

Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	Removing of Neighbourhood Action Funding – Budget Consultation 3
Directorate and Service Area	Neighbourhoods & Communities
Name of Lead Officer	Penny Germon

Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

1.1 What is the proposal?

Background information:

Following the 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation in 2017, in which the citizens of Bristol were consulted on the allocation of the remaining Neighbourhood Partnerships budget, it was proposed to Cabinet that £257,000 be made available for small grants to local community projects. These grants would have been available for local councillors and members of the community to jointly decide on projects to allocate funding to, such as for sports equipment or community events. On 4th December 2017, Cabinet approved the allocation of this 'Neighbourhood Action' funding.

However, we have since had to review the proposal in the context of further savings required in the year 2018/19. The proposal is therefore to withdraw this funding allocation, under the category of reducing or stopping non-priority services.

Cabinet agreed to postpone consideration of the future of the Neighbourhood Action Funding until after full council consideration of the budget in February 2018.

For details of the 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation, please visit Bristol.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood.

Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Since 2010 Neighbourhood Partnerships have been allocated £10k per ward to support community projects. All wards have received the same amount of funding there has been no differentiation in terms of demographics.

The purpose of the funding has been to enhance the wellbeing of the local community. All Neighbourhood Partnerships chose to use the funding for small grants which were determined according to local priorities by residents and ward councillors. One of the main aims of the funding was to support the social action of local people. A whole variety of projects and activities have been funded including community events, small scale improvements to local parks such as benches, environmental improvements and equipment for local groups.

Grants are monitored annually. Recipients are asked to report on who benefited from the project or activity.

Results from 15/16 monitoring

264 grants

129 forms returned (48%)

74758 beneficiaries of which:

7839 were young people

654 women

797 older people

677 Black, Asian and Minority ethnic people

1108 Disabled people

1 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender person

876 people who identify as having a faith or religion.

Notes:

- Some of the projects we have funded have been for small amounts of money, and as such monitoring has needed to be proportionate, this means that the quality of the information depends on the amount of funding awarded, the project/activity and the experience of those involved.
- Wellbeing has funded lots of one-off projects or purchases such as installing a new bench, purchasing equipment, or making environmental improvements such as planting or organising a community fun day. In these instances it is impossible to predict benefit or to carry out a full monitoring process.
- In many instances one figure has been given, for example, the number of young people or women with no further breakdown.

- 15/16 is the latest data available. 16/17 monitoring forms are going out now and data will be available next year.
- Over time the grant forms and process were centralised with decisions being made in the local areas. The requirements of the process needed to be proportionate to the amount of funding and the aspiration to encourage citizen-led action.

The main beneficiaries in 15/16 were young people.

In the 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation it was proposed that any future small grants funding would be weighted in favour of communities ranked 0-20% most deprived in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The majority of respondents to the survey supported this proposal, and the approach was approved by Cabinet, which would have made funding available that would have had benefits for people with protected characteristics who live in deprived communities.

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

The information is limited. We have some knowledge in terms of equalities monitoring for 12,000 out of the 74,800 beneficiaries (16%). It is unlikely that of the 74,800 beneficiaries only 654 were women and only 1 person was Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

Following on from the 'Your Neighbourhoods' consultation earlier in the year, the council then ran a Corporate Strategy and Budget (CS&B) consultation, which was open between 6 November 2017 and 17 December 2017. 239 responses were received to the Neighbourhood Action survey, via the online and paper-based surveys, including alternative formats. 5 (2%) respondents completed the survey on paper (including large print and easy read formats), and the remaining 234 (98%) completed it online.

230 (96%) people answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions. The most common age of respondents is 45-64 years (37%), followed by 65-74 (26%) and 25-44 (22%). The proportion of responses in the age categories 45-64 years, 65-74 and over 75 are higher than these age groups' proportion of the population in Bristol. Survey responses from children (under 18), young people aged 18-24 and people aged 25-44 are under-represented.

41% of responses were from women and 48% were from men. (12% preferred not to say.) Disabled respondents (12%) is less than the proportion of disabled people living in Bristol. Respondents include more White British respondents than these groups' proportion of the Bristol population. Other White ethnicity and Mixed/Dual Heritage match Bristol's population. Black/back British and Asian/Asian British citizens are under-represented. People with no religion and people with 'Any other religion or belief' are over-represented. Christians, Muslims Hindus and Sikhs are under-represented.

A full breakdown of respondent characteristics is found in Table C1 and Figure C2 in the fill consultation report, found at https://www.bristol.gov.uk/en_US/council-spending-performance/corporate-strategy-2018-2023-budget-consultation.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

<p>3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?</p>
<p>Funding small community projects has helped people with protected characteristics to take action on the things they care about where they live albeit in low numbers compared to the overall beneficiaries. The fund has also made possible small scale improvements to make the neighbourhood more accessible and age friendly. As well as the direct benefits of the project the process itself can help to build skills, confidence and social capital.</p> <p>The consultation does not present any additional or specific findings with regard to impact on equalities groups or people with protected characteristics although there is a general concern about the impact.</p>
<p>3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?</p>
<p>The City Council would work with Voscur* (www.voscur.org) and other partner organisations to make information available to local communities about access to funding and small grants, for example Quartet Foundation, and making best use of crowd sourcing and other more sustainable funding sources.</p> <p>*BCC funds Voscur to provide help and support to Bristol’s community and voluntary sector. Helping community groups to access funding is an important part of this role.</p> <p>As part of the council's work to join up services for children, young people and families, £350k is being offered to an organisation which can manage and distribute smaller grants to community organisations to tackle medium and longer term issues as well as responding to emerging social problems in communities. This has the potential to go a long way in mitigating the impact for young people.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact in the short term and help communities become more sustainable and find alternative funding and ways to pursue their aspirations. It is proposed to make some funding available during 18/19 and review the Bristol Impact Fund small grants funding (subject to cabinet decision).</p>
<p>3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?</p>
<p>No – this proposal is about removing the funding.</p>
<p>3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?</p>
<p></p>

Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics

has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?
The EQIA has further clarified which people with protected characteristics which are most likely to be most impacted by this proposal.
4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?
To mitigate the impact in the short term and help communities become more sustainable and find alternative funding and ways to pursue their aspirations. To support this work, it is proposed that some funding be made available during 18/19 and carry out a review of the Bristol Impact Fund small grants funding (subject to full council decision).
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?
The use of the proposed one-off budget will be monitored and evaluated.

Service Director Sign-Off: Gemma Dando	Equalities Officer Sign Off: Cherene Whitfield
Date: 10.1.18	Date: 14 November 2017