

Building strong communities where we live

We asked neighbourhood communities to tell us what help and support is needed to become self-organising and to pursue local priorities. This is our response. This will need to be reviewed once the City Council has carried out consultation and made a decision about arrangements going forward. When it comes to communities organising and taking action the city council is a minor player. There's far more happening without us than with us or because of us. This is an offer of support but it is by no means the only support available. We want to encourage everyone to make new connections where they live and across the city to tap into the wealth of resources and experience and build. We also welcome ideas and suggestions from people who feel they can help.

What are we trying to achieve?

To inspire more people to get involved with the life of the city – we all have something to give.

To continue to build communities where people, in all our diversity, connect, self-organise and take action on the things that matter.

To address inequality in the city by focusing our collective effort and resources on the areas that most need them.

For communities to influence council decisions and the way we work.

To be inspired by, learn from and share what we know across the city.

Inspire future generations to be involved in the life of the city.

Some notes on what we've said

We recognise that whilst most of us have access to online resources some of us don't and we need to work together so that everyone is included.

Ask	Offer	ACTIONS
Establishing a community space & widening the network		
Help to establish community space which connects with a wide group of people and have involvement from relevant partners as appropriate	Through citywide networking events and where possible dedicated training (open to all) we will provide a space to learn from each other and explore different ways of running and facilitating a community space/network which is open and accessible. <i>We recognise some areas will need more help than others – see table below which sets out how we will deploy BCC Team resources</i>	Networking events
Fun and creative ways to facilitate conversations and create more inclusive community spaces	We will provide a forum for sharing ideas and different approaches at networking events.	City wide networking events July September/October
Create more inclusive community spaces	We are exploring specific conversations or training about how we create more inclusive and diverse community networks and is subject to resources.	BCC exploring with SARI and Black Southwest Network and others who have experience
Asset mapping	Bristol has a good map of resources – everything from where you can access IT to allotments. http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/ Asset mapping is also about people. An asset mapping process can be a really good way of a community having a conversation about what's important. It is created and owned by local people. – Does this need to be expanded? As in whether there is to be any support offered around this? Seems a bit 'on it's own'	Workshops on using pin point in local areas

<p>Making connections, reaching out and sharing information. Community groups have a way of sharing information with anyone who wants to take part.</p>	<p>COMING SOON: Free help and advice with marketing 6th June 5.30-7.30pm https://www.voscur.org/calender/event/free-marketing-support-speed-matching-media-trust</p> <p>There are two 'peer support' networks about communications – details can be found on the Voscur website under 'peer support'.</p>	
<p>How to use Facebook, Twitter</p>	<p>There are LOTS of 'how to' resources online – here is just one http://www.communityhowto.com/</p> <p>There are also ways to connect with people beyond your circle: Bristol Women's Voice https://www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk/ Bristol BME Voice http://www.bristolbmevoice.org.uk/ Bristol LGBT http://lgbtbristol.org.uk/ Bristol Disability Equality Forum http://www.bristoldef.org.uk/ The 'voice' magazines http://www.localvoicenetwork.co.uk/ Ujima Radio http://www.ujimaradio.com/ BCfm http://bcfmradio.com/ Made in Bristol TV https://www.madeinbristol.tv/ Bristol 24/7 https://www.bristol247.com/</p>	
	<p>There are lots of free and accessible ways of spreading the word in Bristol from community newsletters, free newspapers, radio, Facebook, Twitter. There are lots of people making great use of Facebook, Twitter and Wordpress websites already – there's lots of experience which can be shared. There are also online resources.</p> <p>We will provide opportunities for learning more about these media and how to use them through the networking events but please don't wait. Take a look at what some communities are already doing: http://www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/ https://henburybrentrycommunity.org.uk http://www.bcrnp.org.uk/</p> <p>The City Council will not be able to sustain ongoing charges for domain names. We will work with communities to find ways to sustain an established web</p>	<p>Workshop focused on using online networking and information sharing</p> <p>Community networks establish email group or other social media networking</p>

