

| Report of | Meeting | Date |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Chief Executive | Special Council | 28 February 2012 |

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2012/2013 BUDGET PROPOSALS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide Members with an assessment of the impact of the budget proposals on equality, health and sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- It is recommended that Members use the information provided in this report and the appendices to inform the budget process to ensure that fair financial decisions are made.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Under equality legislation in the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, as well as to promote good race relations. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision making process, including financial decisions
- To meet this requirement in relation to the budget growth proposals 2012/2013, work has been undertaken to assess the impact of the proposals. This report presents the findings and recommendations based on this work.

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| Confidential report Please bold as appropriate | Yes | No |
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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|---|---|--|---|
| Strong Family Support | | Education and Jobs | |
| Being Healthy | ✓ | Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods | |
| Safe Respectful Communities | ✓ | Quality Community Services and Spaces | |
| Vibrant Local Economy | | Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages | ✓ |
| A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money | | | ✓ |

BACKGROUND

3. Assessing the potential equality impact of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can show 'due regard' in terms of the Equality Act. This includes financial decisions, as set out in the guidance *Using the Equalities Duties to make fair financial decisions*, as published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, September 2010
4. These assessments must be carried out at a formative stage in the development of a policy, procedure or practice, and can take any form appropriate as long as the legal duties are met. The framework that has been used in this process is to undertake integrated impact assessments - this includes an assessment of equality, sustainability, health, and reputation.
4. To support the decision making process around the development of the budget, a series of impact assessments have been undertaken on proposals that could have an impact on customers or staff. These assessments are available as background papers to this report. An overall impact assessment has also been developed on the proposed budget. This includes a consideration of the potential impact of the whole budget, as well as including the findings of the more detailed assessments. The overall assessment is attached at Appendix A.

RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

5. No recommendations have been made following both the individual and overall assessments. However, in line with the Council's Equality Scheme, any further changes made to service delivery as part of the budget process will be assessed to ensure that any potentially negative impacts are mitigated or avoided.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

6. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Finance | | Customer Services | |
| Human Resources | | Equality and Diversity | ✓ |
| Legal | | Integrated Impact Assessment required? | ✓ |
| No significant implications in this area | | Policy and Communications | |

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

7. The comments of the Statutory Finance Officer on the 2012/13 Budget are contained on a separate report on the agenda.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

8. Compliance with the Council's Equality Scheme provides evidence of the discharge of the Council's legal obligations under the Equality Act.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. This report support the Council in fulfilling its duty to have due regard to eliminate discrimination and promote equality, as required by the Equality Act and the council's Equality Scheme. Members should consider the implications and recommended actions during their decision making.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

| Report Author | Ext | Date | Doc ID |
|--------------------|------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rebecca Huddleston | 5779 | 16 February 2012 | Budget Equality Report 2012 |

Integrated Impact Assessment

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed | Overall budget proposals |
| What does the service, policy, strategy or project do? | Makes proposals for the budget setting process for 2012/2013. NB: Individual impact assessments have been undertaken on proposals that could potentially lead to a reduction in investment in service or potentially change the way in which customers access services. This assessment correlates the results of those separate assessments. |
| Who is it intended to benefit and how? | Chorley residents – by considering these budget growth options the Council will be better placed to invest in priorities and frontline services. |
| Officer responsible for completing the assessment | Rebecca Huddleston |
| Date of Assessment | 09/02/2012 |

| Equality Impact Assessment | Yes | No | Evidence | | |
|---|-----|----|---|----|--|
| 1. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that this particular activity will create problems which are specific to them? | ✓ | | High level budget consultation has been conducted. 256 residents responded to the consultation which asked residents about whether they supported the Council's budget principles and what areas/services require investment. | | |
| What potential impact does this activity make to: | | | | | |
| | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
| 2. Equality of opportunity amongst customer groups of different racial backgrounds (Race) | | | | ✓ | No proposals should have a differential affect on any customers because of these characteristics. |
| 3. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex) | | | | ✓ | The sanctuary scheme and IDVA service supports anyone affected by domestic violence and monitoring of the take up of both services is carried out. |
| 4. Equality of opportunity amongst able bodied customers and customers with a disability (Disability) | | | | ✓ | No proposals should have a differential affect on any customers because of these characteristics. |
| 5. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different ages (Age) | ✓ | | | | A number of the investment proposals will have a positive impact on age groups that may otherwise be disadvantaged. This includes the NEET, Street Games and Sports Bus proposals that are targeted to young people and Active Generation that is targeted at those above 50. |
| 6. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different sexual orientations (Sexual Orientation) | | | | ✓ | No proposals should have a differential affect on any customers because of these characteristics. |
| 7. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different religions (Religion or Belief) | | | | ✓ | No proposals should have a differential affect on any customers because of these characteristics. |
| 8. Equality of opportunity amongst customers that live in different parts of Chorley (Rurality) | ✓ | | | | The sports bus and extension of grant scheme to local service centres are proposals that target rural areas, enabling people from those areas to more easily access services that are available in other areas of Chorley. The grant scheme is an extension of one that is already running in the town centre. |

