

Confidential

Professor Steven Crow

Chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel
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Cardiff International Sports Village – Regional Casino

I was delighted to hear that the Casino Advisory Panel had included Cardiff Council's proposal for a Regional Casino, the only proposal for a Regional Casino in Wales, in its provisional shortlist for further consideration and consultation.

As Director of International Business Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's department charged with attracting inward investment and promoting trade, I am fully supportive of the Cardiff proposal. A regional Casino in Cardiff would provide a major boost for the city and, importantly, for the wider region, much of which has been designated as an Objective One area, a designation which recognises the need for special economic development measures.

A decision in favour of Cardiff's bid would:-

- Accelerate the regeneration of a large Brownfield site and encourage further investment to complete our plans for the Bay.
- Result in Aspers, a company with considerable experience of successfully operating a number of leisure and gaming facilities throughout the world, in a way which recognises and respects the social impact of their casinos on communities, investing further in Wales.



- Ensure the development of the International Sports Village with a forecast of 5,000 jobs, 1,500 of which would be directly related to the Regional Casino, plus the additional training opportunities and further inward investment potential that might be realised.
- Enable Cardiff to actively play a part in the 2012 Olympics by providing the UK with a wide range of Olympic standard sports venues that could be used as training facilities in the lead up to the 2012 Games.

Cardiff is well placed to take full advantage of being home to a Regional Casino. The local authority is totally committed, supported by the First Minister and other politicians here in Wales, and we have an ideal site with appropriate planning permission and a responsible operator waiting in the wings. We do not have a requirement for additional funding and we have an opportunity, through the diversity of the catchment area, to deliver an invaluable assessment of the social and economic impact of a Regional Casino, an assessment that would help inform policy in relation to large scale gaming and leisure opportunities.

I commend Cardiff's bid.



Ian Williams
Director International Business Wales