

BRANSBY JANE

From: Graham Nelson [Graham.Nelson@eera.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 December 2005 17:38
To: BRANSBY JANE
Subject: role of regional assemblies in relation to casinos

Jane,

Many thanks for being so helpful in our recent telephone conversation concerning the above and your letter dated 11th November.

As I explained on the phone the amount of attention that the East of England Regional Assembly (as Regional Planning Body) has been able to give this matter to date has been limited due to the pressures of work associated with the ongoing Examination in Public into our emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy contains a policy addressing regional or nationally significant facilities for leisure and recreation so we do have a basis on which to comment on the potential acceptability/desirability of such facilities at broad locations within the region from the perspective of the Regional Planning Body (RPB). From our understanding of interest within the region we would anticipate that several proposals for various scales of facilities will be generated from this region.

The RPB would be keen to maximise the benefits that could be offered from the development of Casinos within the region as this is in line with policies for developing the economy in a manner which is needed to underpin the considerable level of growth the region is currently planning for. Any additional advice you may be able to give us on how you are looking at the Regional Assembly inputting into your task would be helpful in assisting us to do this. In particular it would be helpful to know:

- 1) whether it would be advantageous for the RPB to express a view on the relative merits of the proposals coming from within the region or whether a simple view on if the broad location proposed would be acceptable in planning terms is preferred? Under the emerging RSS policy many of the potential locations that may be put forward may be acceptable; and
- 2) when, within the timetable set out in your letter of 11th November, will you be looking for the RPB to input into the process? Following our discussion I assume you will be looking for input towards the summer rather than to coincide with the closing date for formal submissions.

Any help you can give us on these matters would be appreciated. In the meantime I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Graham Nelson
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