

## Mayor's Office

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Dear Ms Bransby

Thank you for your email of 26 May.

The Mayor's position regarding regional casinos in London remains that set out in his letter of 20 February.

On 30 May, the Mayor has issued draft Further Alterations to the London Plan (the Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London) for consultation with the London Assembly and the GLA Group functional bodies as required under sections 341 and 335(1) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (in short, these require a preliminary round of consultation with the Assembly and the functional bodies before more general public consultation, which will take place in the autumn – it is a public document, however). This contains a policy dealing with casinos, which I attach.

Yours sincerely

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# Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan (Spatial development Strategy for Greater London)

May 2006

## Chapter 3D – Enjoying London

### Casinos

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#### *New Policy 3D.4i Casinos*

*The Mayor will and boroughs and other stakeholders should ensure that development of 'Small' and 'Large' casinos conform to the wider policies of this plan including those for the location of leisure facilities. In view of their strategic regeneration and leisure roles, Wembley and Greenwich Peninsula Opportunity Areas are appropriate locations for development of 'Regional' casinos (See Chapter 5).*

3.236i The Gambling Act 2005 has introduced three new types of casino, defined by minimum size<sup>i</sup> as 'Regional', 'Large' and 'Small'. These are larger than existing casinos in London, and will no longer have to be confined to defined approved areas. The Government has announced that for an initial period, only one 'Regional', eight 'Large' and eight 'Small' casino will be permitted across Great Britain to enable their impacts to be assessed.

3.236ii Casinos (particularly those in the 'Regional' category) are likely to have significant scope to provide regeneration benefits<sup>ii</sup>. These may include employment and training, support for regionally-important developments or strategic priorities and transport improvements. Planning obligations and other planning and licensing powers should be used to ensure that these benefits are secured and sustained over time.

3.236iii The Government has stated<sup>iii</sup> that in revising their spatial strategies, regional planning bodies should consider possible broad locations for regional casinos, having regard to national policies on location of leisure development. The Greenwich Peninsula and Wembley are two Opportunity Areas identified in this plan as being particularly suitable for leisure-based regeneration. These are locations where regional casinos could be located appropriately, and where they could contribute towards delivery of the policies in this plan.

3.236iv The Government may decide to permit a greater number of casinos, or lift restrictions on their number altogether, over the life of the London Plan. Proposals for new casinos of any type should be assessed in accordance with the principles set out in Policy 3D.1 and the other policies relating to leisure development in this plan, although in assessing proposals boroughs should consider the appropriate use of their planning and licensing powers to ensure protection of the vulnerable and to minimise negative impacts on local and wider amenity. The likelihood that casinos (particularly regional and large ones) may form part of a larger leisure-based complex should also be borne in mind, and planning and licensing powers should be used to ensure the areas within proposed developments used for gambling are clearly delineated. Casinos should be located in places with high accessibility, particularly by public transport, and the scope for sharing car parking provision with premises that might have different operating hours should be maximised.

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<sup>i</sup> "Regional", with a minimum total customer area of 5000 sq m (including at least 1500 sq m of non-gambling space) and up to 1250 gaming machines.

"Large", with a minimum customer area of 1500 sq m (and at least 500 sq m of non-gambling space) and up to 150 machines.

"Small", with a minimum customer area of 750 sq m (and at least 250 sq m of non-gambling space) and up to 80 machines.

<sup>ii</sup> GLA Economics, London's Economy Today, Issue 25, GLA, September 2004

<sup>iii</sup> Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Casinos: Statement of National Policy. DCMS, 2004