

Somerset West Lottery

In December 2016, both West Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough Councils agreed to a joint Local Authority Lottery for West Somerset and Taunton Deane. On the 11th January 2017 two lottery applications (one for each authority) were made to the Gambling Commission. They will take 16 weeks to process the applications.

The aim will be to have a Somerset West Lottery which is a weekly online lottery that raises money for good causes in West Somerset and Taunton Deane. All West Somerset good causes supported by the lottery will benefit West Somerset and its residents and likewise for Taunton Deane.

Supporting Local Good Causes

The Somerset West Lottery provides the opportunity to create a new income stream for local voluntary and community organisations, enabling them to continue or develop new services which assist our residents with their needs. For example, Home-Start Aylesbury is one of the good causes taking part in the Vale Lottery in Aylesbury. It is already earning an annual income of over £500, through tickets sales. They have found this income very useful for such a small organisation as it does not require hours of application form filling for funding and undergoing lengthy bidding processes.

The Councils will be enablers for the Somerset West Lottery and use the services of the External Lottery Manager (ELM), Gatherwell to run the lottery. The Councils would not take any of the proceeds for themselves. The costs of running the lottery would be met from the sales and be taken directly by the ELM.

From every £1 lottery ticket sold 60% will go to good causes in West Somerset and Taunton Deane! To put this in perspective when playing the National Lottery, 28% goes to good causes. Players can choose which good cause gets 50p of the 60p (the remaining 10p will be distributed to other good causes via a Community Fund managed by the Councils).

Date for your dairy

Providing the Gambling Commission approves our applications, we are aiming to launch the 'Somerset West Lottery' to good causes on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at two locations:

Morning (time tbc) - West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, TA4 4QA
Evening (time tbc) – Albermarle Centre, Albermarle Road, Taunton

These launch events will be open to any good cause from West Somerset or Taunton Deane, this includes sports clubs, community groups and charities. It will be an opportunity to come and find out how it will work and decide if it is a suitable fundraising opportunity for local voluntary and community organisations. There will be no charge for local organisations to sign up as a good cause.

Public Launch

We are aiming for the public launch will take place in June 2017, when lottery tickets will be available online via the Somerset West Lottery web site for the public to purchase.

Playing the lottery will be easy. Tickets for the lottery will cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than other lotteries!

Each ticket will consist of 6 numbers and each number will be between 0 and 9. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2-6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all 6, in the correct order and you win the Jackpot!

Next steps include approval from the Gambling Commission, construction of the web site, agreeing relevant procedures, producing a list of all VCS organisations who would like to attend one of the launches and organising the event on 16th May.

Can you help?

Invitation List: Please let us know if you, your colleagues or any other voluntary or community sector organisation or sports club would like an invitation to either of the launch events. We would be grateful if you could email Gail Sloman: gksloman@westsomeset.gov.uk with details of anyone wishing to attend the launch.

Please direct any queries regarding the Somerset West Lottery to Angela Summers: 01984 635 318 or email: asummers@westsomeset.gov.uk