

City Funds

Annual report 2020



**BRISTOL & BATH
REGIONAL CAPITAL**



Quartet
**Community
Foundation**

Foreword

2020 was one of the most challenging years in living memory – at a local, regional, national and global level. Covid-19 hit hard early in the year, with the first national lockdown coming into force towards the end of March.

Notwithstanding the challenges created by the pandemic, and the increasing needs arising across the city, City Funds has played a significant role in the past year in providing support to voluntary groups, community organisations and social enterprises through investment (led by Bristol and Bath Regional Capital) and grants (led by Quartet).

Our aim has been, and will remain going forward, to align our goals and priorities with the One City Plan. We will seek to be innovative in our approach and to maximise the impact of the work that we do on behalf of the city, addressing some of the most challenging issues faced by communities across the city. And most importantly we are committed to doing this in a collaborative and inclusive way.

The pandemic is still with us, but with your help we can through City Funds make a lasting contribution to the recovery period over the coming years. I hope as you read this report you will be encouraged and inspired, and commit to join us in meeting the challenges that face us all.

Andy Street, Governing Board Chair, City Funds



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What City Funds Is

Bristol is a city full of vibrant community energy, yet it experiences entrenched systemic inequality. This holds us all back, but most directly impacts disadvantaged neighbourhoods and groups of people seeking the means to achieve their ambitions.

City Funds is a collaboration between Bristol City Council, Bristol and Bath Regional Capital and Quartet Community Foundation. We seek systemic change by addressing the chronic lack of appropriate resource for organisations which are creating solutions to the causes and effects of inequality and poverty in Bristol.

The core purposes of City Funds are to:

1. **Foster collaboration across and within sectors** to strengthen and support community resilience, innovation capacity and outreach capabilities.
2. **Bring additional resources into the city** to help address chronic economic, environmental and social issues in Bristol.
3. **Explore new approaches and models** to achieving long-term transformational change, particularly for disadvantaged communities and neighbourhoods.

Our vision is a thriving and healthy Bristol, built on a fair social foundation within sustainable environmental limits.

Our mission is to transform Bristol by funding solutions that target the causes and effects of inequality. City Funds uses its current £10 million investment fund and aligned grants to strengthen organisations addressing some of the biggest problems facing Bristol.

Our main activity is to provide easy, equitable and increased access to grants, investment, research, and pro bono support to organisations in Bristol, contributing towards the goals of the One City Plan.

Our direct outcomes are to dramatically increase the resources available to local initiatives and to catalyse strategic responses to our funding priorities.



Driving Systemic Change for Bristol

We endeavour to measure **what progress looks like** - for citizens, for organisations, for neighbourhoods, and for the city.

City Funds has commissioned the Centre for Thriving Places to deliver an evaluation programme which includes:

An **indicator framework**, gathering primary and secondary data in line with City Funds' Funding Priorities.

A **scoring tool** (the 'Happiness Pulse') to measure each project's impact on behaviour change and citizens' wellbeing.

An **impact framework** which helps us to visualise and unify progress towards achieving our vision.

We are pioneering a new approach to **city-wide open collaboration**, to make change happen.

50+ volunteers, Board members and panel members, including people with lived experience, participate in decision making.

Local and national grant makers coordinate their activity with City Funds through the Bristol Funders' Group.

City Funds aligns its activities and actions with those of the **City Office** and the **One City Plan**.

Six key principles for system change:

Planning for System Change:

Principle 1: Understand the needs

Principle 2: Engage multiple actors

Principle 3: Map the systems

Implementing System Change

Principle 4: Do it together

Principle 5: Distributed leadership

Principle 6: Foster a learning culture

City Funds creates the pre-conditions for system change in Bristol. We take inspiration from the work on system change from Lankelly Chase Foundation, the think tank NPC (New Philanthropy Capital) and Social Innovation Labs throughout the world.



Additional Resources for Bristol's VCSE* Sector

£10 million raised for social investment and **£1.860 million** secured for grants

£10 million has been raised from Bristol City Council and Big Society Capital for repayable impact investment. £2.4m of this fund has already been committed.

£1.5 million has been secured to create a health and wellbeing legacy fund, including £1.35m to be distributed in grants over the next two years.

£250,000 has been raised from Power to Change for investment readiness grants.

£55,000 has been channelled and distributed for projects under the 'No Child Goes Hungry' funding priority, with an additional **£55,000** secured for distribution in 2021-2022.

£110,000 was awarded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the Big Lottery for City Funds' set up and initial core costs for the financial year 2019-2020.

£31,000 has been secured to establish a pro bono business brokerage service to engage professional services support for local organisations and projects which contribute to the One City Plan.

**VCSE: Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises*



The Projects We Invest in

Bristol City Funds has committed **£2.4 million to date**. In 2020 this included the following **four Social Enterprises** which received **£700,000** of combined investment:

- **£150,000** invested in **Talking Money** to **transform a debt support service** based in **Laurence Hill** and pivot to a systems approach;
- **£250,000** invested in **Wellspring Settlement** to purchase a former Public House in **Barton Hill** and **create a new community space and affordable housing**;
- **£150,000** invested in **FRANK Water CIC** to develop an action plan **to reduce plastic bottle waste** in Bristol's venues and bring **water management awareness** into schools;
- **£150,000** invested in **Ambition Community Energy (ACE)** to fund a **wind turbine and fight fuel poverty** in **Lawrence Weston**.

