

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Policy and Governance	Council	26 February 2019

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF 2019/20 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 2019/20, 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, previously one off investment items, core funding grants and the capital programme (specifically 2019/20).

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. No comment

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
Rebecca Aziz-Brook	5348	11.02.19	Budget Equality Impact Assessment 2019

Integrated Impact Assessment

Name of the service, policy, strategy or project being assessed	Chorley Council budget proposals 2019/20		
What does the service, policy, strategy or project do?	Makes proposals for the Council's budget 2019/20		
Who is it intended to benefit and how?	Chorley residents – by considering the impact of the budget proposals		
Officer responsible for completing the assessment	Rebecca Aziz-Brook		
Date of Assessment	11/02/2019	Date of Review	12/02/2019

Equality Impact Assessment	Yes	No	Evidence	Further action required
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<p>1. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that this particular activity will create problems which are specific to them?</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Consultation on the 2019/20 budget ran from the 21st January to the 10th February 2019 using a combination of online survey promoted via the council website; email survey via intheboro; provision of paper based surveys available on request via the customer contact centre, promotion in newspaper articles and on social media.</p> <p>476 residents responded to the online consultation and posts to Facebook received a total of 27,019 views and 476 qualitative responses. The following distribution of viewpoints has been found from the online survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive view of the proposals – 43.70% • Negative view of the proposals – 39.71% • Neutral view point – 11.97% • (N/A- 4.62%) <p>Of the positive comments received, 62.8% demonstrated general support for the budget proposals. The majority of negative comments received during the consultation related to the proposed council tax increase (27.51%).</p>	
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What potential impact does this activity make to:

	<p>P</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>U</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Further action required</p>
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<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 different age groups. These include:</p> <p>There is continued investment in Primrose Gardens Retirement Village which will provide purpose built accommodation for residents aged 55 and above and improve the care facilities for older people in Chorley.</p> <p>There is continued provision for the 16/17 young person's drop in centre which provides support for young people that are at risk of homelessness, provide mediation and aim of keeping young people at home.</p> <p>There is continued provision of grant funding for the volunteering provision to support older people which supports older people through a variety of activities and access to information and support.</p> <p>The continued support towards to the Youth Zone will continue to deliver high quality, diversionary and wellbeing activities for young people.</p>	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to sources of financial support as needed.</p>
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					<p>The proposal to increase council tax by 2.99% may have an impact on younger families and older people as they may be less able to mitigate the impact of this change. These groups will be 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 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.</p>	
2. Equality of opportunity amongst with or without a physical or mental disability (Disability)				x	<p>For the changes to council tax, those with a disability can apply for certain council tax exemptions and reliefs from the council, dependent on their individual circumstances.</p>	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.</p>
3. Equality of opportunity amongst customers of different gender backgrounds (Gender Reassignment)				x	<p>No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.</p>	
4. Equality of opportunity amongst customers who are pregnant or parents (Pregnancy and Maternity)				x	<p>No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents because of these characteristics.</p>	

5. Equality of opportunity amongst customer groups of different racial backgrounds (Race)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents 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 residents because of these characteristics.	
7. Equality of opportunity amongst customers that live in different parts of Chorley (Rurality)	x				<p>There are several 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 more sessions within rural areas 	

8. Equality of opportunity amongst male and female customers (Sex)				x	No proposals should have a differential effect on any residents 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 residents 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 residents 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> <p>All of the following will improve the sporting offer in Chorley increasing access to good quality sport and recreational spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the playing pitches in the borough • Improvements to Astley Park • WestWay playing fields 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					The support to food provision schemes will provide a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need.	
<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 • The continued support towards to the Youth Zone will continue to deliver high quality, diversionary and wellbeing activities for young people. • Improvements to playing pitches, Astley Park and WestWay. • 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 to those most in need. 	Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.
3. Enabling residents to Live well (16 -75 years)	x				The proposed investment in the	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<p>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>following schemes all support residents to 'live well':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorley Council events programme will 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 by LCC - this includes the provision of key bus routes in the borough • Enhanced homelessness 	

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>service, supporting homelessness prevention in Chorley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Community development and volunteering (SPICE) through Time Credits The support to food provision schemes will provide a contribution to the food bank in Chorley to provide food parcels, nutritious meals and other related assistance to those most in need Accommodation finding service which aids the housing options team find accommodation for those in need 	
<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"> Digital inclusion officer – ensuring residents are digitally included and can play an active part in their community Supporting Community development and volunteering (SPICE) through Time Credits Continued investment in the 	<p>Monitor take up of financial assistance schemes and promote access to financial support as needed.</p>

Health Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>Primrose Gardens Retirement Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of grant funding to volunteering provision for older people <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>The feedback following the budget consultation has demonstrated that of the positive comments received, 62.8% demonstrated general support for the budget proposals. The majority of negative comments received during the consultation related to the proposed council tax increase (27.51%) rather than PCSO's.</p> <p>The proposed increase in council tax is needed to help address the</p>	

Reputational Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					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>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				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.	

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 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					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 be built to BREEAM standards, the scheme includes cycle racks to encourage cycling into the town centre.</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 	x				<p>Several 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"> • Delivery of a Housing Company • Accommodation finding service which 	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
					<p>aids the housing options team find accommodation for those in need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant provision for the community safety support services • Community development and volunteering (SPICE) • Enhanced homelessness service <p>The budget for the arts and employment service has been removed as an investment, however this service will continue to be delivered through the Youth Zone. The budget for the antisocial mediation service has been removed as an investment, however this service continue to be delivered and will be funded through existing reserves. Therefore, neither of these will have a negative impact.</p>	

Sustainability Impact Assessment	P	N	U	NI	Evidence	Further action required
<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>Several 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 • 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 extension and public realm works • Digital Office Park • Bring forward key sites for development <p>The budget for the Employability Support Programme (to support people with multiple barriers into work) will continue to be delivered through business as usual.</p>	

*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 2019	April 2020	Asim Khan
All projects must complete individual Impact Assessments which should be reviewed as necessary to ensure any actions are being monitored and completed.	April 2019	April 2020	Senior Management Team
Further options for enabling residents to access disabled access guides via the Council will be explored.	April 2019	April 2020	Performance and Partnerships