| Sustainability Impact Assessment | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
|--|---|---|---|----|--|
| What potential impact does this activity make upon: | | | | | |
| 1. The effective protection of Chorley's environment. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting waste generation & encouraging recycling • Limiting factors that contribute to climate change • Protection of and improving access to the natural environment | ✓ | | | | A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on Chorley's environment. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up Chorley Campaign • Tackling dog fouling • Street furniture replacement |
| 2. Prudent usage of natural resources. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting use of non sustainable energy, water, minerals and materials • Reducing the need to travel and encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon modes of travel | | | | ✓ | No proposals should have a detrimental effect on prudent use of natural resources. |
| 3. Social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for education and information • Provision of appropriate and sustainable housing • Reduced fear of crime and community safety • Access to cultural and leisure facilities • Encouraging engagement and supporting volunteering | ✓ | | | | A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active generation • Street games • NEET • IDVA • Sanctuary Scheme • PCSO's |
| 4. A vibrant local economy in Chorley. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting better quality jobs and developing the skills of local residents • Supporting local business by procuring goods and services locally | ✓ | | | | The proposals around investment in the business start up scheme and extension of grants to local service centres, NEET and CAB are agreed all support a vibrant local economy in Chorley. |

| Sustainability Impact Assessment | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
|--|---|---|---|----|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening links with public, private and third sector partners | | | | | |

| Health Impact Assessment | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
|---|---|---|---|----|--|
| What potential impact does this activity make upon: | | | | | |
| 1. Encouraging healthy lifestyles across Chorley's population. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diet and nutrition Exercise and physical activity Substance use: tobacco, alcohol and drugs Risk taking behaviour Education and learning, or skills | ✓ | | | | The following schemes will have a positive effect on healthy lifestyles across Chorley's population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active generation Street games Sports bus |
| 2. Promoting a positive social environment for all of Chorley's residents. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social status Employment (paid or unpaid) Social/family support Stress/Mental Health Income | ✓ | | | | The proposed investment in the active generation, street games, sports bus, CAB, NEET, business start up scheme all support a positive social environment for Chorley's residents. |
| 3. Promoting a positive physical environment across Chorley. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living conditions Working conditions Accidental injuries or public safety Transmission of infectious disease | ✓ | | | | The proposed investment in the public realm scheme and the project to Improve pedestrian routes from car parks into the town centre, and gateway at New Market Street will all support a positive physical environment across Chorley. |

| Reputational Impact Assessment | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
|--|---|---|---|----|---|
| What potential impact does this activity make upon: | | | | | |
| 1. Chorley Council's reputation. Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proving to residents that we provide value for money • Informing and engaging with local residents • Building trust and confidence in Chorley Council • Improving customer satisfaction with council services • Chorley Council's role as a community leader | ✓ | | | | All of the proposals within the budget growth paper should have a positive impact on the Council's reputation. |
| 2. Our ability to deliver the Corporate Strategy. Issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community aspirations are delivered through the efficient use of resources and performance management ▪ An excellent community leader ▪ A provider and procurer of high quality, coordinated public services ▪ Excellent council that is continually striving to improve ▪ Reducing the council's energy consumption | | | | ✓ | Overall, the Corporate Strategy will continue to be delivered through key projects and business improvement planning. |

| Reputational Impact Assessment | P | N | U | NI | Evidence |
|--|---|---|---|----|---|
| <p>3. Our ability to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. Issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Family Support • Education and Jobs • Being Healthy • Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Communities • Safe Respectful Communities • Quality Community Services and Spaces • Vibrant Local Economy • Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages • Sustainable Places and Transport | | | | ✓ | Overall, the Community Strategy will continue to be delivered through the SCS Delivery Plans. |