Do you want to know more about investment opportunities through City Funds? Visit this [link](#) or send a mail to info@bristolcityfunds.co.uk

Discover the **impact report** on our investment fund



Find the Impact Report on our website: visit this [link](#)



The Projects We Support With Grants

In 2020, Bristol City Funds has awarded a total of **27 grants**, totalling **£560,770**.

- **£55,227** for **6 projects** aligned with the **No Child Goes Hungry** funding priority
- **£505,543** for **21 projects** as part of the **Health and Wellbeing Programme**

5 volunteers with lived experience are directly involved in the decision-making process as Grant Panel members thanks to a partnership with The Care Forum.

Applicants are supported and helped during the application process to ensure these grants are as accessible as possible to all groups. To access this support, email to grant-support@bristolcityfunds.co.uk

Discover more about the **Health and Wellbeing grant programme**:

- **The grants we have awarded:** visit this [link](#) on the Bristol City Funds website.
- **The research we commission:** visit this [link](#) on the Bristol City Funds website.
- **How and when to apply:** visit this [link](#) on the Quartet Community Foundation website.

What one grantee says:

*“We feel really heard by the funder... **don't be afraid to think big**, think differently and approach it with hope and aspiration for doing things in a different way.”*

Lucy Holburn
Coordinator
Knowle West Alliance



Connecting Business with the Voluntary Sector

The City Funds Pro Bono service enables business to deliver strategic community engagement and support, strengthen the voluntary sector and tackle local challenges.

Why do businesses want to get involved?

For businesses, providing pro bono support helps them to:

- Develop local insights into the communities where they operate,
- Increase employee engagement and loyalty,
- Bring innovation and knowledge into the business from different sectors,
- Discover opportunities to collaborate, and
- Measure and demonstrate social value.

Examples of pro bono collaboration:

- **HR advice** provided, and policy documents reviewed for local charities.
- **Legal work** underway to transfer ownership of a community centre property asset.
- **New branding and website** for a charity which provides work experience for young people with limited opportunities.
- **Management consultancy** for a start-up for children with learning disabilities.
- **Building control support and surveys** for a property development that will support women facing multiple barriers.

John Stienlet co-ordinates the Pro Bono Brokering service.

John is in direct contact with charities / social enterprises in need of expertise and with local businesses willing to collaborate. Don't hesitate to contact him:
john.stienlet@quartetcf.org.uk



The Impact of COVID-19 on Local Needs

Research carried out by **Black South West Network** into the impact of Covid-19 on Bristol's VCSE sector indicates that **80% of local organisations have seen an increase in service demand.**

Three emerging community needs have been identified:

- **mental health** - alongside isolation, loneliness and anxiety,
- **digital exclusion and poverty** - creating poor access to data / information, and in some cases complete isolation, and
- **Financial insecurity** - with the job market being extremely inaccessible due to systemic barriers and social disadvantage.

When questioned about priority needs over the next 12 months, local organisations noted that they are planning to “apply for grant funding” (71%), “build partnerships & collaboration” (69%), “review policies to adapt services to post-COVID measures” (63%) and “building budgeting and planning capacity” (50%). Find the [full report here](#).

Organisations in the West of England need funding now as they strive to support people in our changed world.

Quartet Community Foundation has developed a £30million proposal to support the recovery of local VCSE organisations across the West of England, and calls for collaboration between donors, philanthropists, charitable trusts, foundations, the public sector and businesses. This proposal includes:

- **£10m** for a **Stabilisation Fund** to provide rapid response, giving local organisations grants for their core costs so they can recast how they deliver valuable support for vulnerable local people;
- **£10m** for a **Sector Support Fund** for Community hubs in areas of disadvantage which need long-term and substantial investments of time and funding;
- **£6m for addressing inequalities** for specific funding programmes to address long-standing inequalities, and
- **£4m to support local action and social cohesion** to support the ambitions of hyper-local organisations with easy access to grants.



2021 and Beyond – our Next Steps

City Funds works with **City Office** to align funding priorities with the **One City Plan**. In 2021-2022, three goals have been selected as the city's priorities:

- **Goal 1** – Tackle digital exclusion through co-ordinated city-wide action across generations, and respond to the enormous challenges and severe impact of the pandemic on children and young people.
- **Goal 2** – Support community assets (such as community centres / groups) to reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing, focusing particularly on communities with mental health inequalities.
- **Goal 3** – City-wide activity launched to engage citizens on pathways to achieving Bristol's 2030 climate and ecological goals, in the lead up to the Conference of the Parties (COP) in November.

The Local Access Partnership is starting

The Local Access Partnership (LAP) is a £33m, 10-year initiative bringing together grant and repayable finance to help build a thriving local social economy in the UK, funded by Access - the Foundation for Social Investment.