	<p>COMING SOON.....</p> <p>'Made Open' is a new online forum to connect with people who care about the same kinds of things. Bristol City Council is working with others across the region to set up a new web platform where people can get in touch to get stuff done. Watch this space!</p> <p>There will be information at networking events when it is launched.</p>	<p>Information at citywide networking event</p>
	<p>Introduction to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)/community building Wed 20 Sept. A dedicated workshop for neighbourhood community groups can be organised if there is demand. Contact terry.black@bristol.gov.uk</p> <p>ABCD / Community building workshop at networking event</p>	<p>BCC Community Development Team</p>

Contact lists & looking after data		
Community group holds a list of contacts – individuals and local organisations.	<p>Once the community have decided how to hold the contact information BCC will give everyone on our lists the opportunity to sign up to the community network. We will pass on contacts for organisations and local resources.</p> <p>Holding and handling data about people - There are some important things to know when looking after names and contact details. We will provide a workshop about how to look after data.</p> <p>There are lots of useful free resources such as ‘mailchimp’ which means you can send out e-bulletins whilst keeping names and contact details private. https://mailchimp.com/</p> <p>There are a number of ways to store information and data on line which is secure but can also be shared between a named group of people. For example Google Docs.</p> <p>https://trello.com/ is a way of managing a project where there are an agreed list of actions, a group of people are doing different things and can keep each other updated. ‘Fishponds People’ are using Trello to share ideas and keep updated on agreed actions.</p> <p>We understand not everyone is online. How can we support people to take the leap or find ways of making sure everyone that wants to be involved is involved?</p>	<p>BCC team help people sign up to new networks</p> <p>Workshop about handling/storing information about people</p> <p>Shared – problem solving to include people not on line.</p>
Using Facebook	We will work with community groups to help set up Community Facebook pages where there are volunteers who want to do this but want some support.	Work together to build Facebook contacts and connections.

Somewhere accessible to meet		
Access to accessible venues for community spaces.	Voscur will maintain a list of accessible venues across the city, how to book them and what they cost.	Voscur to maintain list of accessible venues on website by 1 st July.
Access to BCC buildings	Where communities have been meeting in BCC buildings with support from BCC officers we will confirm the position going forward.	BCC to clarify arrangements re access to BCC venues.
Skills and knowledge to set up and run a successful community group		
Governance, structures, policies, procedures and legal – setting up and running an organisation	VOSCUR runs the support hub for community groups and has a programme of training but can also run specific training for small and emerging groups about how to set up. For people/groups wishing to set up a new group or community enterprise Voscur is offering the Kick Start programme. The next course is in early July – you can enrol at Voscur.org/Kick-Start. This course is free of charge, but there is an application process to ensure that the course is right for you.	Voscur/BCC If your network is interested in this please talk the NPC for your area
How to plan and run an event	Voscur can deliver training - we would need a minimum number of 12 people and would charge an administration fee of £15.00 to neighbourhood groups to help to ensure commitment – aim for delivery September/October	Voscur/BCC If your network is interested in this please talk to the NPC for your area
Facilitation and chairing skills	Voscur can deliver training – we would need a minimum number of 12 people – would charge an administration fee of £15.00 to neighbourhood groups to help to ensure commitment – aim for delivery September/October	Voscur/BCC If your network is interested in this please talk to the NPC for your area
Community leadership skills	This is a wide ranging area. Courses on many aspects of community leadership are widely available. There are a range of leadership programmes online. In the short/medium term we can provide a forum for networking and learning from each other.	All. Networking event(s)
Writing papers	We hope there won't be much reason to write papers. We need efficient and accessible ways to record and share information. There are lots of resources on line about report writing if this is helpful. http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/	

