



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

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| Proposal title: Bristol Impact Fund 2 Extension | |
| Project stage and type: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Changing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other [please state] Grant funding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review |
| Directorate: Public Health and Communities | Lead Officer name: Penny Germon |
| Service Area: Communities | Lead Officer role: Head of Service, Communities |

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment is to help you develop your proposal in a way that is compliant with the council's policies and supports the council's strategic objectives under the [One City Climate Strategy](#), the [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) and the latest [Corporate Strategy](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the project proposal process by someone with a good knowledge of the project, the service area that will deliver it, and sufficient influence over the proposal to make changes as needed.

It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the Environmental Impact Assessment. See further [guidance](#) on completing this document. Please email environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

This report seeks approval to extend Bristol Impact Fund 2 (BIF2) medium and large grants to community and voluntary sectors organisations for 6 months from 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2026. This extension will give time to work with the new administration on the approach to Bristol Impact Fund 3 (BIF3) and a committee decision in December 2025.

BIF2 currently funds 39 organisations through the Medium/ Large grant programme, delivering 24 projects running from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2025.

Extending the grant will:

- Avoid a break in funding between the end of BIF 2 and the beginning of a possible BIF3, meaning organisations will have more financial stability and projects can continue.
- Allow Bristol City council officers to work with colleagues, members and partners to develop the approach to BIF3 to develop a programme which builds on the strengths of BIF2 and responds to feedback from the VCSE sector.

Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

Service users, the wider community, city partners.

Aim: To ensure VCSE organisations can continue working alongside citizens in the most deprived communities and citywide equalities communities to grow community power.

Outcomes: The outcomes are the same as those for Bristol Impact Fund 2. The fund is structured to fund VCSE groups and organisations to deliver community building and to support Bristol's community and VCSE priorities identified in the 'Designing a New Social Reality' research led by Black South West Network in partnership with Voscur and Locality.

7 ways of working are at the heart of how the BIF 2 will work:

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

BIF2 is part of our commitment to responding to the recommendations from the 'Designing a New Social Reality' research. The programme responds to the needs of the city's communities and VCSE sector in the light of the impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis. These events had positive impacts in that they demonstrated citizen action in mutual support and volunteering and strong partnership working

between community groups and statutory services. However, they also disproportionately impacted on Black and Minority Ethnic and disabled people, on poorer communities, older people and young people, in both the short and long terms. BIF2 grants help address the power imbalances which hold back equalities and poorer communities of place and to support the recovery of the VCSE sector.

1.2 Will the proposal have an environmental impact?

Could the proposal have either a positive or negative effects for the environment now or in the future? If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no environmental impact, then skip steps 2-3 and request review by sending this form to environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes No [please select]

1.3 If the proposal is part of an options appraisal, has the environmental impact of each option been assessed and included in the recommendation-making process?

If 'Yes' please ensure that the details of the environmental impacts of each option are made clear in the pros and cons section of the [project management options appraisal document](#).

Yes No Not applicable [please select]

If 'No' explain why environmental impacts have not been considered as part of the options appraisal process.

Step 2: What kinds of environmental impacts might the project have?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered. See detailed [guidance documents](#) for advice on identifying potential impacts.

Does the proposal create any benefits for the environment, or have any adverse impacts?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our corporate environmental objectives and the wider [One City Climate and Ecological Emergency strategies](#).

Consider how the proposal creates environmental impacts in the following categories, both now and in the future.

Reasonable efforts should be made to quantify stated benefit or adverse impacts wherever possible.

Where the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact, consider what actions would enhance those impacts. Where the proposal is likely to have a harmful impact, consider whether actions would mitigate these impacts.

Enhancements or mitigation actions are only required when there is a likely impact identified. Remember that where enhancements or mitigation actions are listed, they should be assigned to staff and appropriately resourced.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)

Proposal is to extend grant funding which supports voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations which offer direct support to and build voice/influence in the city with equalities communities and people living in areas of highest multiple deprivation. Many VCSE organisations explicitly deliver work to enhance the physical appearance of the city, increase tree cover, reduce climate change, raise awareness of recycling, ecology and promote energy efficiency in the city. Some BIF funded organisations also deliver projects to empower often excluded communities to have their voices heard within the city’s response to the climate crisis. Although BIF2 does not directly fund any climate or environmental activity, the grant contributes core funding to many organisations who are separately funded to do work in that area.

