial state of their organisations, which are impossible to know) regarding the funds you outline above?
- We can't answer re: if this is the right amount of money for small grants as not sure if it comes out of the total 1.3 million that is so much less than last year. How does it compare to last year? It should be the same percentage - not the same amount as you need a good balance of larger and smaller grants - they each make a big difference in their own way.
  - It is difficult to respond to some of these questions because in so many cases it is not clear cut - it depends.

**4 comments were received on upper limits:**

- Accept there needs to be a ceiling with such a small pot. The issue is that not enough of the total pot for the VCS is going to BIF 2 - more needs to come to BIF 2.
- There shouldn't be an upper limit of £100k per organisation. This should rather be judged individually according to the needs of the community and the organisation and how best the organisation is supporting different people.
- Disagreeing with the ceiling limit of 200k is because of the wording of what it says those bids must show - again it is about exceptional community building - not about exceptional making a difference for communities facing disadvantage.
- A single organisation may have need/ be successful with securing a small grant in the two proposed rounds, secure a medium/ large grant over the four years in their own right and be part of a collaborative group, or several groups that are successful in securing funding. That may mean that their total allocation is over any artificially imposed upper limit of funding from the BIF2 - it would make no sense to impose such a limit; each application should be judged on its own merits and be awarded funding, or not, based on the published criteria and competition for the funding.

**5.15 Hate crime and discrimination funding**

**There were a number of comments on the support to hate crime and discrimination services in the open text responses on the online survey. Themes included support for prioritising hate crime, some suggestions on how hate crime support and prevention could be delivered differently.**

**3 comments were in support of the hate crime funding as proposed:**

- I agree that hate crime and discrimination is extremely important but the size of the fund being ringfenced seems disproportionate to the whole fund.
- Absolutely happy that Hate Crime is prioritised - much better to reduce hate and discrimination than to actively try to build equality artificially
- hate crime service provision is incredibly important at this moment in time.

**3 comments suggested other ways of funding hate crime services, or commissioning it separately:**

- With regards to Hate Crime & Discrimination Services - that is us and so we do support it but think it should be commissioned or separately grant funded as domestic and sexual violence is as it could be challenged to ring fence out of BIF 2.

We do think it should be ring fenced by the City as Domestic Abuse services are leaving hate crime without the right intervention is extremely unsafe for our City - especially in the current climate.

- The proposal ring-fences a proportion of the grant to Hate Crime and Discrimination, rather than this being part of the overall programme, the monies should be set aside in a separate fund ( in the same way advice and infrastructure currently is ) and available for competitive bidding to that funding source.
- The money ringfenced for hate crime and should be additional rather than instead of existing funding.

#### 4 comments related to the **ways in which the services needed to be improved:**

- Hate Crime in Bristol has been tackled for decades and still Bristol remains one of the worst places across the whole UK affected by Hate Crime. Simply put it, the history long actions or activities taken to tackle hate crime in Bristol has delivered very little for the value of money. More needs to be created in order achieve a positive outcome. Young talents and minds need to be given a chance to create a platform whereby they are able to deliver a successful outcome so to reach out to Bristol. If hate crime is to be tackled, it is not so much about increasing budget as much as it may help, if delivery of the service remains the same, no money will deliver the outcome required. Change is needed across Bristol and among voluntary sector.
- It is difficult to combat hate crime. Hate towards minorities can easily be exacerbated, because any funding that minorities group are awarded is viewed as preferential treatment.
- Funding for social and cultural education and social/sporting events which promote a mixing of majority groups with minority groups would seem to be the best way to go.
- Hate diminishes when people realise that others are human too and not a threat.

#### 6 comments drew attention to **people affected by hate crime and discrimination , such as Disabled people, the Jewish community, older people, women and BAME people:**

- There has been a big rise in the incidents of hate crime exacerbated by the divisions that have been created in society. It seems like there is a rising tide of anger and it isn't just about BLM - disabled people are being targeted too.
- Hate and discrimination happens to others than Black and Asian people. This needs to be set out clearly. The Jewish community, older people and those with disabilities are also affected. Please say so = otherwise I feel, like many others , that one section would be advantaged over others.
- I particularly support the extra funding for racist attacks. These have definitely increased this year and I have been the victim of this. SARI do a great job but are pretty toothless when it comes to getting anything done if you are a property owner. They see themselves as crusaders to help council tenants and other social housing tenants their systems are set up for this. As people of colour improve in the economy it is something that racists hate to see and it is flat and house owners who experience these attacks that need a proper support system.
- We would want any hate crime grant to better reflect the needs of the whole of the Disabled community, not just part of it - just as the whole of the BAME community is

covered by it at present. Whilst there are strong reasons for additional work with those the NHS calls learning disabilities, the other work on Disablist hate crime should cover more of the Disabled communities.

- Agree with the principle of prioritising hate crime and discrimination, but only if it is fully acknowledged that all violence against women constitutes hate crime and should be treated as such. Gender-based violence and abuse is on a par with racially motivated violence : they are both oppressive and must be addressed simultaneously.
- The Hate crime budget is very high. It would be useful to know more about what constitutes Hate crime in this respect. Misogyny should be counted as Hate Crime and in particular violence against women and girls which has been prevalent in Bristol during the pandemic.

