

# Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission Report

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Executive Response to the Neighbourhood Services  
Scrutiny Commission findings into 'The Viability and  
Appropriateness of a Community Lottery'

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Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Lead Director: Colin Sharpe

Lead member: Cllr Kirk Master

Wards Affected: All wards

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Report version number: 1

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an Executive response to the recommendation made by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission following a review of the viability and appropriateness of a community lottery.

## **2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission undertook a review of the viability and appropriateness of a community lottery in 2019/20. The final report as presented to this Commission and the Overview Select Committee is detailed at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The review made a single recommendation, that the setting up of a local lottery in Leicester should not be pursued at this point. This report provides a formal response by the Executive.
- 2.3 The Executive welcomed the report completed by the Commission and the opportunity to comment on the recommendation.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission is recommended to:
  - a) Note the content of this report and provide any comment/feedback.

#### **4. Report**

- 4.1 The report reviewing the viability and appropriateness of a community lottery was undertaken in 2019/20 by a task force on the Commission's behalf. The community lottery had been a manifesto commitment in the context of supporting the voluntary sector with a new five-year strategy and local lottery.
- 4.2 This detailed review recommended that on balance a local lottery should not be pursued at this point.
- 4.3 The review was presented to this Commission in September 2020 and to the Overview Select Committee in December 2020.
- 4.4 In line with the review findings, the OSC considered that a lottery would have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable individuals, households and communities in Leicester; and would not be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Council's developing Anti-Poverty strategy. OSC agreed that the recommendation not to pursue a Community Lottery be endorsed.
- 4.5 The report was considered by the Executive in February 2021. The Commission was thanked for its review and its recommendations. The Executive welcomed and supported the clear and well thought through findings and conclusions. The impact of gambling on individuals and communities within Leicester, and the work of the Anti-Poverty Strategy currently being developed in the context of the City having some of the most deprived communities in the country, was noted.
- 4.6 The Committee may wish to note that separate work is underway on the development of a VCS strategy.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

Whilst the proceeds of a lottery could have supported the voluntary sector if sufficient income had been generated, the review concluded there would be a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable people in the city.

More detailed implications of implementing a lottery were included in the review report.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, ext. 37 4081

**6. Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from not proceeding with a lottery.

Emma Jackman, Head of Law (Commercial, Property & Planning),  
Leicester City Council

**7. Equalities Implications**

The report provides a response in relation to the recommendation, that the setting up of a local lottery in Leicester should not be pursued at this point. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the report.

Detailed implications of proceeding were provided in the review report which considered that a lottery would have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable individuals, households and communities in Leicester.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148

**8. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix 1 – The Commission’s report following a review of the viability and appropriateness of a community lottery

**9. Is this a private report (if so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

No