

Happy City: The Charity Commission recognises happiness as a charitable purpose

Well not as such. However Happy City, a charity operating in Bristol which sees happiness as a link or core driver to a range of other outcomes, has got Charity Commission consent to expand its objects to cover a broad range of activities so that it can more advantageously undertake its work through a charity rather than through a community interest company. This will open up a lot of new funding sources for it, as well as reducing their costs in respect of business rates and tax.

Initially, because of their focus on happiness, the Charity Commission did not accept that much of what Happy City was trying to do was charitable but, by working with Russell-Cooke's charity and social business team they were able to gain consent to amend their objects in a way that allows the organisation to achieve their agenda under a charitable umbrella.

Happy City had previously operated largely through a community interest company to achieve a range of public benefit outcomes for Bristol. These imaginative projects have included a programme called Working Happy, training people to use happiness habits in the Five Ways Wellbeing Programme which has been linked to reduce stress and better problem solving. Other projects included Upbeat Streets Community Voice, Voice Bridges and Words Well projects. Upbeat Streets, for example, invites people to develop their appreciative noticing skills through photography and arts while Community Voice teaches film making for people running community groups. Happy City's work extends to promoting the environment and it runs a festival of nature promoting the well being of the City. Linking all this together is a happiness index which seeks to measure the city's happiness. Visit the [Happy City website](#) to find out more

Hopefully the changes to Happy City's objects and structure will give a real boost to happiness in Bristol. In any event it will make life a lot easier for Happy City and its work to bring a better life to the citizens of Bristol.

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