

CASINO ADVISORY
PANEL

2-4 Cockspur St
London
SW1Y 5DH

nick.crowther@culture.gsi.gov.uk

CASINO ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS TO SECRETARY OF STATE WHERE 17 NEW CASINOS SHOULD BE LOCATED

The Casino Advisory Panel today issued its final report, including its recommendations to Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on her order making powers under Section 175(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 to determine the areas where the one regional casino, and eight large and eight small casinos permitted by the Act should be located.

After careful consideration of the proposals and all the relevant evidence against the remitted criteria, the Panel recommend that the area in which a regional casino should be licensed is the **City of Manchester**.

After careful consideration of the proposals and all the relevant evidence against the remitted criteria, the Panel recommend that the areas in which large casinos should be licensed are: **Great Yarmouth; Kingston-upon-Hull; Leeds; Middlesbrough; Milton Keynes; Newham; Solihull and Southampton**.

After careful consideration of the proposals and all the relevant evidence against the remitted criteria, the Panel recommend that the areas in which small casinos should be licensed are: **Bath and North East Somerset; Dumfries and Galloway; East Lindsey; Luton; Scarborough; Swansea; Torbay and Wolverhampton**.

Chair of the Panel, Professor Stephen Crow, said:

"All of the seven shortlisted proposals that we examined further had their merits in their own way, could be a good test of social impact of a casino, are in need of, and could benefit from regeneration, and showed evidence of willingness to license a casino. However our duty for the regional casino was to choose only one area that best met our criteria and – after much consideration – the Panel was won over by how well the Manchester proposal in particular delivered against the full range of requirements set out in the criteria against which the judgments were made.

The Panel's full remit was to recommend to the Secretary of State the best locations for the one regional, eight large and eight small casinos in the light of the criteria set by her. Arriving at the recommendations for all seventeen casinos required the consideration of a wealth of evidence, and we are grateful to the very large number of people who contributed to the process.

All the proposals shortlisted for the regional casino presented their own particular and compelling strengths. We were, however, particularly impressed by Manchester's proposal, which in our view offers great promise. We found that the proposal had a unique formula to offer which served to set it apart from the others presented to us in terms of the full range of our specific remitted criteria of best test of social impact, regeneration need and benefits and willingness to license. Manchester represents a good place to test social impact, and the council's consultations with other local authorities

and relevant bodies gave us confidence on that. Manchester has a catchment area for a casino second only to that of London, and it is an area in need of regeneration at least as much as any of the others we observed – indeed, the city has the greatest need in terms of multiple deprivation of all the proposals that were before us. We are impressed that the council's plan has been developed, and is proposed to be taken forward, in close consultation with the communities that would benefit from it, and note in addition that Manchester is one of England's eight "Core Cities" which Government policy sees as drivers of national and regional economic growth. In our view, the proposal presents the most complete package in terms of meeting our remitted criteria.

Further evidence of why we are recommending Manchester, along with our reasons for the selection of the other sixteen large and small casinos, and our views on all of the proposals shortlisted for the regional, and large and small casinos, are set out in more detail in our final report on our website (www.culture.gov.uk/cap/).

We have, at every stage, paid particular attention to ensuring the process we have undertaken has been open, and fair, and we have to that end posted details of evidence we have considered – along with relevant meeting minutes and reports – on our website for all to see and consider. We have issued press statements at key milestones. We have been open throughout the process about potential conflicts of interest and put in place measures to ensure that our final recommendations would be free from interest, bias or prejudice. And it is in this spirit of transparency that we are issuing alongside this press release a thorough account of our processes, considerations and reasons as part of our final report."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. This press release, along with the final report, is available on the Casino Advisory Panel's website, at www.culture.gov.uk/cap/, or from the Panel at the address at the top of the page.
2. The Gambling Act passed by Parliament will allow three new types of casinos to operate in Britain. One "regional casino" will be permitted, along with eight large and eight small casinos.
3. It is expected that the regional casino will have a minimum total customer area of 5,000 m², and be permitted up to 1,250 Category A unlimited jackpot gaming machines. Large casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 1,500 m², and be permitted up to 150 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000. Small casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 750m², and be permitted up to 80 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000. The one regional and eight large casinos will be permitted to offer bingo, and all three categories will be permitted to offer betting.
4. The Casino Advisory Panel comprises Professor Stephen Crow, CB together with 4 other members; Christopher Collison, James Froomberg, Neil Mundy and Deep Sagar (biographical details are contained within the Panel's final report, released alongside this Press Release).
5. The Advisory Panel was asked to recommend to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport the areas where the one regional casino and eight large and eight small casinos would best be located. The primary criterion, as laid down by the Secretary of State was:
 - to ensure that locations satisfy the need for the best possible test of social impact (which may require a range of locations of different kinds such as seaside resorts, edge of town developments or inner city centres);

Subject to that, the Secretary of State also asked the Panel;

- to include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by unemployment and other social deprivation data) and which are likely to benefit in these terms from a new casino;
- to ensure that those areas selected are willing to license a new casino.

6. The Panel started work in October 2005. Informed by the Panel's recommendations, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will specify the areas for the 17 new casinos (1 Regional, 8 Large and 8 Small) in a Parliamentary order. This order will require the approval of Parliament.

7. The main contact for anything contained within this press notice will be: Nick Crowther, Deputy Head of the Casino Advisory Panel, tel. 020 7211 6453 or email nick.crowther@culture.gsi.gov.uk