

19 December 2005

Jane Bransby  
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Jane,

**Re: Casino development in the West Midlands**

Thank you for your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> November, seeking our preliminary thoughts on the development of a Regional or large new-style casino in the West Midlands.

At its November meeting, the Advantage West Midlands Board expressed its support for the principle of a regional or large new-style casino in the West Midlands, based on the potential economic and regeneration benefits of such development.

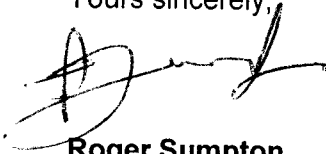
At this stage, we are aware of a number of casino propositions in different Local Authority Areas, but it would be too early for Advantage West Midlands to express a preference for any one particular Local Authority Area.

In seeking to identify the area, or areas, we would wish to support, we will be looking to identify a number of qualifying criteria, such as:

- potential for major regeneration benefits;
- use of brownfield land in preference to undeveloped sites;
- opportunities for upskilling and training for local people;
- ancillary service industry benefits;
- links to local and regional supply chains;
- potential impacts on local infrastructure;
- opportunities for environmental benefits; and
- a sustainable location.

In order to inform our position, the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Tourism West Midlands and Advantage West Midlands have jointly commissioned a study into the social and economic impact of casino development in different types of locations in our Region. A first draft report is expected by the end of January 2006. We will be happy to share the outcomes of the study with you in due course, bearing in mind the milestones which you set out in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Sumpton', written over a horizontal line.

**Roger Sumpton**

**Corporate Director – Strategy & Communications**