2 comments related to how **the outcomes and priorities for BIF2 would connect to hate crime and discrimination services:**

- Should be different impacts and outcomes for Hate Crime & Discrimination Services. The above are too prescriptive re: what they want organisations to try and do. They are too Big Society e.g. communities to sort out everything for themselves. Not focused enough on outcomes for individuals or for supporting the many complex and vulnerable people we all support who may not have any chance of being part of these outcomes – their main outcome needs to be being more resilient, feeling more empowered, avoiding crisis and feeling safer/ less at risk of dying.
- For instance, the proposal to fund project against hate crime is important but how effective would small self-support groups be in tackling this issue and would it take funds away for a really effective organisation like SARI?

## **5.16 Monitoring, evaluation and learning**

**A large number of comments were made on monitoring, evaluation and learning in the online survey. Themes included some questions on how the core indicators would be agreed, and suggestions for making them measurable, as well as some warning around the challenges of codesigning outcomes and not wanting to reinvent the wheel.**

12 comments focussed on **core indicators and how these will be agreed and measured:**

- 2 respondents highlighted that additional, new or out-of-sync reporting burdens such as shared indicators come with additional stresses and costs on the leadership.
- Core indicators - a good idea but I think they need to be clearly explained and not be restrictive.
- In developing the M&E framework, it will be imperative to develop measures that can be baselined by each project / community and that can be easily measured. They need to be simple enough to use but provide actionable insights for the delivery partners who get the funding
- How would the proposed indicators given by organisations be agreed on? Who would make the decision as to whether they would be considered adequate or not? Without knowing more about the proposed indicators of success it is hard to know whether

they will work for the range of VCSE orgs who will hope to be successful or will capture the biggest outcomes made by the funding.

- At [anonymised] we use a system for monitoring and measuring outcomes that is highly effective. It might be helpful to share to see if it might feed into the BCC plan to have a "common system"
- KPI's need to be SMART. One City approach is important. Needs to look at not just the council but other public and VCSE organisations on how to improve opportunities for citizens within areas of high deprivation.
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning should be led by communities, not the agencies that might service them.
- Whilst we appreciate that funds could not be released until 1 July, if organisations have the flexibility to report back on dates that are more aligned with their own impact year, it would save significant extra workload. Currently all BIF data must be run separate to any other report and the data runs take days of SMT time; we report back to 47 funders and all but 2 are now aligned with our impact year.
- Evaluation and Monitoring is important and unsure as to what proportion of the budget should be allocated to it. Depends on the full value of the bid.
- If core indicators are adopted, they need to be appropriate to the work of the organisation.
- In terms of measures of effectiveness of course each funded project will have its own indicators of success but there has to be some common ones so that schemes can be compared against schemes. I was not sure what you were saying about that - to me it wasn't clear.

4 comments focussed on the **challenges of co-designing outcomes** :

- I think competing needs across project would possibly get in the way of the 6-month exercise to codesign outcomes. There are other ways to bring projects and organisations together.
- Co-design can be an expensive way to invent a wheel. What's the problem you're trying to fix with this? There's a risk of going around in circles until you end up vanishing up your own rear end. The groups you're funding have limited capacities - it will be the same people trying to deliver the work as well as turn up to workshops designing the evaluation framework.
- There is much information about gathering information and co-designing to be used from the Bristol Ageing Better experience over the last six years. The Council should use this information gained from the co=production by UWE and BAB as a starting point for monitoring and evaluation. There is no point in re-designing the wheel!
- Robust evidence of community action is expensive to gather. Support will be needed for organisations to collect it. Similarly developing indicators takes time and resources. Beware not to spend more time counting the beans than cooking them.
- I think you will find the monitoring and evaluation can happen for free on social media, based on self-promoting millennials that I've seen posting recently. Not so sure this will lead to learning...

8 comments were made **more generally around monitoring, evaluation and learning** in the online consultation.

- Welcome the flexibility of using our own existing outcomes
- Indicators should include evidence that there is a greater understanding of minority groups / less discrimination and more inclusiveness across local groups / Bristol as a whole
- Also, there is no monitoring or assessment on impact of the services funded for years and repeatedly. It remains an exercise of 'box ticking' very much whereby numbers of cases are calculated, however, lacking on real impact in community, across Bristol. Impact based monitoring and assessment is required.
- It all depends on how the outcomes are measured. Organisations can say what they have done, but I would want clear evidence from those who are directly impacted upon.
- I chose a 5% option for evaluation spend but only because there were alternatives to a percentage split provided. I don't actually think a straight % is the best approach because the monitoring required of a £200k project is not 4 times the cost of monitoring a £50k grant. Obviously, a larger grant brings some additional monitoring costs, but the baseline cost is pretty much the same whatever the grant e.g. monitoring, and evaluation software costs are broadly the same; time spend designing monitoring forms (paper and online) are the same; etc. Mostly what is different is the staff time it takes to enter the info from manual records into digital databases. This means that whilst some larger grant holders will need to cover the extra staff time involved in larger beneficiary numbers, others with a small grant might have much higher levels of digital exclusion/poverty/accessibility to take into account, resulting in a disproportionately high amount of manual data entry from paper monitoring forms to manage.
- What is the purpose of funding being set aside for monitoring and evaluation - would this be an additional sum allocated to organisations to enable them to undertake additional M/E or for development /purchase of software and training to enable organisations to participate in any protocol adopted ?
- I think external sources of funding should be found to support evaluation given the reduction in overall available funding in BIF2 compared to BIF1.
- Ensure that projects and organisations are delivering a service or services that are needed by a particular community or communities. To use their own research/evaluation, as well as local and national research, to sharpen their practice.

