

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Policy and Governance	Council	27 th February 2018

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2018/19 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 2018/19, 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

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	✓

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, additional one off investment items and the capital programme (specifically 2018/19).

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. The financial implications of this report are contained in the main budget setting report within this document pack.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

13. There are no comments.

COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

14. 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.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Kate Howcroft	5061	15/02/18	Budget Equality Impact Assessment 2018

Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Chorley Council budget proposals 2018/19		
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the Council's budget 2018/19		
Who is it intended to benefit and how?	Chorley residents – by considering the impact of the budget proposals		
Officer responsible for completing the assessment	Kate Howcroft		
Date of Assessment	12/02/18	Date of Review	12/02/19

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 2018/19 budget ran from the 19th January to the 9th February 2018 using a combination of online survey promoted via the council website; email survey via intheboro; provision of paper based surveys available via the customer contact centre, promotion in newspaper articles and on social media.</p> <p>780 residents responded to the online consultation and posts to Facebook received a total of 22,400 views and 292 comments. The following distribution of viewpoints has been found from the online survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive view of the proposals – 44% • Negative view of the proposals – 36% • Neutral view point – 14% <p>(N/A- 6%)</p> <p>The majority of negative comments received during the consultation related to the proposed council tax increase (29.03%). Of the positive comments received, 47.06% demonstrated general support for the budget proposals.</p>	

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)			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 at young people such the 16/17 young person's drop in centre which will extend the current drop in service for young people at risk of homelessness, providing mediation and support with the aim of keeping young people at home as part of early intervention and prevention.</p> <p>Continued investment in the Primrose Gardens Retirement Village will enhance residential care facilities for older people within the borough.</p> <p>The proposal to increase council tax by 2.99% may have an impact on low income younger families and older people. However, these groups will able to access local provisions to assist anyone in need of support with paying their council tax. This may be through the local Council Tax</p>	Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.

					Support Scheme for those of working age or similar arrangements with some additional protections for those of pension age. The Discretionary Hardship Policy also offers additional short term assistance in specific circumstances.	
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>Investment is proposed into Disabled online venue access guides which are run by Disabled Go. The guides provide information on the accessibility of places across the borough.</p> <p>Those with a disability can apply for certain council tax exemptions and reliefs from the council, dependent on their individual circumstances.</p>	Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.
3. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different gender backgrounds (Gender Reassignment)				x	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)				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				<p>There are a number of 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 • Neighbourhood preferred projects will deliver community projects across the whole borough including rural areas • Digital inclusion Officer who will deliver sessions to enhance access to public services and ensure all residents can 	

					take an active part in their community	
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:						
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"> • Westway integrated sport facility • Play, recreation and open space projects and Astley 2020 • Support to food provision schemes – which will provide 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need.</p>	
<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"> • 16/17 young person's drop in centre which will see the current drop in service for young people at risk of homelessness extended • Employability support programme which will provide funding to support individuals with multiple barriers to access employment. • Play, recreation and open space projects, delivering improvements to play areas and open spaces in the borough • Support to food provision schemes – which will provide a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance 	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.</p>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>to those most in need.</p> <p>However, lower income households and families may be more likely to be affected by a rise in council tax as they have less disposable income to reduce the impact; assistance is available including through the local Council Tax Support Scheme and Discretionary Hardship Policy in particular circumstances.</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 economic development • Promoting mental wellbeing and healthy lifestyles • Reducing avoidable deaths • Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities 	x				<p>The proposed investment in the following schemes all support residents to ‘live well’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorley works, which will deliver employment related interventions for local residents and form part of a wider wellbeing support offer • Crime reduction and social disorder prevention fund – The council is proposing to commit £110k per annum towards community safety measures to ensure that we continue to deliver against our priority of clean, safe and healthy communities in light of reduced government 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>funding for the Police and reported increases in crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorley Council events programme, although seeing a proposed reduced budget for 2018/19, will still see the delivery of numerous events in the borough for the benefit of local residents, supporting the local economy by raising the profile of Chorley • Support for the third sector- the funding will support the development of the third sector in Chorley • Investing in the Market Walk Development and Digital Office Park, enhancing local provision and supporting the local economy • Digital inclusion officer , ensuring that residents can access high quality services and take an active part in their community • Ongoing fund to maintain services previously delivered 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>by LCC- this includes the provision of key bus routes in the borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced homelessness service, supporting homelessness prevention in Chorley • Supporting Community development and volunteering (SPICE) through Time Credits • Continued delivery of home adaptations to enable Chorley residents to continue independent living 	
<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"> • Continued investment in the Primrose Gardens Retirement Village • Digital inclusion officer – insuring residents are digitally included and can play an active part in their community • Supporting Community 	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.</p>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>development and volunteering (SPICE) through Time Credits</p> <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:						
<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	<p>Balanced feedback was received through the 2018/19 consultation with 44% having a positive view of the proposals, 36% having a negative view and 14% a neutral point of view (6% n/a).</p> <p>The proposed increase in council tax is needed to help address the budget deficit. An increase, together with further savings options, will not only help towards the budget deficit but can also be used to invest in projects that support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.</p>	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>The proposed increase is also in line with central government assumptions to reduce the impact of grant reductions. It is important to note that through freezing or reducing council tax in previous years, Chorley Council has one of the lowest precepts (excluding Parish precepts) in Lancashire.</p> <p>Comprehensive and transparent communications will be provided to residents following approval of the 2018/19 budget to ensure all residents remain informed.</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"> • In Bloom, which will provide enhanced Streetscene provision across Chorley and support the work of the Chorley in Bloom group • Delivery of neighbourhood preferred projects, which will see the continuation of neighbourhood working principles across the eight neighbourhood areas in Chorley. 	
<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>Large developments will be built to specific sustainability standards where appropriate. For example, the Market Walk development (shell only) will</p>	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					be built to BREEAM standards, the scheme includes cycle racks to encourage cycling into the town centre.	
<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>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"> • Community development and volunteering (SPICE) • Employability support programme • Chorley Works • Enhanced homelessness service • Crime reduction and 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					social disorder prevention fund and mediation services for anti-social behaviour	
<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"> • Chorley Council events programme – supporting the local economy by encouraging people to visit and spend in Chorley • Employability support programme – to support people with multiple barriers into work • Support for the third sector- the funding will support the development of the third sector in Chorley <p>Delivery of large scale development projects will also have a positive effect on the local economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Walk 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					extension and public realm works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Office Park 	

*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 2018	April 2019	Asim Khan/Helen Sutton
All projects must complete individual Impact Assessments which should be reviewed as necessary to ensure any actions are being monitored and completed.	April 2018	April 2019	Senior Management Team