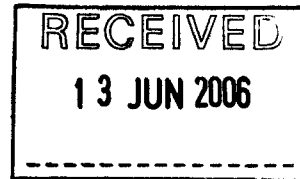


Councillor John Joyce, Chair; Phil Robinson, Acting Chief Executive
Contact Officer: Michael Gallagher · Tel: 01942 737921 Fax 01942 776740 · E-mail: michael.gallagher@nwra.gov.uk



Professor Stephen Crow
c/o Jane Bransby
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5D

Our Reference: E1

Your Reference:

12th June 2006

Casino Advisory Panel – further consultation

Dear Professor Crow,

Further to the announcement of the shortlist of locations for the pilot Regional Casino, and the subsequent email from Jane Bransby dated 26th May, I can confirm that the position in the North West region has not changed.

The North West Regional Assembly welcomes the inclusion of both Blackpool and Manchester in the shortlist of candidate locations. However our position remains that Blackpool is the preferred location for the pilot Regional Casino and that this reflects the position currently set out in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West submitted to the Government in January 2006.

The Examination in Public on the draft RSS is timetabled to begin in the week beginning the 31st October. We therefore do not expect to receive the Panel Report until early 2007. As a result we do not expect that our position on this issue will change during the period before your final advice is submitted to the Secretary of State.

We do not currently have any further evidence or information to submit to you in relation to this issue.

I trust this will be of assistance in the next stage of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.M. Gallagher".

Michael Gallagher
Director of Planning, Transport and Housing