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Committee agrees to setting up a lottery

Last night's Resources Committee agreed to the setting up of a lottery to help create a sustainable source of funding for local voluntary and community groups. This could reduce pressure on the Council's grants budget, while continuing to support local good causes and helping them to raise income.

A number of other councils, including Aylesbury Vale, Torbay, Portsmouth, Mendip and Melton have already set up lotteries, with many others considering doing so.

The lottery would operate online, with tickets costing £1. There would be a weekly draw and a top prize of £25,000. Proceeds would go both to specific good causes and a fund for the Council to distribute in the form of grants to the voluntary sector.

Good causes (local charities and groups) could apply to join the lottery and would keep 50% of the ticket price of any tickets bought through them, with the rest going towards prizes, costs and into the grants fund. The local lottery would create a revenue stream for registered voluntary groups and provide them with another way to raise funds.

The lottery would be run by the Council through Gatherwell, a lottery management company, which would deal with the day to day operations.

Kathy O'Leary, Chief Operating Officer, said: "Part of our planned approach to bridging the gap created by reduced funding is to look for innovative ways to generate income and to maintain services. A lottery, once well established, has the potential to provide another funding stream for us to use to give grants, while also supporting local good causes to become more financially sustainable."

"Ends"

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