4 comments from the workshops covered monitoring, evaluation and learning:

- Do we come up with our indicators or do we need to come up with an agreement between us all? How do we start to understand where we fit?
- Including community organisation in designing outcomes? How would that work?
- Designing the outcomes would be part of the delivery of the project. We need people to take part for it to work
- Needs some robust evaluation in place

## **5.17 Application and assessment process**

**A number of comments were made in the workshops about the application and assessment process. Themes included the need for a transparent and accessible and simpler process, the importance of a diverse panel and that applications are assessed based on evidence.**

- Needs to make the assessment process for different level of funding clear as it may affect the amount people bid for
- Process needs to be streamlines and accessible
- How accessible is the process– the funding bid etc to enable people to take part.
- Need a diverse panel
- Grassroots organisations will find it hard to adapt to the criteria that you are setting
- ProContract is really hard for people to access
- After people submit their bids, there isn't a chance for people to have an interview about their bid, to answer their questions
- It's important that people can understand that their bids will be looked at on what has worked in the past
- People who remembered the last BIF process was very time consuming and needs to be simpler
- If organisations are coming into for a bid that past performance should be taken into account.
- Transparency on the processes and the procedures, how much money you can go for
- Process of going through BIF needs an EQIA to see who is being impacted by the BIF process – what disadvantages groups, unwritten and written impacts of being part of the process
- Quite positive as the bidding round is welcoming people who may not have bid previously – sometimes you can get organisations that can do great bids but can't deliver and those that can deliver can't write amazing words

**Similar themes were covered in the open text responses. These included simplifying the process, and ensuring that bid writing skills do not become the reason people miss out on funding:**

- The application process for the impact fund was far too onerous for organisations. There should be fewer stages.
- Bid writing has been for years a very exercise for those among elite who are able to write and talk affectively. However, it brought a little impact on lives and communities in Bristol. Bid writing has to change so to allow all an equal access.
- keep the application process short and simple, all too often good ideas go unsupported because the application process is too long and over complex.
- Something to consider. The devised approach once again pitches VCS organisations against one-another. We have to be able to write impactful and persuasive applications, so what is being measured isn't simply the proposal/ the idea/ the work, but also our ability to read, understand/ interpret what is being sought/ what the things are that those who are 'judging us' are wanting to see/ read, plus our skill in writing in ways that the judges respond to. This is a very divisive way of operating.



- Applications requirements should be kept simple with strong bias towards previous relevant experience. The support should include the use of careful but not overly bureaucratic questionnaires with some 'wiggle room' for new ideas.
- Bristol needs to focus on those who have ideas and are willing to help and change the status quo to be given a chance. The admin and in some parts bureaucracy may be in their way to ask for a chance to participate. The way how funding is given out and how it is applied for and to whom may require a change - an easily accessible and friendly application for all - regardless of their writing or applying for grants skills - is required for a better future. So that all have an equal chance. Currently, as it stands, mainly those who are in some way equipped with writing different bits for funding will get the chance to be funded. Leaving the rest of the Bristol behind, mainly young minds with lots of passion and energy for change, but little skills or confidence on how to apply for a grant.
- If one of the favourite projects which have received funding in previous years delivers their application after the deadline - do not consider it. Keep the process fair and transparent.
- It is important organisation should be able to demonstrate an ability to deliver and be value for money. BIF1 funded organisations who meet BIF2 priorities and ways of working should be able to have their previous track record taken into account when decisions are made.

## **5.18 Timescale**

**A number of comments were received in the events and online survey on the timeline.**

**8 comments to the online survey also commented on the tight timescale in general terms:**

- 5 respondents commented that it is a very tight timescale
- 1 other respondent said the timelines are tight but achievable
- It takes time to build those skills and connections and providing a four week window in which to make strong applications for new initiatives like this is probably unrealistic especially as the budget proposals for allocation will severely reduce revenue to support these initiatives
- Whilst we appreciate that the expiry of funding agreements in June means decisions need to be made quickly, we feel that this shortage of time is due to the Council not starting work on, and consulting about, BIF2 earlier. Given that we have all known those grant allocations would end in summer 2021 for four years, it is hard to see why the Council did not begin this process a fair bit earlier.

**A further 5 comments discussed the tight timescale in terms of organisations currently delivering work through BIF1:**

- 2 respondents related the tight time scale to existing agencies funded as part of BIF 1 and if decisions are not made until June there is the risk of highly experienced and skilled staff leaving with such short notice.
- It would be good to have more time to apply and more roll over while we have this time to apply. This will give organisations more time to transition too.

