



Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Council	24 February 2021

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2021/22 BUDGET PROPOSALS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Members with an assessment of the impact of the budget proposals on equality, health and sustainability through the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. It is recommended that Members use the information provided in this report and the completed Integrated Impact assessment attached to inform the budget process to ensure that fair financial decisions are made.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. 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 when making financial decisions.
4. To meet this requirement in relation to the budget growth proposals 2021/22, work has been undertaken to assess the impact of the proposals. This report presents the findings and recommendations based on this work.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	✓
Clean, safe and healthy communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. An overall integrated impact assessment has been developed on the proposed budget. This includes consideration of the proposals related to an increase council tax, recurrent investment items, previously one off investment items, core funding grants and the capital programme (specifically 2021/22).

RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

9. Actions include monitoring the take up of council tax financial assistance schemes and promoting access to sources of financial support as needed.
10. In line with the Council's Equality Scheme all projects should complete an Integrated Impact Assessment to ensure that any potentially negative impacts are mitigated or avoided. This assessment should be reviewed regularly to ensure any identified actions are being completed.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. 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 Governance	✓

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

12. No comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

13. No comments.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Rebecca Aziz-Brook	5348	15.02.21	Budget Equality Impact Assessment 2021



Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Chorley Council budget proposals 2021/22		
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the Council's budget 2021/22		
Who is it intended to benefit and how?	Chorley residents – by considering the impact of the budget proposals		
Officer responsible for completing the assessment	Rebecca Aziz-Brook		
Date of Assessment	15/02/2021	Date of Review	16/02/2022

Equality Impact Assessment	Yes	No	Evidence	Further action required
<p>1. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that this particular activity will create problems which are specific to them?</p>	X		<p>Consultation on the 2021/22 budget response ran from the 22 January to the 14 February 2021. The consultation was publicised through a structured digital campaign including 16,916 emails delivered to residents signed up to receive communications via the My Account feature on the council website. The emails received 8,672 unique views (51.3%) and 1,410 link clicks (8.3%) both of which show a higher proportion of unique views than last year. Awareness was also raised through traditional media outlets and local networks. The formal consultation received 289 qualitative responses through a one open question format, via an online survey which provided detailed feedback.</p> <p>As well as completing the online survey, residents were also invited to share their views and comments using social media. From across all the posts during the budget consultation period on Facebook and Twitter, we received a total of 78,815 post views, the posts reached a total of 128,168 users and 4,551 engagements (likes comments and shares) reaching a wide representation of the population. Analysis of Social Media responses (which totalled 124).</p>	
What potential impact does this activity make to:				

	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
1. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different ages (Age)	x				<p>A number of the investment proposals will have a positive impact on different age groups. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued provision of grant funding for the volunteering provision to support older people which supports older people through a variety of activities and access to information and support. Continued support towards to the Youth Zone will continue to deliver high quality, diversionary and wellbeing activities for young people. Continued provision of the Meals on Wheels service. 	
2. Equality of opportunity amongst with or without a physical or mental disability (Disability)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
3. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different gender backgrounds (Gender Reassignment)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
4. Equality of opportunity amongst customers who are pregnant or parents (Pregnancy and Maternity)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
5. Equality of opportunity amongst customer groups of different racial backgrounds (Race)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	

6. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different religions (Religion or Belief)			x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
7. Equality of opportunity amongst customers that live in different parts of Chorley (Rurality)	x			<p>There are several investment proposals which include elements which will positively support residents who live in rural areas of the borough including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing funding to maintain services previously delivered by LCC (bus services) including a service which serves rural areas • Funding is committed to for the Youth Zone which will include activity to be delivered to encourage greater use from those in more rural areas of the borough 	
8. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex)			x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
9. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different sexual orientations (Sexual Orientation)			x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	
10. Equality of opportunity amongst customers who are married or in a civil partnership (Marriage and civil partnerships)			x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
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Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						
1. Promoting healthy lifestyles for Chorley residents. For the latest Health Observatory information please see the data on this link http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=126958	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes will help to promote healthier lifestyles for Chorley residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the sporting and open space offer which will enable better access to good quality sport and recreational spaces including: • Improvements to the playing pitches in the borough • Improvements to Astley Park • West Way sports complex • Whittle Health Hub – £4m of investment to develop a modern and high-quality health facility and make GPs more accessible to residents. • Tatton – £15m to deliver provide vital facilities for local residents, including improved health provision and open spaces. • Committed spend to social prescribing workers 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>who support vulnerable people to achieve better wellbeing outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The support to food provision schemes will provide a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need. 	
2. Enabling residents to Start Well (pre-birth – 19) Possible issues to consider are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy pregnancy Reducing infant mortality Reducing childhood obesity Supporting children with long term conditions Supporting vulnerable families and children 	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to 'start well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support towards to the Youth Zone will continue to deliver high quality, diversionary and wellbeing activities for young people. Improvements to playing pitches, Astley Park and West Way. Support to food provision schemes – which will provide a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need. Continued investment in a service offering early intervention support for families, enabling parents to build better 	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.</p> <p>To contribute towards the successful delivery of education as a priority the council will commit resources to reviewing the evidence base and establishing the current position on requirements across the borough. This is to be used to advocate with Lancashire County Council for further provision.</p>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>lives for their children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority for the council is to promote greater provision of high school education across the borough in response to a growing population and limited capacity within existing establishments. 	
<p>3. Enabling residents to Live well (16 -75 years) Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting healthy settings, healthy workforce and economic development Promoting mental wellbeing and healthy lifestyles Reducing avoidable deaths Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities 	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to 'live well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chorley Council events programme will see the delivery of numerous events in the borough for the benefit of local residents, supporting the local economy by raising the profile of Chorley Support for the third sector- the funding will support the development of the third sector in Chorley Investing in the Chorley Bus Station, investment in the town centre, refresh of the Local plan and CCTV operations all enhance local provision and support the local economy Ongoing fund to maintain services previously delivered by LCC - this includes the provision of key bus routes in the borough The support to food provision schemes will provide a 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment allocated to the deliver council-owned affordable housing across the borough. • Investment allocated to deliver light industrial units at Alker Lane for business use to drive forward local economic growth. 	
<p>4. Enabling residents to Age Well (over 65 years). Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting independence • Reducing social isolation • Managing long term conditions and dementia • Reducing emergency admissions and direct admissions to residential care settings • Supporting carers and families 	x				<p>The proposed investment will support residents to 'Age Well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of grant funding to volunteering provision for older people. Provision of activities, and volunteering opportunities for older people, enabling them to remain independently in their own homes and to reduce social isolation. • Continued funding for Meals on Wheels service, provision of subsidised meals on wheels service for older residents. • Continued investment in the home adaptions service enabling older residents to continue living at home independently for longer. 	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						
<p>1. Chorley Council's reputation. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proving to local 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 	x				<p>The feedback following the budget consultation has demonstrated that of the positive comments received, 63% demonstrated general support for the budget proposals. The majority of negative comments received during the consultation related to the proposed freeze in council tax for this year and concerns around actions to tackle climate change (19%). These figures demonstrate a much higher support for budget proposals than in recent years.</p>	
<p>2. Our ability to deliver the Corporate Strategy. Issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A council that consults and engages with residents ▪ An ambitious council that continually strives to improve 	x				<p>Each of the proposed projects has a link to one or more of the corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy and will therefore support its delivery.</p>	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						
<p>1. The effective protection of Chorley's environment. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting waste generation & encouraging recycling • Limiting factors that contribute to climate change 	x				<p>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on Chorley's environment. These include two corporate projects dedicated to protecting Chorley's</p>	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of and improving access to the natural environment 					<p>environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve play and open spaces across the borough • Deliver a project to support Chorley Council's commitment to the green agenda <p>In addition to this, other programmes of work being delivered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bloom, which will provide enhanced Streetscene provision across Chorley and support the work of the Chorley in Bloom group 	
<p>2. Prudent usage of natural resources. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <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 			x		<p>No proposals should have a differential effect on the prudent usage of natural resources.</p>	
<p>3. Social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <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 	x				<p>Several proposed schemes will have a positive impact on social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant provision for the community safety support services • Investment in improving Astley Hall and Park will provide greater access to 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>cultural facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale improvements will be made to the leisure facilities as part of the leisure contract renewal • Further investment in the budget for the purchase, refurbishment and rental of affordable housing in the borough. • Continued investment to contribute to running of the Youth Zone including outreach work. • New investment to deliver the Clayton-le-Woods parish building. • Additional investment to provide new support to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to provide support in the community. 	
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 • Strengthening links with public, private and third sector 	x				<p>Several proposed schemes will have a positive impact on a vibrant local economy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued delivery of the Chorley Council events programme – supporting the local economy by encouraging people to visit and spend in 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
partners					<p>Chorley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the third sector- the funding will support the development of the third sector in Chorley <p>Delivery of large-scale development projects will also have a positive effect on the local economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of light industrial units for business use to drive forward local economic growth. • Tatton recreation ground development • Investment to develop a modern and high-quality health facility at Whittle Health Hub <p>The budget for the Employability Support Programme (to support people with multiple barriers into work) will continue to be delivered through business as usual.</p> <p>Improvements and investment are being made to Chorley's markets which will continue to make a contribution to the local economy and bring visitors to the town centre.</p>	

*this equality strand is covered by the Public Sector Equality Duty in respect of which the s.149 requires only that due regard be paid to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment or victimisation or other conduct which is prohibited by the Act.

Integrated Impact Assessment Action Plan

If any further actions were identified through the Integrated Impact Assessment then these should be listed in the table below. These should be added to the relevant business/service plan to ensure that any actions are carried out.

Actions needed following Integrated Impact Assessment	Start Date	End Date	Lead Officer
All projects must complete individual Impact Assessments which should be reviewed as necessary to ensure any actions are being monitored and completed.	April 2021	April 2022	Senior Management Team