

Supplementary Paper - CABINET
29th June 2021

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: North Hertfordshire Community Lottery – New Policies

REPORT OF: Commercial Manager and Service Director - Commercial

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENTERPRISE, THE ARTS AND TRANSPORT

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny discussed the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery and the proposed new policies at its meeting 22 June 2021. The following were recommended to Cabinet: -

- (1) That the age limit for playing the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery should be raised from 16 to 18, should legislation allow;
- (2) That consideration be given to putting a policy in place which would limit any one person to buying no more than £10 worth of tickets per week;
- (3) That the concerns and issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in the minutes of the Committee held on 22 June 2021, be taken into account when making its final decision on adopting these policies and the lottery.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the report entitled North Hertfordshire Community Lottery – New Policies prior to consideration by Cabinet.

1.2 This paper will cover the points that Overview and Scrutiny have recommended and research that officers have undertaken following this committee.

2. Recommendation 1 - MINIMUM AGE LIMIT

2.1 Officers have spoken to Gatherwell (appointed External Lottery Manager) and can confirm that we are unable to increase the minimum age to purchase a ticket from 16 to 18 years as all transactions are undertaken on one system. Therefore, if they were to increase the age for North Herts, they would have to do this for all Councils.

2.2 Officers have researched to see what age limit other lotteries have. The National Lottery has announced that they will be increasing the minimum age from 16 to 18 as of October 2021. The Postcode Lottery, The Health Lottery and Macmillan Lottery have a minimum age of 18 years.

- 2.3 There is currently a review underway of the entire Gambling Legislation, of which this is likely to be included. Therefore, the age limit could be increased as part of this.

3. Recommendation 2 - LIMIT WEEKLY SPEND

- 3.1 Gatherwell have confirmed that there is no weekly limit, part of the reason for this is because they have many syndicates, however, the maximum number of tickets that can be purchase in one transaction is 20. Set out below are the systems that are in place to ensure that players cannot gamble in excess (extracted from the 'Social Responsibility in Gambling Policy' points 2 and 5): -

Limits are in place to ensure individuals cannot buy excessive numbers of tickets;

This therefore restricts the capability for individuals to gamble beyond their means or gamble what they cannot afford.

These limits will be monitored to see how many players reach them and may be reduced correspondingly if required.

These limits are clearly highlighted at the point of purchase online.

The system data provides facilities to track major changes in the lottery participation. Any significant outliers in the numbers of tickets will be investigated as part of ongoing assessments on the correct levels for ticket participation.

- 3.2 Gatherwell have confirmed that they have not experienced any issues with players using a Community Lottery as a tool to gamble as of yet. They can set a weekly limit if requested, however, feel this is not required based on the systems they have in place to monitor such use. Gatherwell also confirmed that of the 80+ Council Community Lotteries they operate, none have asked for a limit to be set.
- 3.3 Whilst considering this, officers have noted that setting the limit itself could be a challenge. For example, £10 (the suggested limit at present) to one player could be a large amount of money, whilst to another player this may not be the case. Therefore, setting a limit is not equitable.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOTTERY

- 4.1 The community lottery was approved by Cabinet at its meeting in December 2020, the report clearly set out the purpose for the lottery, which is provided below;

'The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council to introduce a Community Lottery that will generate additional revenue in support of, and to help good causes within the District.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups such as local charities, community groups, sports clubs and schools will have the opportunity to financially benefit from this project, via funds raised through online lottery ticket sales.'

- 4.2 This is not a commercial project; this is a community project that is being led by the Commercial Team which will enable VCS groups in assisting them to raise money to support their organisation.
- 4.3 The Council will work alongside the VCS groups and good causes whom sign up to the North Herts Community Lottery to ensure that positive advertising is put in place to promote the lottery as an opportunity to support local groups rather than a gambling opportunity. The Council will also ensure these groups understand the clear purpose of the lottery itself and that they are made clear of the policies and procedures set out inclusive of gambling and safeguarding. Gatherwell will also be working with the groups regarding set up, marketing and managing the process. Therefore, the gambling prevention messaging will also be reminded and monitored at this stage too.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 5.1 Steve Crowley, Service Director – Commercial, (steve.crowley@north-herts.gov.uk / ext 4211)
- 5.2 Jess Wallis, Commercial Team Leader, (jess.wallis@north-herts.gov.uk)
- 5.3 Chloe Gray, Commercial Manager, (chloe.gray@north-herts.gov.uk / ext 4223)