

Initial Equalities Impact Assessment screening form

1. Within the aims and objectives of the policy or strategy which group (s) of people has been identified as being potentially disadvantaged by your proposals? What are the equality impacts?

There is potentially a concern that running a Lottery could be seen as an endorsement of gambling by the City Council and that this could increase the incidence of problem gambling. A Theos report in 2009 showed that 67% of lottery players come from poorer communities. This raises two issues, one is that a disproportionate of funding raised for good causes would come from poorer communities. The second is that any potential additional risk of additional problem gambling, would also fall disproportionately on lower income groups. In relation to the first issue, it should be noted that there are already a number of lotteries operating in Oxford. On a national basis 41.8% of all gambling activity is undertaken through participation in lotteries, with the National Lottery being responsible for the majority of this figure. In Oxford there is also the opportunity to take part in the Health Lottery, Postcode Lottery, Sobell House Lottery and Thames Valley Air Ambulance lottery. In this context a Council Lottery would just be adding to a range of opportunities for participation in this activity.

In relation to the second point, data collected from the Gambling Commission shows that problem gambling in 2015 represented 0.5% of all people who engaged in gambling activity. Most of these (more than 0.9% were male. The Gambling Commission data shows that just 0.7% of male problem gamblers use lotteries and scratchcards. As such there is little evidence to link the playing of lotteries to the development of problem gambling. This view is supported by the Culture, Media & Sport Committee's 2015 enquiry into the use of Society lotteries which identified this form of gambling as "separate and distinct from other gambling products".

2. In brief, what changes are you planning to make to your current or proposed new or changed policy, strategy, procedure, project or service to minimise or eliminate the adverse equality impacts?

Please provide further details of the proposed actions, timetable for making the changes and the person(s) responsible for making the changes on the resultant action plan

In relation to the concern that a lottery would be disproportionately played by people on lower incomes, it is proposed that the approval process for signing up good causes is undertaken by the Council's Community Services Team.

This will ensure that an appropriate proportion of good causes are benefitting the communities that are funding the lottery.
In order to mitigate against the risk of problem gambling, it is proposed that the Council would adopt a problem gambling policy in advance of launching the lottery.

3. Please provide details of whom you will consult on the proposed changes and if you do not plan to consult, please provide the rationale behind that decision.

Please note that you are required to involve disabled people in decisions that impact on them

The establishment of a lottery does not impact on any statutory services that the Council delivers. All residents of Oxford will be able to choose whether they wish to participate in the lottery. As such there is no requirement to consult on the proposal.

4. Can the adverse impacts you identified during the initial screening be justified without making any adjustments to the existing or new policy, strategy, procedure, project or service?

Please set out the basis on which you justify making no adjustments

Adjustments have been proposed to the establishment of a lottery, please see above for details.

5. You are legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts.

Please provide details of how you will monitor/evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place

The impact of a lottery will be monitored by use of a customer survey carried out within the first year of operation.

Lead officer responsible for signing off the EqIA: Paul Wilding

Role: Revenues & Benefits Programme Manager

Date: 3 November 2016