- In addition, the timeline for the changes also means that organisation who are providing frontline support services to people in crisis or with mental health difficulties are facing cuts to funding as a result of BIF changes. This, again, feels counterproductive to BIF's own research that highlighted the need for mental health services at this time. It also means that these organisations will be preoccupied with finding ways to continue much needed services rather than being able to develop innovative partnership for this bid.
- Having time to evaluate the work done in response to pandemic and plan ahead for what needs to continue and what resources will be available post end of March 2021 will be of a great benefit to help with sustainability/continuation of the services and strategic planning for VCSE organisations. With that in mind I believe that the BIF1 should be extended for 6 months to 1 year or some sort of transition period will be needed.

**2 comments proposed flexible or staggered timelines as an alternative:**

- The timeline should be flexible. Local communities and communities of interest aren't necessarily skilled in developing services and the admin necessary.
- I think the allocation should be staggered to allow for partnership development more time. To form effective partnerships based on equality, respect and mutual commitment to common values and objectives takes time - at least a year - and to have such systemic seismic change, introduced so quickly feels rush and counterproductive to the stated aim of partnership development. It is also exclusive and small organisations, often representing the most marginalized people are often excluded from partnership development opportunities as they lack the capacity to respond in such short spaces of time. This process will favour existing partnerships only. This is particularly the case during the current lock down restrictions. The fund would be better to fund for one year and offer the support above to enable partnership development and then to fund for the longer term (four years) once there has been the opportunity to respond more effectively to the change, and to the new requirements. The timescale of this process precludes any time for reflective thinking and innovative response.

**3 comments were made with other suggestions on the timeline:**

- Last time the decisions took an incredibly long time, it would be really helpful if this time we could know sooner if we have been successful.
- is there any way that the results of this consultation , as it feeds into final proposals for BIF2 priorities can be shared publicly?
- Taking into account the Covid19 pandemic and availability for funding towards emergency services ending at the end of March 2020 it is a very challenging year / period for VCSE sector.

4 comments at the events were on the topic of the timescale. The themes within this topic included:

- the timetable is really short and in terms of funding
- Be useful to have co-designing and co-producing time built in at the beginning.
- Transition time built into delivery time.

- Because people don't have resource , tight deadlines can be a barrier

### **5.19 Support needed to apply**

**7 comments from the events were on the topic of support needed to apply. The themes within this topic include a request for trained bid writers to support groups and examples of what a good application looks like:**

- Can Voscur play a role in helping to broker our collaborations
- Support needs are more direct
- Would like a list of bid writers – our org ticked all the boxes when we went for it last time and going for it again. But our bids have failed as we don't know how to write bids
- would like to see employed bid-writers available to us as a group
- In terms of help – new organisations may struggle with the process.
- Tell us what a good application looks like ahead of the process
- Some people need help with the actual writing and actual budgeting examples of previous successful applications

Similar points were made in the online consultation:

- For small groups/charities - additional help completing applications. Some of these applications are huge, time consuming and quite honestly scary!!!
- Offer minimal support for bidding - it could bias the process and help groups not competent to administer the funds to be successful
- Support is key to enabling smaller/local community groups etc to apply, they usually don't have access to the 'experts' who coast a fortune to write bids for them.
- My personal experience suggests that all three areas of support will be needed in different proportions to meet the needs of different organisations
- Small new initiatives may well need support in many of the above areas
- It would be good for micro-organisations/ self-organised groups to be supported to apply to the small grants fund

## 6 Consultation submission from Voscur



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### Bristol Impact Fund 2 – response to Bristol City Council’s consultation

In response to feedback from Voscur members, a selection of diverse Bristol Impact Fund (BIF) grantholders debated the BIF2 proposals. The following comments and suggestions are intended to support the successful long-term implementation of the BIF programme.

In summary, VCSE organisations welcome the ongoing investment in VCSE sector and the opportunity to co-design the approach to programme impact and evaluation. However, VCSE organisations have some major concerns about the proposal’s scope of change, timings and reduced budget in the current pandemic and operating environment – in our view, these will affect the successful implementation of BIF2.

The following comments indicate consensus, where possible, as well as differing views, and include suggested solutions to the challenges and issues.

#### 6.1 Current context, operating environment and risk to BIF2

The operating environment for the VCSE sector and others is highly challenging. Bristol’s VCSE organisations have had to respond to significant recent challenges as well as current and short-term challenges, summarised as follows.

1. Covid-19 challenges
  - a. Increased complexity and demand from people/communities for many VCSE organisations, particularly as access to other public services has changed.
  - b. Workforce – staff sickness, furlough and self-isolation absences.
  - c. Service models – changes to online/remote delivery and socially distanced delivery for face-to-face services.
  - d. Funder/commissioner flexibility – mixed levels of flexibility on contract/grant targets/deliverables.
  - e. Decreased revenue – income for charged services has decreased for many organisations.
  - f. Cumulative impacts on communities and organisations of Covid-19 on top of 10 years of austerity.
  - g. Compacted inequalities and exacerbated systemic disadvantages.
  - h. Uncertainty on when crisis ends and business-as-usual (or the new normal) resumes.
2. Brexit challenges
  - a. Impact on community cohesion.
  - b. Ongoing uncertainty.