<p>Efficient and effective ways of recording meetings and events</p>	<p>There are some simple techniques that save time but they require us all to work in a slightly different way.</p> <p>For example Agree <u>why</u> something needs to be recorded to decide <u>what</u> needs to be recorded. You only need to record who was there and what was decided. Do it at the meeting in front of everyone, agreeing it as you go This way there is no need to return to it later to decide whether it was an accurate account. If you've made a list on flip chart take a photo and email or Facebook it round.</p>	<p>Citywide networking events</p>
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Funding and fundraising		
Fundraising skills and fundraising information	<p>Voscur website has useful information and can offer fundraising training courses</p> <p>Locality also has a helpful website with information about crowdfunding, donations and grants. http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/raising-finance-options/</p> <p>COMING SOON: 'Income inspiration for Tough Times' Thursday 15th June https://www.voscur.org/calender/event/fundit17 <i>Voscur will offer free places to equalities-led or neighbourhood based groups with an income of less than £25,000 per annum.</i></p> <p>Voscur has a menu of funding training for small groups including: 'developing a fundraising strategy', 'writing small funding bids', 'making good applications' 'making your small group sustainable'. To run these we would need a minimum number of 12 people and would charge an administration fee of £15.00 to neighbourhood groups to help to ensure commitment.</p> <p>We could offer one of the above courses in July and one in September/October. These could be delivered in different parts of the city.</p>	<p>Community network</p> <p>If your network is interested in this please talk to the NPC for your area</p> <p>If your network is interested in this please talk to the NPC for your area</p>
Developing the skills and processes to manage finances	<p>Peer support is available through Bristol Fundraisers Group Voscur's finance forum meets quarterly – check the Voscur website for details</p>	<p>Community network</p>

Ways to manage/use neighbourhood funding	<p>Neighbourhood funding for local projects is part of the consultation which will take place during June and July. Formal decisions will be made after that. If it is agreed to progress with neighbourhood funding we will create opportunities to explore ways of using this funding for maximum community benefit whilst minimising administration costs.</p> <p>But there are lots of ways to access funds. 'Spacehive' is a 'crowdfunding' website which literally means a project is funded by a crowd of people who donate – they can be individuals or businesses who contribute. https://www.spacehive.com/places/uk/city-of-bristol/bristol</p>	BCC and partners
Information and resources		
Sharing our practice, research, good ideas and information	<p>There are lots of online resources including all the websites listed. The network events will be opportunities to share existing practice.</p> <p>We would suggest an online forum or email network for community networks. This would be a good idea but is not a role for BCC.....</p>	Networking events
Neighbourhood data	<p>There's lots of data on the city council website https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/neighbourhood-partnership-statistical-profiles</p>	We will run workshops on how to access and use neighbourhood data
Establishing and running web pages How to use the web – what's out there?	We are aiming to provide access to a workshop about digital resources for community groups.	BCC exploring with Knowle West Media centre

Agreeing community priorities		
<p>Community plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans</p>	<p>All areas have Neighbourhood Partnership Plans which provide a good start for many communities.</p> <p>There are now a good number of communities who have come together to write a community plans which are more in depth but also written by and for local people. Bristol now has lots of experience of producing community plans starting with Redcliffe and St Pauls over 10 years ago. More recently Lawrence Weston, Henbury and Brentry, Southmead have all completed their plans and Lockleaze is now developing its own plan.</p> <p>http://www.southmeadcommunityplan.co.uk/ http://henburybrentrycommunity.org.uk/forum/?p=1071</p> <p>We will create a space for people to hear about how communities have come together to make them happen.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Development Plans are different again. They are community-led but they are planning documents. They are about what is built where. There is a formal process to go through which includes a referendum but once it is agreed it is a formal document recognised by the planning authority. Areas which have a NDP are able to access 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy for their area.</p> <p>There are two NDPs in Bristol so far:</p> <p>Old Market https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations/neighbourhood-planning-old-market-quarter</p> <p>Lawrence Weston</p>	<p>Networking event and mentoring</p>

	https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations/neighbourhood-planning-lawrence-weston	
Consultation skills training/learning	<p>We will provide a networking opportunity/workshop space to find out about how communities have carried out their own community consultation using community researchers.</p> <p>Survey monkey is exactly what it says it is – a free online survey tool https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/user/sign-in/</p>	Networking and mentoring
How to facilitate priority setting sessions	Lots of neighbourhoods have produced community plans and have experience of deciding priorities. We will create a space where we can learn from each other and share experiences.	
Working with Bristol City Council		
<p>Access to information about who does what in the council</p> <p>Reporting and following up problems</p>	<p>For information about a whole range of City Council services and contact details have a look at the Bristol Charter</p> <p>https://www.bristol.gov.uk/report-a-street-issue https://www.fixmystreet.com/</p>	BCC will be updating the charter in the autumn once decisions have been made following the consultation.

