

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?

In the recent 'Your Neighbourhoods' consultation we asked the people of Bristol about how we should spend £309k. This was what was left in the Neighbourhood Partnerships budget once the saving of £1.062m was removed. We put forward three proposals one of which was to allocate £257k to fund local community projects. You can find out more about those changes here <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/changes-in-neighbourhood-partnerships> and the results of the Your Neighbourhoods consultation can be found here www.bristol.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood.

On the 4th December Cabinet will consider proposals to change the way BCC works with place based communities from a council-led neighbourhood partnership structure to an approach which encourages local self-organisation and community-led action and how to allocate the £309k. If the Cabinet accept the options put forward to them there would be £257K 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 – for example, to fund sports equipment or community events.

In the recent 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation most people supported the proposal to fund local community projects so we know, of those who responded, most people think it is a good idea. However, we have had to review this proposal in the context of further savings.

Our proposals

As part of significant savings identified for the year 2018/19, it has been proposed that this grant funding be stopped under the category identified as reducing or stopping non-priority services.

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 Neighbourhoods’ 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. If the Cabinet approved this approach and funding was made available there would be potential 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?

We are at the start of a consultation process.

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.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

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.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

There are other savings which would have a greater impact

The City Council will work with Voscur* (www.voscur.org) and other partner organisation 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.

*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.

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.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

No – this proposal is about removing the funding.

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

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?

This proposal is for consultation. We will be proactive in seeking the views of people who are most affected by encouraging them to respond to the consultation.
The responses to the consultation will help to inform next steps.

The proposal is out for consultation, the EqIA will be updated once views have been sought with the communities most affected by this budget proposal. Once the consultation results have been finalised section 4.3 will be completed.

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?

Service Director Sign-Off: Gemma Dando	Equalities Officer Sign Off: Cherene Whitfield Final sign off when consultation results are included in document.
Date: 14 th Nov 2017	Date: 14 November 2017