- c. Likely impact on revenue streams and increased competition.

Recent changes and the prospect of continuing, unprecedented change are having substantial impacts on VCSE sector leadership and workforce resilience. Fatigue and mental health impacts are becoming commonplace in the sector. These are significant points and, in this context, the scale of change represented by BIF2 proposals may not be fully realised; the provider market may simply not be able to respond. We believe this presents a serious risk to the successful implementation of BIF2.

## 6.2 Community development model – significant change in this context

The BIF2 proposal is to embed community development practices and that aim is broadly supported. While VCSE organisations appreciate the new focus of BIF2 as a community development programme, they have the following serious concerns about the level of change this represents at this time.

1. **Are people/communities ready?** Many Bristol communities are experiencing ongoing crisis as a result of years of austerity and the impacts of the pandemic. The concern is that the most disadvantaged communities with the greatest inequalities may have the lowest resilience and fewest resources to self-organise and take community action at this time. These disparities have been seen in the Covid-19 community action/mutual aid efforts across the city, for example, with volunteer surpluses and gaps across the city. The communities supported during BIF1, with its main focus on tackling inequalities, may be at such levels of basic needs in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs that self-fulfilment and self-actualization are unlikely to be realised. Examples: people experiencing trauma and abuse, refugees/asylum seekers, people with long-term health conditions, people experiencing food/fuel/financial poverty, increasing under/unemployment, people experiencing hate crime and discrimination, people in areas with historic underinvestment and entrenched inequality.
2. **Are VCSE organisations ready?** Several Bristol organisations work to empower residents to support themselves and each other; for others, this practice will be new or under-developed. BIF1 included some elements of community development practice, alongside other ways of working, impacts and outcomes but was not a community development programme. VCSE organisations believe that BIF2's aspiration to re-focus on community development is ambitious and difficult to achieve in such a short period. In reality, applicants would have fewer than 4 weeks after the Cabinet decision to re-focus their models on community development.
3. **Unintended consequence?** The overall concern is that there may be an unintended consequence that gives advantage to some well-established place-based communities (and community development organisations) and disadvantage the non-place-based and the organisations that work with communities of interest/practice and equalities communities. It is also probable that larger organisations, with more capacity to respond swiftly to the ambitious timescale, may respond more comprehensively than smaller/equalities organisations. These unintended consequences could have the systemic effect of exacerbating inequalities and limiting the impact of the programme.

### 6.3 BIF2 investment and priorities

VCSE organisations welcome the leadership and commitment to invest in Bristol's VCSE sector. This is testament to the healthy partnership between BCC and Bristol's VCSE sector and part of our ongoing collaboration on the One City approach. VCSE organisations note that the investment proposals represent significant change compared to existing BIF arrangements:

- More investment (£4.85million) in capital and revenue to support one-off capital projects.
- More investment in community development models.
- Less investment in early intervention, prevention and support activities.

VCSE organisations note that the Community Resilience Fund and its headline focus appear to be good ideas. It is, however, difficult to comment on the BIF2 proposals without comparative detail of the proposed Community Resilience Fund and the support package.

VCSE organisations are very concerned, with the proposed changes, that early intervention, prevention and support activities will be under-funded at a time when people and communities really need them.

VCSE organisations are also concerned about the proposed £850,000 to enable the Community Resilience Fund. The need for revenue support for the delivery of capital projects is understood, however, the level of this funding is more than half of the BIF2 annual fund. This feels out of balance.

VCSE organisations note that hate crime and discrimination are important issues. Some organisations noted the funding-related ring-fences (BIF2 community transport) and exceptions (BIF1 hate crime and community transport) but most organisations in the debate did not understand the rationale behind the proposed ring-fence of a large proportion of the BIF2 budget. The Interim Report from the VCSE Research undertaken by BSWN, Locality and Voscur, identifies mental health and digital exclusion as major issues that needs to be tackled. Some organisations note that the inclusion of a specific ring-fence creates tension in the sector – this has a negative impact on collaboration and partnerships at a time when communities really need cohesive, effective approaches. Some organisations were in support of the ring-fence for hate crime and discrimination.

### 6.4 Suggestions and recommendations

Bearing in mind the above comments and concerns about context, implementing community development programme and the proposed budget, VCSE organisations offer the following suggestions and recommendations.

1. **Allow more time** to prepare proposals – smaller, specialist organisations will benefit from more time to prepare their proposals with community development principles.
  - a. **Build in preparation time.** Adding 6 months between the Cabinet's February decision and the start of the application window will enable a more comprehensive portfolio of responses so that the best proposals become part of the BIF2 programme.

- b. **Extend existing arrangements.** As with other (commissioning) processes, changes to timelines result in extensions to existing arrangements so that existing participants/ beneficiaries do not experience a cliff edge. These changes would enable a more managed transition between BIF1 and BIF2 with minimised impact on people, communities and organisations.
- 2. **Enhance BIF2 scope** – in the light of concerns about some communities not being ready to respond to BIF2’s community development focus, VCSE organisations suggest that the programme scope is enhanced to include:
  - a. Activities that support the most disadvantaged communities (as per BIF1), with an element of participation/community development that acknowledges challenges and situation.
  - b. Place-based community development.
  - c. Community development for communities of interest/practice.

