

Presentation — Surrey Heath Community Lottery

Portfolio	Support and Safeguarding
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To receive a presentation from Jayne Boitoult relating to the new Community Lottery Scheme initiative.

1. Background Information

This Council provides significant grants and support to voluntary and community organisations in the Borough, in the form of Council Revenue and Community Fund Grant Schemes, that for the year 2018/19 awarded circa £200,000 (including £41,000 of benefits in kind).

The Council budgets are fixed, and there are ever growing demands to meet the local needs, with the aim to introducing a new income stream for community organisations the Council Executive resolved to introduce the Surrey Heath Community Lottery from the 13th July 2019 and a new Annual Community Lottery Award Scheme from July 2020 at its meeting on the 18th October 2018. The full agenda item is available as a background document for information.

2. How does this work?

A local lottery for Surrey Heath can provide a new form of income to our local voluntary and community (not for profit) organisations that can complement our own grant funding arrangements. This initiative can provide the players of the lottery the opportunity to support their chosen charity at the same time as a chance of winning up to £25,000, per week (the odds are 1,000,000 to 1).

The Council obtained its lottery license from the Gambling Commission in March 2019, and will be operated with the assistance of an external lottery manager. Gatherwell Ltd is the preferred operator of the majority of the 50 plus established local authority lotteries and has won the prestigious 'lottery operator of the year 2019'. It has built a proven track record of working with Councils to deliver low cost lotteries and has provided the flexibility to tailor a scheme to Surrey Heath's requirements.

The weekly on line electronic lottery is drawn every Saturday at 8pm, each ticket costs £1 per week and consists of 6 numbers; players can choose numbers or pick a lucky dip. Each player can chose to support a specific local good cause which will provide them with 50p of the £1 proceeds. Players can pay by direct debit or payment card; either a monthly recurring payment or a 1/3/6/12 month payment upfront.

From the cost of the £1 ticket, a total of 60% supports good causes, which is split 50% to the individual cause selling the ticket and 10% to the community fund. With 20% of all ticket sales used in prize money to the supporters, and the remaining 20% is retained by the external lottery manager, in this case Gatherwell which covers the costs of all banking and transaction fees, running the website, players support and marketing etc of which 3% of this is VAT which the Council can re-coup.

The Council are required to select a nominated fund ourselves, as if the supporter does not select a specific local good cause the whole 60% of each will be received, otherwise, it will receive 10% of each ticket sale, with the remaining 50% going to the nominated local good cause.

The Council hosted a local good cause launch on the 21st May, 2019 where some 40 organisations attended to find out how they could benefit from this scheme, and so far the vast majority have signed up to support this initiative.

The website will go live on 11th June with tickets being available for sale, and the first draw on Saturday 13th July, 2019 www.surreyheathlottery.co.uk

The top prize is £25,000 second prize £2,000 then £250, £25 and 3 free tickets. The odds of winning a prize are 1 in 50.

3. Funding Distribution

The proceeds from the lottery ticket sales can be paid to each of the local good causes monthly if selected.

The Council are required to select a nominated fund ourselves, as if selected by players this will receive the whole 60% of each ticket sale, otherwise, it will receive 10% of each ticket sale, with the remaining 50% going to the nominated local good cause.

The funds will be accumulated over the year with the first awards from this newly formed 'Surrey Heath Annual Lottery Award' will be made in July 2020 and applications invited from all local not for profit organisations which will be subject to a criteria, to be based along existing templates used by the Council.

This scheme will be operated and managed alongside the existing Council grant schemes and will be administered by the Council's Community Development Officer.

4. Summary

The members of the External Select Partnership Committee are asked to note this initiative and to help promote to organisations and contacts.

Background Papers: Lottery Executive Agenda Item- 18th October 2018

Author: Jayne Boitault 01276 707464
e-mail: jayne.boitault@surreyheath.gov.uk

Service Head: Louise Livingston Executive Head of Transformation