



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:

14th March 2006

Casino Advisory Panel – Call for Proposals

Dear Professor Crow

I am writing to inform you of the Assembly's position on casino proposals in the North West following the request for an indication of the consideration, policy position and attitude of the Regional Planning Body to be included within Local Authority submissions.

Since no Authority has been in contact with the Assembly so far regarding this issue, the Assembly has decided to write to those authorities in the North West who made an initial expression of interest to you in late 2005, and provide the following wording for inclusion within their submission. We understand that the relevant authorities in the North West who made initial expressions of interest were Manchester City Council, Salford City Council, Bury MBC, Preston City Council, Blackpool Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Chester City Council, Sefton MBC, St Helens MBC and Warrington Borough Council. I would be grateful if you could contact me if this list is incomplete. We will also provide this text to any other authority who may contact us regarding this matter.

The North West Regional Assembly, as Regional Planning Body for the North West, supports the development of regional casinos in the following locations – Blackpool, Manchester and Liverpool, with the preferred location for a single regional casino pilot being Blackpool.

Outside of these locations the Regional Assembly would expect casino development to be located within the key towns and cities identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG13), and to be within town centre locations in accordance with PPS6, and in accessible locations in accordance with PPG13.

This is based on the policy position set out in the recently submitted draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West. It is not considered appropriate to make fundamental changes to that policy position prior to the Examination in Public, and therefore the Assembly will not be providing wording specific to each authority.

This wording has been provided prior to agreement being given by the Assembly at its meeting on 7th April, to ensure that submissions were made in line with your deadline of the 31st March 06. It may however be necessary to provide you with amended text

following the meeting on the 7th. If this is the case I will advise you of any changes directly as soon as possible.

I trust that this is an acceptable course of action, however if you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Rebecca Rutter (01942 776722, rebecca.rutter@nwra.gov.uk)

I would also be grateful if you could confirm the number and location of submissions received from the North West following the closing date of the 31st March 2006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Gallagher
Director of Planning, Housing and Transport