

Consider the challenges and opportunities of strengthening funding policy and practice to address climate change that builds a better future for everyone.

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**19<sup>th</sup> May – West Midlands Funders Network**



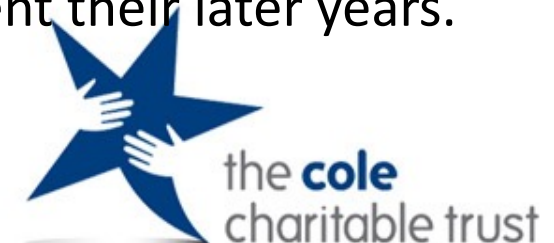
# What we're going to discuss

- Saintbury Trust
- Cole Charitable Trust
- What is the Funders Commitment on Climate Change
- Cole Charitable Trust – What we've done with the FCCC
- Cole Charitable Trust – Impact Investing
- Saintbury Trust – What we've done with the FCCC
- Getting trustees involved in this agenda
- Do as I do – Outstanding questions for discussion



# Saintbury Trust - Background

- The settlors were my Grandparents Chris and Jean Bryant. Chris being the sister of Peggy Cole. My grandfather had grown Bryant Homes Building company from a smaller family business into a large public company. There was originally a charitable trust called the Bryant Trust in which all three children of Eb Bryant were involved. This was later disbanded to become three smaller trusts, with Chris adding more of his own funds to the Saintbury Trust.
- The original trust had a strong interest in the Arts and relief of Poverty as the aim was to give back to Birmingham and its surrounds - the heartland of Bryant homes.
- The Saintbury Trust continues these aims but has added interests from subsequent trustees (largely family members) and widened its area to include some of the surrounds of the Cotswold village of Saintbury where my Grandparents spent their later years.



# Saintbury Trust - Grant giving focus & behaviours

- Our focus continues to retain a nod to the interests of our settlors, supporting many Arts and human interest projects. We have a very specific geographical area but also have 'special' projects brought in from outside by trustees.
- However our eligibility does include a specific category "for advancement of Environmental protection or improvement". While this doesn't make up a large amount of our applications (no stats!) we often support wildlife trusts and similar, particularly if the project involves community engagement. The success of many of these applications should organically create more in the future but active pursual of such projects also needs to be addressed.
- Many of our current trustees have a strong personal interest in environment and the environmental crisis so there is impetus to seek out funding applications that address this.



# Cole Charitable Trust - Background

- The settlor Peggy Cole (my granny) was the daughter of Eb Bryant and sister of Chris Bryant, who ran the family building business C Bryant & Son in Birmingham.
- The family shareholding in Bryant Holdings became valuable when the Company, under the leadership of Chris Bryant, was floated on the stock market in 1962, and this was the stimulus to create the Charitable Trust.
- Peggy Cole was brought up in a well to do family. She became a doctor and worked in family planning and as a General Practitioner. Because of the kind of person she was, and through her life experience, she was aware of the privilege she enjoyed but was equally aware that there were many less privileged.
- Her husband, John, was a consultant radiologist in a Birmingham hospital. Together, they set up the trust to support charities that work to benefit the community in Birmingham. Subsequently the remit of the Trust has widened to cover other areas where the Trustees live.



# Cole Charitable Trust - Grant giving focus of the Trust

- We welcome applications from small and local (as opposed to regional or national) registered charities, or local branches of registered charities, working in the fields of:
  - social welfare, all age groups
  - housing/homelessness
  - community and **environmental development (fewer than ~5% of applications)**
  - opportunities for young people
  - promotion of improved quality of life
  - personal or **community empowerment.**
- We also consider trustee requests which can sit outside of these criteria



# Funders Commitment on Climate Change – What is it?

## 1. EDUCATE AND LEARN

We will make opportunities for our trustees, staff and stakeholders to learn more about the key causes and solutions of climate change.

## 2. COMMIT RESOURCES

We will commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the causes and impacts of climate change. (If our governing document or other factors make it difficult to directly fund such work, we will find other ways to contribute, or consider how such barriers might be overcome).

## 3. INTEGRATE

Within all our existing programmes, priorities and processes, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a post carbon society, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts.

## 4. STEWARD OUR INVESTMENTS FOR A POST-CARBON FUTURE

We will recognise climate change as a high-level risk to our investments, and therefore to our mission. We will proactively address the risks and opportunities of a transition to a post carbon economy in our investment strategy and its implementation, recognising that our decisions can contribute to this transition being achieved.

## 5. DECARBONISE OUR OPERATIONS

We will take ambitious action to minimise the carbon footprint of our own operations.

## 6. REPORT ON PROGRESS

We will report annually on our progress against the five goals listed above. We will continue to develop our practice, to learn from others, and to share our learning



# Cole Charitable Trust - What we have done with FCCC

## 1. EDUCATE AND LEARN

Nothing overt

## 2. COMMIT RESOURCES

Potentially funding more charities working in this area, more nudge than anything overt

## 3. INTEGRATE

Still coming to terms with what this is. Don't want to beat our applicants over the head unnecessarily

## 4. STEWARD OUR INVESTMENTS FOR A POST-CARBON FUTURE

Divesting of oil majors and impact investing – most impact?

## 5. DECARBONISE OUR OPERATIONS

Minimising printing and maintaining some trustee meetings to be virtual

## 6. REPORT ON PROGRESS

We have done this!





# Impact investing - One thing the Cole Charitable Trust is keen to do

- What we have done with ESG
- How is Impact investing different from ESG
- What is the attraction of this approach
- Likely impact on our investment policy
- Progress to date
- Working with Brewin Dolphin – everyone's on a journey



# Saintbury Trust - What have we done with FCCC?

- Conversations! The very first issue has been opening up all trustees to these ideas. Many have been working for the trust for a long time and change can be difficult.
- Signing up – signing up to the FCCC. This has provided further fuel for conversation and impetus to get things done due to the reporting back process
- New Secretary - we had been dealing with trust admin in house. We advertised for a professional secretary and interviewed with strong emphasis on ability to streamline and promote maximum efficiency. We had already moved to digital documents but there are many other areas we can tighten up. We will also cease to accept postal applications which we had previously encouraged.
- Education – looking to provide education for trustees and make choices that can facilitate good practice. For instance, choosing meeting venues that can be easily accessed by public transport and/or allow easy virtual attendance.
- Considering more specific questioning/requirements on application to promote good practice from applicants. Especially where the projects are not specifically addressing environment and climate change.



# Do as I Do – outstanding questions for discussion

- Discussion of what we have done versus what we could/should expect from our applicants.
- Enshrining the commitment to fund applicants directly dealing with climate change – over others? Or does education of trustees naturally weight this in their favour?
- How much importance should be placed on what we have achieved personally versus what applicants are doing?
- What of their investment portfolios, admin practices, staff?
- Can we be Robin hood or do we need to be entirely faultless in our own investments?!!
- What of trustees personal choices?

