

Brochure can be viewed

on http://www.emra.gov.uk/regionalplan/documents/Options_Paper.pdf

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

21st December 2005

Dear Ms Bransby

Gambling Act and Possible Locations for Casino Development

Thank you for your letter of 11 November 2005 concerning the above.

I can confirm the East Midlands Regional Assembly as Regional Planning Body is discussing this issue with the East Midlands Development Agency and strategic planning authorities, principally through the Regional Spatial Strategy Spatial Economy Advisory Group, which advises the Assembly on policy development with respect to spatial economy issues within the East Midlands Regional Plan (the Regional Spatial Strategy).

There is no policy in the current Regional Spatial Strategy (March 2005) referring specifically to casino development. However, Policy 2: Locational Priorities for Development, which focuses on adopting a sequential approach to the selection of land, with the emphasis on previously developed sites within urban areas, well served by public transport, is relevant. Policy 23 focuses on Regional Priorities for Town Centres and Retail Development and promotes the vitality and viability of existing town centres through bringing forward leisure development opportunities within centres and preventing the development of regional scale out-of-town leisure floorspace. In this respect we also refer to PPS6 on Town Centres. If dealing with a resort type facility we would also refer to Policy 35 which deals with management of the Lincolnshire Coast and is aimed at ensuring that any development along the Coast requires a coastal location and if so this should be primarily in existing urban areas.

The Spatial Economy Group have now agreed that more specific advice on casino development will be developed as part of the current review of the East Midlands Regional Plan which is due to be launched for public consultation on 28 September 2006.

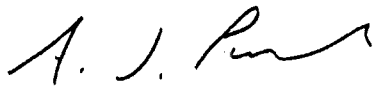
At this stage I am able to supply few location specific details or details of local authorities which may be pursuing (or not pursuing) a new casino. I am at present only aware of the officer views of Nottingham City which are that Nottingham has already seen the development of quite large (but not regional) casinos in the City Centre. Nottingham is currently not actively seeking a regional scale casino, however, if this would bring other tangible benefits such as a conference centre the City would be more interested.

When I hear other views from around the Region I will be pleased to pass these on.

I am taking this opportunity to enclose a copy of the Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan to 2026 'Options for Change' document which includes a proposed work programme to take forward the Regional Plan Review.

If you require any further information at this stage I can be contacted on 01664 502554.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Pritchard', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Pritchard
Director of Planning & Transport
East Midlands Regional Assembly

Enc.