

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Special Council	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2014

## ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2014/15 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 2014/2015, 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

- 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

- 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 a consideration of the various investment items that make up the overall final budget investment package. The final assessment is attached at Appendix A.

## RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

9. No recommendations have been made following impact assessment. 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

10. 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

11. The financial implications of the budget are set out in the main reports and in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

12. There are no comments.

## COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. 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
Victoria Willett	5248	01/02/14	Assessing the impact of the 2014/15 budget proposals

# Integrated Impact Assessment

<b>Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed</b>	Overall budget proposals
<b>What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?</b>	Makes proposals for the budget setting process for 2014/15
<b>Who is it intended to benefit and how?</b>	Chorley residents – by considering these budget growth options the Council will be better placed to invest in priorities and frontline services.
<b>Officer responsible for completing the assessment</b>	Victoria Willett
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	01/02/2014

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 using a combination of: online survey posted on the website; email survey sent to parish councils via intheboro; provision of paper surveys where appropriate and the use of social media. 282 residents responded to the consultation which asked residents about whether they supported the Council's budget principles and what areas/services require investment.		
<b>What potential impact does this activity make to:</b>					
	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 youth zone, free swimming, 16/17 year olds drop in scheme and also targeted at older people such as connecting communities through food to reduce social isolation.
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 continuation of neighbourhood working for 2014/15 will see the extension of neighbourhood activity, with all neighbourhood areas able to put forward priorities relevant to their local area and community, whether rural or urban. The work around connecting communities through food to reduce social isolation will also engage rural wards where individuals may be restricted in their ability to access services. The proposal linked to the play and open space strategy will support equality of access across all areas of the borough and promote Chorley's rural assets.
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Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<b>What potential impact does this activity make upon:</b>					
<p>(1) The effective protection of Chorley's environment. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limiting waste generation &amp; encouraging recycling</li> <li>• Limiting factors that contribute to climate change</li> <li>• Protection of and improving access to the natural environment</li> </ul>	✓				<p>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on Chorley's environment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood working</li> <li>• Britain in Bloom</li> <li>• Extension of street furniture</li> <li>• Play and Open Space Strategy</li> <li>• Astley Hall and Park development</li> </ul>
<p>(2) Prudent usage of natural resources. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limiting use of non-sustainable energy, water, minerals and materials</li> <li>• Reducing the need to travel and encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon modes of travel</li> </ul>	✓			✓	<p>The proposed scheme to develop a Chorley Council energy switching support scheme will actively support a reduction in fuel poverty and the more efficient use of resources in the home.</p>

<p>(3) Social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for education and information</li> <li>• Provision of appropriate and sustainable housing</li> <li>• Reduced fear of crime and community safety</li> <li>• Access to cultural and leisure facilities</li> <li>• Encouraging engagement and supporting volunteering</li> </ul>	✓				<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"> <li>• 16/17 year olds drop in scheme</li> <li>• Youth Zone</li> <li>• Chorley Council energy switching support scheme</li> <li>• Free swimming</li> <li>• Employee health scheme</li> <li>• Mediation service for anti-social behaviour disputes</li> <li>• Support for the food bank</li> </ul>
<p>(4) A vibrant local economy in Chorley. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting better quality jobs and developing the skills of local residents</li> <li>• Supporting local business by procuring goods and services locally</li> <li>• Strengthening links with public, private and third sector partners</li> </ul>	✓				<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"> <li>• Inward investment delivery</li> <li>• Campaigns and events</li> <li>• Town centre master plan</li> <li>• Support the expansion of local business</li> <li>• Town centre and Steeley Lane pilot action plans</li> <li>• Business start-up grants and loans</li> </ul>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<b>What potential impact does this activity make upon:</b>					
<p>1. Encouraging healthy lifestyles across Chorley's population. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diet and nutrition</li> <li>• Exercise and physical activity</li> <li>• Substance use: tobacco, alcohol and drugs</li> <li>• Risk taking behaviour</li> <li>• Education and learning, or skills</li> </ul>	✓				<p>The following schemes will have a positive effect on healthy lifestyles across Chorley's population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play and open space strategy</li> <li>• Free swimming</li> <li>• Employee health scheme</li> <li>• British cycling tour of Lancashire</li> </ul>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<p>2. Promoting a positive social environment for all of Chorley's residents. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social status</li> <li>• Employment (paid or unpaid)</li> <li>• Social/family support</li> <li>• Stress/Mental Health</li> <li>• Income</li> </ul>	✓				<p>The proposed investment in the following scheme all support a positive social environment for Chorley's residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16/17 year olds drop in scheme</li> <li>• Youth Zone</li> <li>• Mediation service for anti-social behaviour disputes</li> <li>• Support for the food bank</li> <li>• Connecting communities through food</li> </ul>
<p>3. Promoting a positive physical environment across Chorley. Possible issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living conditions</li> <li>• Working conditions</li> <li>• Accidental injuries or public safety</li> <li>• Transmission of infectious disease</li> </ul>	✓				<p>The proposed investment in neighbourhood working, extension and improvement of street furniture, Britain in Bloom, Play and Open Spaces Strategy and Town Centre Master Plan will all support a positive physical environment across Chorley.</p>

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<b>What potential impact does this activity make upon:</b>					
<p>1. Chorley Council's reputation. Possible issues to consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proving to residents that we provide value for money</li> <li>• Informing and engaging with local residents</li> <li>• Building trust and confidence in Chorley Council</li> <li>• Reducing customer dissatisfaction with council services</li> <li>• Chorley Council's role as a community leader</li> </ul>	✓				<p>All of the proposals within the budget growth paper should have a positive impact on the Council's reputation.</p>

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence
<p>2. Our ability to deliver the Corporate Strategy. Issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A council that consults and engages with residents</li> <li>▪ An ambitious council that continually strives to improve</li> </ul>				✓	<p>Overall, the Corporate Strategy will continue to be delivered through key projects and business improvement planning.</p> <p>The campaigns and promotions proposal will particularly help the council to consult and engage with residents.</p>
<p>3. Our ability to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. Issues to consider are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong Family Support</li> <li>• Education and Jobs</li> <li>• Being Healthy</li> <li>• Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Communities</li> <li>• Safe Respectful Communities</li> <li>• Quality Community Services and Spaces</li> <li>• Vibrant Local Economy</li> <li>• Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages</li> <li>• Sustainable Places and Transport</li> </ul>				✓	<p>Overall, the Community Strategy will continue to be delivered through the Sustainable Community Strategy and the work of the Chorley Partnership.</p>