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| <p>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</p> <p>BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city in achieving net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Will the proposal involve transport, or the use of energy in buildings? Will the proposal involve the purchase of goods or services? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, there will be a carbon impact.</p> <p>Consider the scale and timeframe of the impact, particularly if the proposal will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> | <p>Benefits</p> | |
| | <p>Enhancing actions</p> | |
| | <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | |
| | <p>Adverse impacts</p> | |
| | <p>Mitigating actions</p> | |
| <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | | |

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| <p>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats</p> <p>BCC has committed to 30% of its land being managed for nature and to halve its use of pesticides by 2030.</p> <p>Consider how your proposal can support increased space for nature, reduced use of pesticides, reduce pollution to waterways, and reduce</p> | <p>Benefits</p> | <p>BIF2 funded organisations such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs work on neighbourhood projects such as growing projects and climate action plans. BIF2 contributes to core costs of some of these organisations.</p> |
| | <p>Enhancing actions</p> | <p>We require all BIF2 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council baseline standards – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about environmental management and sustainability.</p> |

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| <p>consumption of products that undermine ecosystems around the world.</p> <p>If your proposal will directly lead to a reduction in habitat within Bristol, then consider how your proposed mitigation can lead to a biodiversity net gain. Be sure to refer to quantifiable changes wherever possible.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> | Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years | |
| | Adverse impacts | |
| | Mitigating actions | |
| Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years | | |
| <p>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</p> <p>Consider what resources will be used as a result of the proposal, how they can be minimised or swapped for less impactful ones, where they will be sourced from, and what will happen to any waste generated</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> | Benefits | BIF2 funded organisations such as community anchor organisations/ community hubs work on neighbourhood projects such as climate action plans, second hand and reuse projects and recycling projects. BIF2 contributes to core costs of some of these organisations. |
| | Enhancing actions | We require all BIF2 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council baseline standards – one of these standards (Baseline Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability |
| | Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years | |
| | Adverse impacts | NA |
| | Mitigating actions | NA |
| Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years | | |
| <p>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol’s resilience to the effects of climate change</p> <p>Bristol’s climate is already changing, and increasingly frequent instances of extreme weather will become more likely over time.</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will perform during periods</p> | Benefits | BIF2 funds organisations to build community resilience and take an asset-based approach to community development. Communities with more resilience, which are better connected are able to respond to emergencies. We have seen this through Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis. The climate emergency and climate change will present more emergencies and stronger communities will be better able to cope with the adverse effects. |
| | Enhancing actions | Learning and development for organisations on Asset Based community development, opportunities for peer learning and support. We require all BIF2 funded organisations to sign up to the Bristol City Council baseline standards – one of these standards (Baseline |

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| <p>of extreme weather (particularly heat and flooding).</p> <p>Consider if the proposal will reduce or increase risk to people and assets during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> | | Standard 12) is specifically about Environmental management and sustainability |
| | <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | |
| | Adverse impacts | NA |
| | Mitigating actions | NA |
| <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | | |
| <p>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will change the likelihood of pollution occurring to air, water, or land and what steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> | Benefits | |
| | Enhancing actions | |
| | <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | |
| | Adverse impacts | |
| | Mitigating actions | |
| <p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p> | | |

Step 3: Action Plan

Use this section summarise and assign responsibility for any actions you have identified to improve data, enhance beneficial, or mitigate negative impacts. Actions identified in section two can be grouped together if named responsibility is under the same person.

This action plan should be updated at each stage of the project. Please be aware that the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service may use this action plan as an audit checklist during the project’s implementation or operation.

| Enhancing / mitigating action required | Responsible Officer | Timescale |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| Review baseline standards to ensure they are still fit for purpose: About Bristol City Council | Ellie Stevens | By September 2024 |

| Enhancing / mitigating action required | Responsible Officer | Timescale |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Speak to colleagues in environment team about potential BIF3 and what should be written into grant prospectus about environmental management, sustainability and climate change. | Ellie Stevens | By September 2024 |
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Step 4: Review

The Sustainable City and Climate Change Service need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your impact assessment. Assessments should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the environmental impact of the proposal.

Please seek feedback and review by emailing environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk before final submission of your decision pathway documentation¹.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service and must be included in the 'evidence base' section of the decision pathway cover sheet.

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| Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4): |
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| Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated: |
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| Environmental Performance Team Reviewer: Giles Liddell, Environmental Performance Co-ordinator | Submitting author: Penny Germon |
| Date: 09/05/2024 | Date: 07/05/2024 |

¹ Review by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely environmental impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.