

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Special Council	3 March 2015

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE 2015/16 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 2015/2016, 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

- 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. 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

4. No recommendations have been made following this impact assessment. However, in line with the Council's Equality Scheme, each of the projects, once approved and as more information about them is known should complete an Integrated Impact Assessment 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 reports and in 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 supports 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 during their decision making.

GARY HALL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Rebecca Huddleston	5779	16/02/15	Budget Equality Impact Assessment 2015

Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Overall 2015/16 budget proposals		
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the budget setting process for 2015/16		
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	Rebecca Huddleston		
Date of Assessment	16/02/2015	Date of Review	16/02/2015

Equality Impact Assessment	Yes	No	Evidence				Further action required
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. 607 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		Further action required
1. 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 the project to develop a business case for an extra care scheme including land assembly.		
2. Equality of opportunity amongst with or without a physical or mental disability (Disability)	✓				The proposed project for disabled and dementia online venue access guides will positively support		

					customers with a disability.	
3. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different gender backgrounds (Gender Reassignment)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
4. Equality of opportunity amongst customers who are pregnant or parents (Pregnancy and Maternity)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
5. 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.	
6. 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.	
7. Equality of opportunity amongst customers that live in different parts of Chorley (Rurality)	✓				A number of the proposals include elements which will positively support customers which live in rural areas of the borough. They include digital access and inclusion, development and delivery of community action plans, the delivery of neighbourhood priorities and delivery of CCTV provision.	
8. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex)				✓	No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.	
9. 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.	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						
<p>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</p>	✓				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes will help to promote healthier lifestyles for Chorley residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free swimming • Yarrow valley car park • Recreational pitch strategy 	
<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 	✓				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to ‘start well’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/17 young person’s drop in centre • Free swimming • Chorley council employment support fund with Runshaw College • Youth Zone 	
<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 	✓				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes al support residents to ‘live well’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital access and inclusion • Employee health scheme • Disabled and dementia online venue access guides • Provide a mediation services for ASB case resolution 	

<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 	✓				<p>The proposed investment will support residents to Age Well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a business case for extra care including land assembly. 	
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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 	✓				<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>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 • 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"> • Delivery of neighbourhood priorities • The development and delivery of community action plans. • Chorley flower show • North West in Bloom 	
<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>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 	✓				<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"> • Digital access and inclusion • Provide an accommodation finding 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>service for 'non priority' households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/17 year olds drop in scheme • Youth Zone • Free swimming • Employee health scheme • Mediation service for anti-social behaviour disputes • Delivery of CCTV provision 	
<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 	✓				<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"> • Progress key employment sites • Increase visitor numbers to Chorley • Support the expansion of local businesses • Investigate further opportunities to expand Chorley Markets. • Joint employment initiatives with Runshaw College • Deliver the Chorley Public Service Reform Board work plan 	

