



## **CASINO ADVISORY PANEL**

### **EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC – STATEMENT**

**August 2006**

# GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Background

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is the largest Chamber in Scotland and the oldest Chamber in the English speaking world, founded in 1783.

We represent over 1,600 organisations across all business sectors in the city.

The key objectives of GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE are to represent business interests; creating wealth and prosperity for the city by driving forward the business and economic agenda.

*Mission Statement: "GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will promote wealth creation and sustainable prosperity in such a manner that it will be described by its members, non members, the business community and politicians as the premier independent business support organisation and champion in Glasgow."*

As the key representative of the business community in Glasgow, we have active groups working on issues in transport and infrastructure, small business, retailing and tourism, education, employment and skills and energy.

## Business Support for SuperCasino

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and its members fully support the application by Glasgow City Council for a SuperCasino licence.

In February 2006, a survey was conducted across our membership base to determine the level of business support for a SuperCasino licence in the city.

The results of the survey identified that:

**'77% of the membership of GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE considers that a SuperCasino would bring economic benefit to the city.'**

A Regional Casino Development in Glasgow represents a significant economic opportunity not just for Glasgow and the businesses we represent but also for the whole of Scotland. There is therefore cross-business support both within Glasgow and Scotland for the application submitted by Glasgow City Council.

We support the economic and business case presented by the city that the casino could generate £215 million per annum for the economy, as well as creating around 3,000 jobs and attracting a further 600,000 visitors to the city. It will enable significant regeneration and investment in key areas of the city opening up new areas of opportunity for local businesses and

providing improved services and infrastructure to the local residents.

We consider the award of a SuperCasino licence to the city will generate new employment prospects and additional demand for goods, services and hotel accommodation, allowing us to grow the number of UK and overseas visitors to the city.

It will also enable the Glasgow to grow our conference and convention market by providing the city with facilities to attract larger audiences and visitor numbers, generating and creating wealth for the city and also helping to raise the international profile and reputation of Glasgow as a growing conference, convention and tourist destination.

For the city to develop and remain competitive in the future GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE believes the development of a SuperCasino and the ability to host major events such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games will be vital to the continued growth and success of the city region.

Whilst we fully support the application for a SuperCasino licence we also recognise that it is vital for the successful applicant to take all necessary measures developing programmes to prevent excessive gambling and to support other organisations within the city to deal with any other associated social problems.

### **National Support**

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE works closely with Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the nineteen other affiliated Chambers across Scotland.

Scottish Chambers of Commerce is the umbrella organisation of the local Chambers of Commerce, with its prime functions being to promote and protect the interests of business members throughout Scotland. The present membership of Scottish Chambers of Commerce consists of 38 of the top 50 companies in Scotland.

The Scottish Chambers of Commerce network support Glasgow's application for a SuperCasino licence.

## Contact Details

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