

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Policy and Governance	Council	28 th February 2017

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2017/18 BUDGET PROPOSALS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Members with an assessment of the impact of the budget proposals on equality, health and sustainability.

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

1. 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 decision.
2. To meet this requirement in relation to the budget growth proposals 2017/2018, 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

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. An overall integrated impact assessment has been developed on the proposed budget. This includes consideration of the budget principles, proposed approach to achieving a balanced budget and areas for investment.

RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

4. Actions include monitoring the take up of financial assistance schemes and promoting access to sources of financial support as needed. 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 this report are contained in the main budget setting report within this document pack.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

8. There are no comments.

COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

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.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DIRECTOR POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Kate Cronin	5348	14/02/17	Budget Equality Impact Assessment 2017

Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Overall 2017/18 budget proposals	
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the budget setting process for 2017/18	
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	Kate Cronin/Vicky Willett	
Date of Assessment	12/02/2017	Date of Review 12/02/2018

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 2017/18 budget ran from the 20th January to the 10th February 2017 using a combination of online survey promoted via the council website; email survey to parish councils via intheboro; provision of paper based surveys where appropriate and social media.</p> <p>540 residents responded to the online consultation and posts to Facebook received a total 24,813 views and 85 comments. Equality monitoring demonstrated a response representative of the general Chorley population.</p> <p>Changes to the waste collection service were agreed at Full Council in January 17 and are the subject of a separate Integrated Impact Assessment</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 age groups that may otherwise be disadvantaged. This includes proposals that are targeted to young people such as delivery of the Chorley Youth Zone and the free swimming programme which allows young</p>	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.</p>

				<p>people to access free swimming sessions during school holidays. The Primrose Gardens Retirement Village will enhance residential care facilities for older people within the borough.</p> <p>Low income younger families and older people who may be less able to mitigate the impact of an increase in council tax will be able to access local provisions to assist anyone in need of support with paying their council tax through the local Council Tax Support Scheme for working age or similar arrangements (with some additional protections) for those of pension age. The Discretionary Hardship Policy also offers additional short term assistance.</p>	
2. Equality of opportunity amongst with or without a physical or mental disability (Disability)			x	<p>No investment proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.</p> <p>Those with a disability can apply for certain council tax exemptions and reliefs from the council, dependent on their individual circumstances.</p>	
3. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different gender backgrounds (Gender Reassignment)			x	<p>No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers because of these characteristics.</p>	

4. Equality of opportunity amongst customers who are pregnant or parents (Pregnancy and Maternity)				x	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)				x	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)				x	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)	x				A number of the proposals include elements which will positively support customers which live in rural areas of the borough. They include improving access to council services by making services more efficient – one element of this project will include the delivery of digital inclusion initiatives to enhance resident’s access to public services.	
8. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex)				x	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)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any customers 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 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>	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"> • Free swimming • Progress the delivery of the Westway integrated sport facility • Delivery of the enabling phase of the Integrated Community Wellbeing Service 	
<p>2. Enabling residents to Start Well (pre-birth – 19)</p> <p>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"> • Free swimming • Deliver the Skills Framework • Youth Zone • 16/17 young person’s drop in centre <p>Lower income households are more likely to be affected by a rise in council tax as they have less disposable income to reduce the impact; however assistance is available including through the local Council Tax Support Scheme and Discretionary Hardship Policy.</p>	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.</p>
<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 	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to ‘live well’:</p>	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<p>economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting mental wellbeing and healthy lifestyles Reducing avoidable deaths Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a project to get people ready for work Chorley Council events programme Deliver the skills framework Supporting the VCFS network Market Walk Development Business support and inward investment grants 	
<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 			x		<p>The proposed investment will support residents to 'Age Well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Primrose Gardens Retirement Village Deliver the Integrated Community Wellbeing Service Supporting the VCFS network <p>Lower income households may be less able to mitigate the impact of an increase in council tax; however assistance is available through council tax support with additional provisions to protect those of pension age.</p>	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
What potential impact does this activity make upon:						
1. Chorley Council's reputation. Possible issues to consider are;				x	Balanced feedback was received through consultation. The proposed	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<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>increase in council tax is needed to help address the budget deficit, avoid cuts to frontline services and enable investment in priorities. It is also in line with central government assumptions to reduce the impact of grant reductions. Chorley continues to have one of the lowest precepts in Lancashire.</p> <p>Comprehensive and transparent communications will be provided to residents including the 17/18 council tax booklet posted to all residents.</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 	x				<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 	x				<p>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on Chorley's environment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-shaping the waste collection service (further detail can be found in the separate re-shaping the 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					waste collection service (IIA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the look and feel of neighbourhoods across the borough • Develop activity to promote Chorley as a visitor destination including the Chorley Flower Show • North West in bloom 	
2. Prudent usage of natural resources. Possible issues to consider are; <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	No proposals should have a differential effect on the prudent usage of natural resources.	
3. Social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. Possible issues to consider are; <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				A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on social progress amongst all of Chorley's communities. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for PCSO's • Supporting the VCFS network • Delivery of the skills framework • Delivery of the Chorley Futures project • Delivery of the Youth Zone, Market Walk and Westway projects – which will see large scale 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					improvements and new facilities in and around the town centre	
<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>A number of proposed schemes will have a positive impact on a vibrant local economy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Market Walk • Delivering street level improvements to the town centre • Chorley Works • Delivering the skills framework • Delivery of retail improvement grants • Business Support and inward investment • Delivery of economic opportunities at Botany • Developing Chorley as a visitor destination including the Chorley Flower Show 	

*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
Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.	April 2017	April 2018	Asim Khan/Rebecca Huddleston