



Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Council	22 February 2022

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2022/23 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 2022/23 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

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	
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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 2022/23).

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. There are no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

13. There are no comments.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Author	Date
Sophie Tsang	09/02/2022

Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Chorley Council Budget Proposals 2022/23		
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the Council's budget 2022/23		
Who is it intended to benefit and how?	Chorley residents – by considering the impact of the budget proposals		
Officer responsible for completing the assessment	Sophie Tsang		
Date of Assessment	09/02/2022	Date of Review	09/02/2023

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 2022/23 budget response ran from the 24 January to the 6 February 2022. The consultation was publicised through a structured digital campaign including 9,628 emails delivered to residents signed up to receive communications via the My Account feature on the council website. The emails received 5,481 unique views (51.3%) and 637 link clicks (8.3%). Awareness was also raised through traditional media outlets and local networks. The formal consultation received 214 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. The Facebook post reached a total of 24,368 views, and received 20 responses.</p>				
What potential impact does this activity make to:							
	P	N	U	NI	Evidence		Further action required
<p>1. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different ages (Age)</p>	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"> • Investment in Tatton Gardens 		

					<p>Extra Care scheme will support older people in the area to access a local GP surgery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant funding of £200k to make improvements in other areas across the borough, supporting young people, health and well being and local areas. 	
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	
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
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"> • Investment of £2m into the leisure centres as a continued commitment to improve them. • Whittle Health Hub - £3.5m of investment to develop a new GP surgery which will be a high quality health facility for Whittle-Woods. • Continued funding to support vulnerable individuals through funding for the social prescribing team. 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve local play and community facilities across the borough with an investment of £2.7m and an additional £74k to deliver improvements at Milestone Meadow. • We will create £200k of grant funding to make improvements in other areas across the Borough, supporting our young people, health and wellbeing and local areas. 	
<p>2. Enabling residents to Start Well (pre-birth – 19) Possible issues to consider are;</p> <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 local play facilities across the borough Provision of funding to support vulnerable individuals through the social prescribing team, with over £100k of match funding from the NHS. 	
<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 	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to 'live well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment into Whittle Health Hub to develop a new GP surgery which will be a high- 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing avoidable deaths Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities 					<p>quality health facility for Whittle- Woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in Tatton Gardens Extra Care Scheme, with will help deliver another extra care scheme for the borough, a new community centre and surgery for the area. Continued commitment to improve our leisure centres. Investment into Strawberry Meadows to deliver light industrial units for business use to drive forward local economic growth. Investment to develop our approach to apprenticeships, graduate and training posts in areas of high market demand – building resilience and improving quality in our service provision and supporting people into high quality employment. Investment to deliver refreshed and refocussed package of support and grants for businesses to support economic development. 	
<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 	x				<p>The proposed investment will support residents to ‘Age Well’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital investment into the Tatton Gardens Extra Care Scheme, which will provide a 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing emergency admissions and direct admissions to residential care settings Supporting carers and families 					<p>new community centre and GP surgery for the area. These will help promote independence, reduce social isolation among older residents, and increase access to a local GP within the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment into Whittle Health Hub to develop a new GP surgery for Whittle-le-Woods. This will increase accessibility for older residents within the area, which will help with enabling older residents to access a local GP surgery. 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. 	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<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			The feedback from the consultation period has shown some concerns from residents regarding the increases in Council Tax (12.8%) and garden waste collection (31.6%) as well as the cost of living within the current economic climate (19.6%). Positive feedback considered the investments reflective of priorities, and appropriate for the current economic climate.	Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.
<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				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.	

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 • Protection of and improving access to the natural environment 	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 environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve play and open spaces across the borough 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<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"> • Investment in improving Astley Hall will provide greater access to cultural facilities • Continued commitment to improve leisure centres. • Continued investment in the support the delivery of affordable housing. • Continued investment to contribute to running of the Youth Zone including outreach work. • Additional investment to provide third sector support to residents. 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<p>4. A vibrant local economy in Chorley. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <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 partners 	x				<p>Several proposed schemes will have a positive impact on a vibrant local economy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to refresh the Check Out Chorley website, which will encourage and promote a range of events located in the borough. • Investment to develop our approach to apprenticeships, graduate and training posts in areas of high market demand – building resilience and improving quality in our service provision and supporting people into high quality employment. • Investment to deliver refreshed and refocussed package of support and grants for business to support economic development. <p>Delivery of large-scale development projects will also have a positive effect on the local economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment to deliver industrial units in Strawberry Meadows. • Tatton recreation ground development • Investment to develop a modern and high-quality 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					health facility at Whittle Health Hub	

*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 2022	April 2023	Senior Management Team