

## Budget 2021/22

### Conservative Group Statement

Firstly, thank you to the officers and staff for the work they have done throughout the past year for the residents of Chorley.

Thank you also to the doctors, nurses, wider partners, community groups and volunteers that have looked after our families and made it possible to roll out a successful testing and vaccination programme throughout the Chorley area.

As we are all aware, due to the pandemic we have found ourselves in very challenging times. I am sure none of us could have imagined when being elected to this Council we would have had to deal with anything on this scale.

As a Council along with an excellent team of officers, the Labour group have produced a very prudent budget for 2021/22. However, this has only been achieved with the funding from central government to support our Council, communities and businesses with furlough schemes and budget grants. The labour group budget clearly demonstrates the application of this funding, either specifically to deal with Covid-19 or to make up for lost income.

This Government funding includes:

- £2.1m non ring-fenced emergency fund
- £344k government support for fees and charges including lost income related to car parks, community centres, building control and other council income affected by the Covid-19 restrictions.
- £855k to extend council tax support to our residents
- £37.7m Business Grants including £25m paid upfront to the council to support businesses during the first lockdown
- £5.2m Getting Building Fund to deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure within the borough including development at Tatton
- £35k grant to support the council in adapting to changes caused by Brexit

As a group we have decided that, in view of these unprecedented times, our residents would want us all to work together and do our best to help everyone through these uncharted waters and put budget politics to one side. To this end we will not vote against the budget as presented and offer our help and support as quickly as possible to enable the recovery of our borough.

We look to the future which we hope will see us in a better place.