These changes would allow a more realistic transition from BIF1 to the aims of BIF2, and would also emulate the stabilisation approaches of many other funders.
- 3. **Rebalance the budget** – the enablement of capital developments for the Community Resilience Fund is important. VCSE organisations suggest that the enabling £850,000 comes from the fund’s £4million and that BIF2 fund is increased by £850,000. This change would enable investment in more diverse solutions and communities.
- 4. **Reconsider the ring-fence** – Some VCSE organisations suggest the ring-fence is re-considered and potentially described in a different way alongside the importance of addressing mental health crisis in communities. An equitable means to achieve this could be for BIF2 to require the reduction of hate crime and mental ill health as integral aspects of BIF2 funded activities (akin to BIF1’s key challenges). We note that this suggestion was not shared by all of the VCSE organisations in the discussion.

VCSE organisations realise that these suggestions have budget implications. VCSE organisations and Voscur are prepared to work with BCC to find pragmatic solutions so that the transition from BIF1 to BIF2 is effective and supported, and that communities that currently experience great challenges are supported in difficult times.

## 7 Appendix A: Consultation proposal

### 7.1 Forward

#### **Councillor Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Communities, Equalities and Public Health**

I am delighted to be introducing the consultation on the proposed second round of the successful Bristol Impact Fund programme 2021 - 2025.

Bristol is the only major city in the UK with an impact fund, investing in projects that tackle the city's inequalities and build on communities' strengths.

Since the launch of the Bristol Impact Fund in 2017, seventy organisations have received BIF grants and seven thousand volunteers have been involved in projects that have:

- Reduced financial, food and fuel poverty
- Tackled unemployment and underemployment
- Improved access to information, and increased digital inclusion
- Enabled influence and participation in the community
- Reduced social isolation and improved wellbeing

Over the first two years of the programme BIF funded organisations raised an additional £3.9m against a city council investment of £6m.

Community and voluntary organisations are a crucial part of what makes Bristol such a creative, dynamic and progressive city. Communities coming together and creatively using the resources we have is at the heart of our city's response to the continuing challenge of COVID-19. This is why we are continuing to invest in the voluntary and community sector.

We have been working closely alongside the VCSE Strategy group, a strategic partnership of infrastructure organisations – Locality, Voscur and Black Southwest Network (BSWN), to ensure BIF2 meets the needs of our communities. Our proposals have also been shaped by our learnings from COVID-19, and by identifying how we can build back better so we build the resilience of the city.

BSWN is also leading a significant research project to help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on the whole sector and the sector's aspirations for the future. You can see the interim report [here](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that localised support and the voluntary sector are essential in times of crisis. However the pandemic also impacted certain groups the hardest; groups that already face inequality. The economic impact of COVID-19 is profound, not only affecting many households and businesses but also impacting the council budget as more and more people required support. In spite of this, we are continuing to prioritise grant investment through BIF and a new capital Community Resilience Fund of £4m as a key part of our recovery.



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, build collaborative relationships and grow the power of communities by working together to build resilience.

## **7.2 Consultation overview**

Bristol City Council is consulting on the proposal for a second Bristol Impact Fund programme. The Bristol Impact Fund is a grant funding programme for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations. The first Bristol Impact Fund provided four years of grant funding for VCSE organisations. The current programme ends on 30 June 2021.

Bristol City Council is proposing to deliver a second Bristol Impact Fund programme, and is seeking feedback on the following elements of the proposal:

- The proposed overall goal of the fund
- The proposed 7 ways of working
- The proposed impact of the fund i.e. the difference that we would like the fund to make
- Approach to funding
- Monitoring and evaluation

All responses to the consultation will be analysed and included in a report that will be published on the Bristol City Council website in early 2021. Your responses will help inform final proposals which will be considered by Bristol City Council's Cabinet in February 2021.

We welcome the feedback of Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations of all sizes and type across the city, and interested members of the public. We particularly want to hear from the many diverse communities within Bristol and within the VCSE sector.

The closing date for this consultation is Wednesday 16 December 2020

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy read, BSL video, CD rom or plain text please contact us by emailing [investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk) or phoning 0117 922 2135.

You can download a printable PDF version of the proposals and survey by clicking the "Proposal Document" file link at the bottom of this page.

For more information contact: [investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:investmentandgrants@bristol.gov.uk)

## **7.3 Why we are consulting**

This consultation is particularly seeking the views of VCSE groups and organisations in Bristol to inform the council's approach for this second Bristol Impact Fund, which will be decided by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The council would particularly like to hear from:

- VCSE groups
- Equalities-led organisations
- Interested members of the public

This consultation is just one of the ways the council will be gathering views from the sector.

We are running four online engagement events where we will explain the information presented here. You can discuss the proposals with us, ask questions and provide your input, in addition to completing the survey.

The council will publish an anonymised summary of all responses after considering all of the feedback at the end of the consultation period. This can be found on the Bristol Council consultation hub and is likely to be published in January 2021.

#### **7.4 Overview**

Voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) play a vital role in the city.

