



14th June 2006

Jane Bransby
Department of Culture, Media, and Sport
Casino Advisory Panel
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Jane,

LOCATION OF PROPOSED REGIONAL CASINO

I am writing in support of Blackpool's application to become the preferred location for a regional casino.

By way of background North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents 1200 business members in every industry sector and covering every size of company. Approximately 200 of these members are located on the Fylde Coast of which the majority are small businesses.

We are a fully Accredited Chamber of Commerce providing a core range of high quality business support services.

We support Blackpool's application for the regional casino licence for the following reasons:

1. The town is the UK's premier holiday resort attracting some 10 million visits a year. The image is of a successful, lively town operating in the fastest growing sector of the economy. However behind this image lies some starker statistics. Blackpool's inner wards have a concentration of deprivation that makes them one of the most deprived areas in the North West.

Visitor numbers, too, have declined by at least three million over the past 20 years. This has had a significant negative impact on many of our members located in Blackpool and the surrounding area.

2. A successful application for the regional casino will act as the catalyst to regenerate the town and secure its future. Unlike the other candidates bidding for the regional casino licence Blackpool has no alternative to secure the funding necessary to lever in additional private sector investment.

3. The prospect of such a development bringing in new business and creating thousands of new jobs for local people, backed up by quality training provision, will have a huge and beneficial impact on our members.



Patron Members



North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

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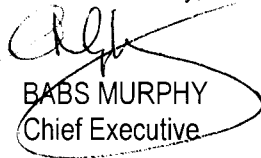
4. The proposals have huge support from our members many of whom operate in the service sector and are therefore very likely to benefit directly from a successful application. Indeed we are aware of members who are delaying investment decisions until the outcome of the application becomes known.

Whilst we would not normally comment on the other contenders for the regional casino we do note that all are big city locations most of whom already have completed large scale regeneration projects in the past or have projects currently in place.

We are committed to improving business confidence in Blackpool and have already taken the decision to invest in a new purpose built office in the town as a demonstration of our intent.

I hope that the Casino Advisory Panel will take our views into account.

Yours sincerely,



BABS MURPHY
Chief Executive