

# CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

## REPORT TO CABINET

6 AUGUST 2019

### Northumberland Lottery

Councillor Oliver introduced the report to the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC on 8 July.

Detailed discussion then took place (for which Cabinet is requested to consider/ note) during which the key details of questions from members and answers from officers were as follows:

- whereas the National Lottery could only pay out amounts totalling up to what was paid into it, this lottery guaranteed a £25,000 sum for six winning numbers
- numbers on winning tickets had to be in a consecutive order
- 10p per ticket sale was received by the Council, and once overheads were covered the excess would go into the Community Chest fund; the lottery would run alongside the Community Chest
- the criteria for charitable organisations to sign up had not been finalised yet but they had to be a community group based in Northumberland, not an individual, and to have a constitution and bank account
- there was no time limit for charities to apply to and remain on the approved list of eligible organisations. However this could be kept under review and this committee perhaps receive an annual report about the lottery
- other local authorities who used this lottery format had reported that community groups had positively engaged and felt it was a very good way to generate income. Northumberland could learn from their experiences
- if some small charitable organisations/causes did not have a constitution, they could be signposted to seek support from Northumberland CVA
- Gatherwell sent payments by cheque to winners. The £25,000 full prize had been won 18 times between the 80 local authorities who ran a lottery scheme. The odds of winning either £25,000, £2,000 or £250 were provided on the website
- a member expressed concern about the service possibly encouraging gambling, although another added that raffle tickets operated on the same principle. It was added the limit of spending £20 in one go did not exist elsewhere. The proposal was unlikely to contribute to the negative aspects of gambling. Individual members did not have to promote the lottery, but it was as a means for members to engage with their local communities. Officers had fully considered such concerns about gambling whilst developing the proposal and assess how other participating local authorities overcame any challenges. The Head of Procurement Shared Services had drafted robust policies and regular reports would be provided on the project's progress
- other local authorities had reported positively on their lotteries. An annual fee was required to contribute towards helping people with gambling

- problems
- Gatherwell had been in operation since 2015 and had won a number of awards; further details about the organisation would be circulated to members after this meeting, following a recent article in the MJ
  - regarding whether some parents might feel pressured to spend on this lottery whilst also facing financial pressures, as these tickets had to be purchased online it was more private and less pressured than being asked to buy tickets face to face. Tickets could be purchased anonymously. It would help many community and voluntary organisations with costs faced and generate an income stream which had no restriction on what it could be spent on.

Members agreed to support the report going forward to the Cabinet meeting on 6 August.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet be advised that the committee supports the recommendations in the report, including a preference for calling it the 'Northumberland Lottery'

**COUNCILLOR DAVID BAWN**

**CHAIRMAN**