

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Special Council	28 February 2013

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF BUDGET PROPOSALS – 2013/14

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 2013/2014, 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

Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3. 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

4. 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
5. 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.
3. 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

4. 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 financial implications of the budget are set out in the main report and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

8. There are no comments.

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

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Sarah James	5779	01/02/13	Assessing the impact of the 2013/14 budget proposals

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 2013/2014.

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

Sarah James

Date of Assessment

01/02/2013

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. 451 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 effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
3. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
4. Equality of opportunity amongst able bodied customers and customers with a disability (Disability)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect 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 proposals that are targeted to young people such as the street games, free swimming, improvement of play areas, 16/17 year olds drop in scheme and joint employment initiative with Runshaw College. The active generation proposal is targeted at those above 50.	
6. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different sexual orientations (Sexual Orientation)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect 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 effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
8. Equality of opportunity amongst customers that live in different parts of Chorley (Rurality)	✓				The improvement to neighbourhood working proposal seeks to improve neighbourhood working across the neighbourhood areas, and in particular increases the number of areas from seven to eight to address issues with eastern parishes covering large rural and urban settlements. This will have a positive impact on people who live in different parts of Chorley.	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
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 	✓				<p>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on Chorley's environment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive clean up team • Neighbourhood working pot • Tree policy • Street furniture • Improving play areas
<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 	✓			✓	<p>The proposed scheme for joint employment initiative with Runshaw College will actively encourage the use of public transport as a way to get to work and have a positive impact on the prudent use 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 	✓				<p>A number of 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"> • Active generation • Community development support and volunteering project • 16/17 year olds drop in scheme • Free swimming • Improvements to play areas • Employee health scheme
<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 	✓				<p>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on a vibrant local economy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of key town centre sites

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
of local residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting local business by procuring goods and services locally Strengthening links with public, private and third sector partners 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inward investment pot Town centre master plan Support the expansion of local business Car park pay and display income reduction Joint employment initiative with Runshaw College

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 Improvements to play areas Free swimming Employee health scheme Campaigns and events
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 following all support a positive social environment for Chorley's residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16/17 year olds drop in scheme Active generation Community development support and volunteering project Campaigns and events Joint employment initiative with Runshaw College

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<p>3. Promoting a positive physical environment across Chorley. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living conditions • Working conditions • Accidental injuries or public safety • Transmission of infectious disease 	✓				<p>The proposed investment in the proactive clean up team, improvements to neighbourhood working, tree policy, extension and improvement of street furniture, purchase of key town centre sites, town centre master plan will all support a positive physical environment across Chorley.</p>

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
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 residents that we provide value for money • Informing and engaging with local residents • Building trust and confidence in Chorley Council • Reducing customer dissatisfaction with council services • Chorley Council's role as a community leader 	✓				<p>All of the proposals within the budget growth paper should have a positive impact on the Council's reputation.</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 				✓	<p>Overall, the Corporate Strategy will continue to be delivered through key projects and business improvement planning.</p> <p>The campaigns and events proposal will particularly help the council to consult and engage with residents.</p>

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 				✓	<p>Overall, the Community Strategy will continue to be delivered through the SCS Delivery Plans.</p>