The COVID-19 emergency demonstrated the vitality of community and voluntary groups across the city and the power of citizen action.

The community and voluntary sector are crucial partners in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also be crucial in the 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.

Bristol City Council has a proud history of grant investment in the community and voluntary sector. This has helped to build the strong foundations which enabled the city to respond quickly at a time of crisis in the COVID-19 emergency.

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. This first round of funding ends in June 2021.

Bristol City Council is consulting on the following elements of the Bristol Impact Fund 2:

- The proposed overall goal of the fund
- The proposed 7 ways of working
- The proposed impact of the fund i.e. the difference that we would like the fund to make
- Approach to funding
- Monitoring and evaluation

## **7.5 What is the budget?**

We are proposing to invest £5,400,000 over 4 years: £1.2m in year 1 and then £1.4m for a further three years in grants to community and voluntary organisations through the second Bristol Impact Fund (BIF2).

In addition to the Bristol Impact Fund there will be a Community Resilience Fund of £4m capital funding in 21/22. This fund is to help achieve the priorities identified through the VCSE research being undertaken by Black South West Network in partnership with Voscur and Locality. This will fund one-off capital projects, enabling communities to adapt and find opportunities to build back better. Capital is funding for physical assets such as buildings, technology, or equipment. Projects might include digital connectivity in community spaces, improvements to community facilities or equipment. The money will be targeted at communities hardest hit by Covid19 and facing deepening inequality. Our aim is to work with community networks so that decisions about priorities are made by communities.

An additional £850k will be allocated to support the delivery of a £4million Community Resilience Fund for capital investment in the VCSE sector. This will include grant funding so that organisations have the ability to develop local priorities and proposals and enable the proposals to happen. It will also provide capacity to involve communities in decision making and to deliver the fund. Any spending shortfalls in this allocation will be reinvested in BIF.

We will be working with partners through the VCSE Strategy Group and in particular Black Southwest Network, Locality and Voscur to develop our approach to this additional funding opportunity.

Please note this consultation is about Bristol Impact Fund only.

## **7.6 How does this compare with the budget in 2017?**

The first Bristol Impact Fund was £3.28 million per year

Out of that Fund:

We have made a saving of £348,000 by applying a 15% taper to medium and large grants and the Voice and Influence contract. £140k was allocated to a contract for Voice & Influence work with Equalities communities, which also received a 15% taper to £119k. The Voice and Influence Funding will now be re-integrated into the BIF2 monies.

£690k was ring fenced for community transport. This funding continues but is now managed by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA).

£850k will be allocated to support delivery of the Community Resilience Fund.

## **7.7 What do we want to achieve with the Bristol Impact Fund 2?**

The proposed goal of Bristol Impact Fund 2 is “To build city resilience by growing the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality”

By “communities” we mean both:

- Geographical e.g. neighbourhoods and communities of place

- Communities of interest or shared experience e.g. communities that experience inequality or disadvantage.

We are proposing to focus Bristol Impact Fund 2 explicitly on helping communities that are experiencing the greatest inequality (see page 5 of background document) recover from the Covid pandemic and become stronger. Bristol is a wealthy and successful city and our diversity is an asset in so many ways. Voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) play a vital role in the city. The COVID-19 emergency demonstrated the vitality of community and voluntary groups across the city and the power of citizen action. VCSE are crucial partners in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, recovery, building back better and realising the BCC Corporate Strategy and One City Plan. However the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened existing inequalities in Bristol and worsened the long term effects of inequality on Bristol's communities.

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; faith groups; and disabled people are impacted by decisions and services determined by others. To make greater progress in addressing Bristol's inequalities, we know that communities need the space, resources and support to empower themselves; including setting their own priorities, developing 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".

## **7.8 Funding Priorities**

To achieve the Bristol Impact Fund 2's goal "to build city resilience by growing the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality", we will prioritise funding for groups and organisations that put forward work proposals which aim to strengthen the capacity of equalities-led groups, neighbourhood communities and people experiencing the greatest inequality to lead and influence the city.

We would expect proposals from groups rooted in their communities to demonstrate how they can increase the capacity of these communities and the groups themselves to:

- Self-organise
- Connect people to people
- Build strong community connections
- Make the best use of their skills, experience, networks and resources to drive forward the community's key priorities and produce a sustainable way forward

Our emphasis is on strengthening the community and voluntary sector over time.

We are inviting organisations to tell us what the most important issues are for their community and how they will work to address them. We would expect applicants to set out clear rationale and evidence for their chosen priorities and how they will use community building approaches to address them.

## **7.9 The 7 ways of working**

In the previous sections we outlined the proposed goal of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 and the project aims which would be prioritised for this funding. In order to achieve the overall goal and funding priorities we are setting out 7 ways of working which sit at the heart of our approach. We would expect successful applicants for Bristol Impact Fund 2 funding to be able to show how they will work within and demonstrate these values in practice. These principles are outlined in our 7 ways of working.