BBRC/City Funds is a partner in the Bristol LAP, working together with other infrastructure and frontline organisations across the city. The goal is to build diversity, increase economic inclusion, and improve resilience in the local social economy.

A £900k enterprise development programme (commencing in early 2021), will soon be joined with c£1.9m of blended investment.

Funding (subject to final approvals) will provide enterprise support and flexible finance for charities and social enterprises in Bristol. This will create more opportunities for City Funds to respond flexibly to the needs of the city and the social enterprise sector.



Meet the Board – Meet the Team

The City Funds Non-Executive Governing Board and working groups represents a cross-section of Bristol's community, business, voluntary and public sector organisations.

We thank all volunteers and the team contributing to Bristol's brightest future with City Funds

A word from the founders

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol: *"If cities are going to be challenged and stripped back to the bones, when we rebuild them let's not rebuild them as we had before, like we did after the financial crash of 2008, but let's build something different and more sustainable, more inclusive, more fair and more just."*

Ed Rowberry, CEO of Bristol and Bath Regional Capital: *"Bristol is known for home-grown solutions to local challenges. City Funds maintains that DNA and is designed to amplify it—making finance work for local projects and businesses with the ambition to have a positive effect in our communities."*

Contact - edwardrowberry@bab-rc.uk

Ronnie Brown, CEO of Quartet Community Foundation: *"Quartet is committed to collaborating with others to support the aspirations and ambitions of our many local communities. City Funds provides an essential focus for this work, and gives us a great opportunity to align our thinking and resources behind the systemic changes we all want to see."*

Contact - ronnie.brown@quartetcf.org.uk

City Funds Governing Board

Sally Britton, Consultant, Sally Britton Consulting

Ronnie Brown, CEO, Quartet Community Foundation
City Funds Grants Partner and founder

Reuben Coulter, Partner, Ignis Advisory

Sandra Meadows, CEO, Voscur
Chair of the Community Initiatives funding priority group

Peter Morris, Consultant, former Partner of Burges Salmon LLP

Ed Rowberry, CEO, Bristol and Bath Regional Capital
City Funds Investment Partner and founder

Kevin Slocombe, Head of the Mayor's Office
City Funds Public Sector Partner and founder

Andy Street, Director, SLR Consulting
Independent Chair of the City Funds Governing Board

City Funds Team

Laura Martin, City Engagement Officer,
The Mayor's Office, Bristol City Council

Jari Moate, Investment Manager,
Bristol & Bath Regional Capital

Ryan Munn, Business Development Manager,
Bristol & Bath Regional Capital

John Stienlet, City Funds Pro Bono Coordinator,
Quartet Community Foundation

City Funds working groups and advisory boards

Anna Dent, Independent Consultant
Leading City Funds Economic Inclusion funding priority

Archie Morrell, Head of Service, Learning Partnership West
Leading City Funds No Child Goes Hungry funding priority

Lizzi Testani, COO, Bristol Green Capital Partnership
Leading City Funds Environmental Transformation funding priority

Hannah Young, Head of Fundraising, Unseen UK
Leading City Funds Fundraising Advisory Board

Victor Tettmar, Business and leadership advisor
Chair of the City Funds Investment Advisory Committee

Our partners

The Founders



BRISTOL & BATH
REGIONAL CAPITAL



Working partners on system change



the care forum



The new name for HAPPY CITY

BRISTOL
ONE CITY



Working partners on impact investment



fund & depositary
services



power to
change

business in
community
hands

Working partners on the place-based giving scheme



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



What do they say about us?

James Burrows, Senior Investment Director, Big Society Capital:

“City Funds is demonstrating the role social impact investment can play within places across the UK when it connects with local partners and local priorities.[...] At times such as now, when the incredible work of social enterprises and charities is needed in the city more than ever, we look forward to even more organisations using this finance to strengthen the community.”

Sandra Meadows, CEO, Voscur:

“City Funds has a model which deliberately attempts to include as many people as possible. [...] The sector as a whole will be different post COVID. It will require a more nuanced and targeted response focused organisations and communities the most impacted by the crisis.”

Liz Zeidler, Chief Executive, Centre for Thriving Places:

“Bristol has always been an ambitious city, one where innovation happens and rules are challenged. The City Funds programme sits strongly in that tradition, asking: How can we apply a systems approach to fund big ideas in the city? How can funding bring diverse groups together to tackle long standing challenges facing our communities? How can we better understand what really supports lasting change and find the levers that can help us get there faster?”

Tim Temple, Funding Officer, National Lottery Community Fund:

“What I like about City Funds is the collaboration, the ability for funders to work together in the way that the sector was asking us to. [...] So we were really happy to help establish City Funds as a mechanism to do that.”

Morgan Daly, CEO, The Care Forum:

“Part of The Care Forum’s mission is to improve health and care and reduce inequalities. I’m really proud of this piece of work, because it puts local Bristol people at the heart of decision making about investing in Bristol charities. I can’t wait to see the benefits for our city [...] through the City Funds work”.