

	Recommendations	Board Response
1	Further, regular, analysis of management information could be undertaken with more analysis of outcomes being achieved	There will be a full examination of the various strands of data collected to both avoid duplication of effort and ensure best use is made of the data collected. We will examine what data is currently collected, directly by PyC, via the M+E and Supporting Communities team work along with other working partners. It will be looked at from the point of view of what is collected and how it is used/interpreted. An integral part of this review is engagement and consultation with stakeholders/ communities to understand the measures they would value being monitored. This engagement will take place via the citizen's panel and other less formal interactions. This review will take place at the end of 2020 in order to inform the adjustment of the M+E Framework, in line with future strategy and ambition for the fund.
2	The analysis of the monitoring data has found differences in the number and types of applications being submitted from different parts of the area of benefit. The potential need for a different approach to activities such as the promotion of the Fund in different areas should therefore be considered, to account for those differences. Is there a need to consider a specific approach in each of those areas?	The Board acknowledges the differences between areas and will use the community profiles, which have been put in place by the PyC funded Supporting Communities' team, to identify if a specific approach is required. The Board are pleased with the spread of PYC funding to date and the aim of the fund is to achieve a fair geographical spread of funding across the lifetime of the fund.
3	Word of mouth is the main way in which applicants say that they have found out about the Fund. On that basis, it is important that the marketing and promotion of the Fund engages with those in a range of different 'social networks' within the area of benefit. Ensuring that the fund engages with those in a range of different social networks is therefore important – should engagement targets certain areas and groups?	This is linked to the Data Review that is taking place and the Board will need to consider all information before we can target specific groups effectively. We will consider gaps in who the fund is reaching (i.e. employed/unemployed, social diversity etc). We are committed to consulting with communities to gauge their 'perception' of the success of the fund if it is felt there are gaps in the funds provision.
4	A relatively high proportion of applications would have been submitted regardless of the support received the potential to target the support being provided to applicants (during the application process) at those that need it the most should be considered with a view to	Whilst 52% of proposals would have submitted without support, would those proposals have been supportable? The Board has always recognised that with a small staff team we do need to ensure that time is spent where it will have maximum effect. As the fund has progressed the team have developed their contacts and methods to ensure they carry out an assessment of the level of support needed at the

	ensuing that as broad a range of organisations have the opportunity to develop projects and apply for support.	early stages of meeting an applicant and then signpost them effectively to specialist organisations that can offer the correct support at that time (i.e. CVCs / Business Advisers).
5	The evaluation has found that being involved with the Fund has a positive impact on the ongoing plans of organisations and encourages new projects/ideas to be developed. On that basis, the potential to actively target previous applications that have delivered successful projects (especially Micro Fund grant recipients) to encourage them to develop further (and more ambitious) ideas and projects should be considered.	This recommendation is interesting, and we need to take action to stimulate discussion with grantees about their next steps and plans for progression and development. To do this, we need to work closely with our CVC colleagues and take a more blended approach of securing feedback from grantees on lessons learned and systematically capture success and next steps. There is potential to link different grantees together or to specialist developmental organisations to develop more ambitious projects, possibly in conjunction with others from within and without the area of benefit. PyC will consider options for stimulating that type of networking/ conversations.
6	As our understanding of the outcomes that are being achieved by the Fund emerges, the Board should consider a more proactive/thematic/targeted approach to inviting applications for support designed to achieve specific outcomes or specific strategic priorities.	The Board have long aspired to develop thematic rounds, encouraging applications for proposals that address a particular need or opportunity in communities that has yet to be addressed. We can only do this with evidence, such as the community profiles, and having consulted with the communities concerned. There seem to be some areas/activities that seem to be emerging, supporting these areas could be our own pilot into taking a more proactive approach. Longer term the prospectus is due for renewal; we have a Citizen's Panel and our Supporting Communities team is holding Vision events across the AOB and so we are confident we will soon be ready to identify larger bold proposals to target.
7	There remain some concerns about diversity at a Board level. Options should therefore be explored for engaging with different groups from within local communities that may not be represented on the Board. For example, setting up groups or panels to look at specific issues or be representative of specific groups within the community.	The Board accepts that it should, as far as possible, be a true representation of the <i>whole</i> of the communities it serves. However, that has to be balanced with size of Board and what skills and experience we need. We commit to develop a proportionate diversity tool at Board member application stage and develop a diversity statement applicable to the AOB, whilst examining the diversity of the existing board based on actuality rather than perception of individuals.
8	Steps need to be taken to ensure that there is an effective working relationship between the Board and the Executive	The Board realise that with only two staff members (at present) the effective relationship between the Executive (staff) and Board is essential. The clear understanding of the differing duties and responsibilities is paramount in order for the relationship to thrive. We will approach this relationship with trust, openness and ensure there is effective two way communication.