<p>Contacts and support from named officers from: highways, parks, environmental (waste graffiti), Bristol Waste Company , planning, youth participation, enforcement, libraries, health, housing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help the communities make informed decisions about priorities - Influencing BCC decisions - Getting support to get stuff done - Getting out of the way 	<p><u>Job to do</u></p> <p>We want to enable people to do as much as they can together without the city council getting in the way. We also want to work together on the things that really matter.</p> <p>There is a piece of work to do to be clear about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What can be done by communities but needs BCC to get out of the way? b) How do communities continue to influence decisions and get things done on the things that are most important locally? c) What’s best done by communities and BCC together and what’s the mechanism for doing this? <p>Meanwhile, if you need some help in the short term you can contact your ward councillors or your link person in the neighbourhoods team.</p> <p>Bristol Waste Company should be contacted direct: http://www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/</p> <p>There are some great examples of how Bristol people are making a difference where they live http://www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/learn-more-home/</p>	<p>BCC to work with community networks</p>
<p>Influencing CIL</p>	<p>This is part of the formal consultation. CIL is just one of a number of funding sources. Experience in Bristol shows that where communities have organised themselves, and agreed priorities they have been successful in attracting funding.</p>	

Additional help and support

Ward councillors – ward councillors are an important point of contact, advice and support. Contact details for ward councillors:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor>

Voscur is funded to provide capacity building support to community organisations and provides a wide range of services and support. We would encourage emerging community organisations to make contact with Voscur, sign up for e-bulletins and take up the free events. Voscur will also be able to provide some bespoke training and support for some organisations.

Bristol City Council Neighbourhoods Team

From the end of July there will be five full time and two half-time Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinators and six full time and one half time Neighbourhood Officers. The team does not have to make any further changes but we need to be prepared for further changes. We can no longer provide the same support to all areas, we have had to prioritise. The table below explains what this means. We have an offer of support for the whole city and will provide additional support to the areas that need it most based on the transition plans and our knowledge of the area. As well as neighbourhood work there are some key city-wide tasks. All areas will have a named Coordinator who will ensure there is ongoing communication and a contact point. The rest of the resources will be allocated as follows:

	Description	Offer of support	Areas
Green	Community network able to self-organise. Clear or emerging direction and able to set-up lead organisation with access to advice and information.	From 1st July access to link person who will be able to offer some advice and support and who will ensure community receives city wide information and access to networking events. Officers will not be able to attend meetings unless it is for a specific purpose. We will also provide help with printing some posters for network meetings in the short term/until a long term decision is made. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition.	Greater Bedminster (GBCP) Bishopston & Ashley Down, Redland and Cotham (BCR), St George, Easton and Lawrence Hill, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Withywood (Dundry View). Nearly green: Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym, Clifton Down, Clifton, Hotwells and Harbourside, Windmill Hill and Knowle

		There are some areas which are 'nearly green' we understand these areas may need some additional support until 1 st September.	
Amber	There is a potential lead organisation and/or community network but some medium term support will be needed to set up new arrangements.	Capacity building support for potential lead organisation or network to finish as soon as able but no later than 31 st March 2018.	Greater Brislington, Ashley, Lockleaze, Henbury, Brentry, Central
Red	No potential lead organisation or emerging community-led network. And/or need for longer term community building. History of top down organisation.	Until March 2019 where needed focused on building community resilience and self-organisation.	Filwood, Stockwood, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston, Southmead, Horfield, Greater Fishponds

This transition plan will take effect from the 1st July. We will confirm the teams and who will be working there in the next couple of weeks. Your Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator remains your key point of contact.