

Our Ref: DT/JL  
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Ms Valerie Curtis  
Head of the Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat  
c/o DCMS 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
LONDON SW17 5DH

Globe Centre  
St. James Square  
Accrington  
BB5 0RE

Tel: 01254 300460  
Fax: 01254 399741  
Email: [partnership@lancashire-ep.org.uk](mailto:partnership@lancashire-ep.org.uk)  
Website: [www.lancashire-ep.org.uk](http://www.lancashire-ep.org.uk)

Chief Executive: Dennis Taylor

Dear Valerie

### **FOLLOW UP TO BLACKPOOL EIP – 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

I write further to my attendance at the Blackpool EIP to provide additional sub-regional support and evidence in respect of the Blackpool proposals and also to explain why I, amongst others, found it necessary to remain silent during the EIP.

Whilst appreciating the opportunity to expand upon our initial written submission, I found the process somewhat bizarre to the extent that this forced me to leave 'the stage' to those seeking to properly address the persistent, discourteous interventions from the principal objector.

As a justice of the peace for some years I have been used to prevarication, procrastination and a plethora of devices designed to derail due process, but the blatant commercial self interest and wanton disrespect for the panel, participants and process were, in my view, a shameful test of the panel's tolerance and generosity of spirit. I therefore feel it necessary to allow the applicants and their principal supporters the maximum time to try to deal with late (and potentially inadmissible) evidence and constant, pedantic interventions. This unseemly behaviour was, I believe, discourteous to all, not only the panel, who thankfully seemed unimpressed by these pedantic irrelevances.

Turning to my key points of supporting evidence, I would re-state our position that the success of Blackpool's bid is both pivotal and crucial to the economic prosperity of the whole of Lancashire. In short, if Blackpool fails, our sub-regional economic growth will suffer cataclysmic breakdown as we seek to close a £4bn GVA gap against the UK average.

I enclose for your further consideration, 2 recently produced strategic documents that evidence the primacy of Blackpool's regeneration proposals in the hierarchy of our headline strategic priorities

These documents are:

1. The Lancashire Economic Strategy

## 2. The Central Lancashire City Region Development Programme.

Designed for different audiences, but proclaiming the same message, Blackpool sits at the head of an ambitious programme which seeks to bring 51,000 jobs and a GVA increase of £1.7 billion to our sub-region in the next 3 years.

It is no accident that one of the largest economies of the North, comprising 15 Local Authorities, representing almost 1.5 million people, is solidly backing Blackpool's bid. They realise we have much to gain if the town's compelling case is successful and everything to lose if it is not.

In developing our Economic Strategy and Action Plan for both the sub-region and city region (Blackpool is pivotal to both) widespread consultation took place across the public and private sector. Public consultation events in Blackpool, Preston, Hyndburn and Burnley. Over 500 organisations/individuals participated in the priority setting and not a single objection to Blackpool's positioning as our headline priority was registered.

Consultation continued via our website and electronic circulation to over 3000 subscribers. Again, Blackpool's unique position was unquestioned. Regional support has also been received from NWDA and NWRA.

At national level, we hosted a parliamentary briefing attended by over 40 members of both Houses. Support for Blackpool was very strong on a cross-party spectrum, especially from members outside the North West.

I believe that no other candidate has such a compelling case, or such an overwhelming level of regional and sub-regional support.

I hope these observations give your panel some appreciation of the measure of evidence and support Blackpool enjoys further afield and the importance we all attach to their bid being successful.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Taylor', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Dennis Taylor  
**Chief Executive**

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