### **Equity**

- Demonstrate positive action to redress inequality (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

### **Asset based**

- Assets are people – our interests, time, experience, skills, networks, community and voluntary groups. It is also money, buildings, land, the local corner shop, nursery, sheltered housing, businesses and services
- Take the time to discover, then build on the assets that are already in the community

### **Place based**

- Continue to build strong, connected communities where people come together, self-organise and shape the future of their communities
- Encourage many more people to connect and expand the opportunities in their local area

### **Relational/ Relationship-oriented**

- Connect people to people, people to power and organisations to each other

### **Citizen-led**

- Encourage and nurture citizen action - by and for the people
- Encourage and enable community-led activity – people with shared experience or interest coming together to find solutions
- Grow collective skills, knowledge, confidence, curiosity and self-determination

### **Nurturing the community and voluntary sector eco-systems**

- Strengthen organisations which can help tackle the structural inequality
- 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
- Encourage organisations to have deep roots into communities
- Foster cultures of learning and co-creation

## **7.10 The proposed impacts of Bristol Impact Fund 2 grant investment**

We have outlined in the section above that the proposed overall goal of the Bristol Impact Fund 2 would be to build city resilience by growing the power of communities experiencing the greatest inequality. We also outlined some of the ways in which we would expect applicants of the fund to demonstrate how their project aims and their ways of working would achieve this goal.

We expect the Bristol Impact Fund to deliver the following three impacts over the course of the four-year fund:

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
- Build strong and sustainable Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations.
- 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 or ageism and bring about meaningful change for people experiencing these inequalities.

## **7.11 Demonstrating impact: success outcomes and indicators**

We would expect VCSE organisations who successfully bid for the Bristol Impact Fund to demonstrate their contribution to the above overarching three impacts against the following outcomes:

In places and communities which experience the greatest inequality:

- There are strong community networks and evidence of citizen/neighbourly and community action
- The capacity of the VCSE sector to achieve their aspirations and address problems is strengthened
- People have come together and taken action on shared priorities and concerns (which in turn grows the power of the community). These actions could be something which improves the local economy, improves digital connections, builds new connections between groups of people who haven't found it easy to work together in the past, or trains people to meet a local priority.
- There is evidence that people are shaping and leading their communities and the life of the city

We would 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.

We would develop a set of shared/common community building indicators which all BIF funded organisations would use to measure impact on the core BIF2 funding priorities. We will also ask applicants to propose specific indicators in their application against which they intend to demonstrate impact on the particular community aspiration or problem which they are looking to address. These may be indicators or measures they already use in their work or new ones if appropriate

## **7.12 Our Funding Approach**

We are expecting that the second Bristol Impact Fund would have an estimated budget of £1.2m in year 1 and then £1.4m for years 2, 3 and 4 each, totalling £5,400,000 in funding. This is subject to a Cabinet decision on the 2nd February 2021.

We are proposing:

### **Small Grants**

The purpose of the small grants fund is to encourage diversification in the sector, meaning we want to encourage new ideas and involvement from more diverse communities. The small grants have successfully supported smaller equalities-led groups in the first Bristol Impact Fund programme. We propose a small grants programme as part of the second Bristol Impact Fund.

We will take positive action to reach communities under-represented across the programme. 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.

We propose:

- An offer of 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
- Individual small grants would range between £2,500 and £10,000 per year
- We would offer a Small Grants Round 1, running July 2022 – December 2023 and a Small Grants Round 2, running January 2024 – June 2025

However, we are also aware that there are several small grants schemes available in the city and we have less funding than the Bristol Impact Fund 1 had. We propose a small allocation to small grants.

### **Medium/Large Grants**

We are proposing to offer medium/large grants over the 4-year funding period, July 2021-June 2025. We want to make the money available to support a wide range of organisations therefore we are proposing an upper limit of £200k per application to increase the number of grants that can be awarded. We would then expect the average grant to be about £50k. We are also proposing that applications of over £100k would be very 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.

We also propose:

- An upper limit of £200k per annum per application.
- No one organisation would receive more than £100k per annum across the programme
- Informal collaboration would be expected to be at the heart of all applications and we are happy to accept collaborative applications from a number of organisations working together

### **Hate Crime support**

BIF 2 will consider proposals of up to £355,000 (exact amount to be determined) per year to deliver collaborative approaches to support people and communities who experience hate crime. All of the Bristol Impact Fund ways of working would 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 fundamental resilience of equalities communities in the city.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and learning**

Building on the learning from BIF 1 and recommendations from the [BRISTOL IMPACT FUND EVALUATION 2017-19](#)<sup>3</sup>, we are proposing:

- An allocation of 5% or £70k per year from the overall fund to support evaluation and understanding the impact of BIF2.

We are open-minded about what evaluation could mean. We want the exercise to be meaningful and beneficial to grantees, to inform the work but also help us 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 different ways to approach it.

We are proposing that a small number of core indicators would be set out at the time of launching the application process, and that applicants would be asked to select at least one core indicator to measure the success of their BIF-funded project against. Applicants would also be expected to propose a small number of specific indicators relevant to their own programme which would need to be agreed by the council.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32598/Bristol+Impact+Fund+Evaluation.pdf/c2bee069-7d17-3540-8ebe-1d092addffca>



We would be keen to co-design an approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning with grantees during the first 6 months of the programme to see if there are ways for organisations working towards common goals to align their monitoring and learning.

