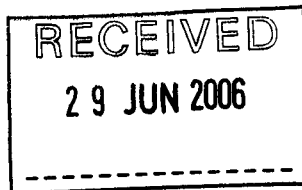


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**County Borough Councillor Russell Roberts
Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Our Ref: 060628RR(L)CAP

28th June 2006

Professor Steven Crow
Chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Professor

Re: Cardiff International Sports Village – Regional Casino

I was delighted to be informed that the Casino Advisory Panel of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport had included Cardiff Council's proposals for a regional casino in its provisional shortlist to be taken forward for further consultation and examination, as this is the only proposal being considered for Wales and it is the proposal that I would wholeheartedly support, as Leader of the neighbouring and the second largest Local Authority area in Wales alongside Cardiff.

The inter-dependency between the Valleys areas of industrial South Wales has long been recognised for residents of my area to have employment opportunities located in the city region.

A prestigious International Sports Village, which contains a Regional Casino would be of enormous employment benefit, as well as a huge attraction to the capital city and the capital region as a whole. The spin-off associated employment opportunities that this could bring would be tremendous and the collaborative work that is already underway between Officers of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff Councils in preparing the skills base for these longer-term opportunities is well underway.

Continued. . . .



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

I understand planning permission is already in place for a resort/destination Casino within the International Sports Village, which will help speed up delivery if this bid is successful.

I am also aware that no central government funding is needed to bring the scheme forward, which will transform a large brownfield site, together with enhanced community facilities and urban environment.

More importantly, your aspirations for pilot testing regional casinos means that the facilities and support on offer in Wales, at this location in Cardiff in particular, will provide an outstanding opportunity to act as a pilot for the best test of social and economic impact for regional casinos.

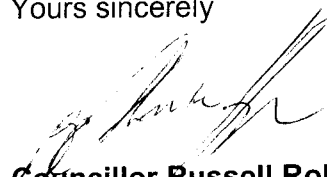
Within South East Wales, we have developed an agreed structural framework for the economy over the next ten years. Our aspirations for world-class facilities to put Cardiff as a capital city on par with other capital cities in Europe is very well supported. A regional casino will not only fulfil our ambitions of having facilities that you would expect to see in capital cities, but would also provide training and support venues for forthcoming national events in the UK such as the Olympics in London in 2012.

This casino not only would help fulfil our ambitions for an internationally recognised capital city within Europe and the world, but would also kick-start the other aspirations for development in the Sports Village as well as offering inspiration and aspiration to the local communities and our current youth for their long-term future.

I would like you to accept this letter of support on behalf of all the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf and I am sure that other neighbouring authorities to Cardiff will also recognise the benefits of this proposal and offer their wholehearted support.

Kind Regards.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Russell Roberts
Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Copy: Councillor Rodney Berman – Leader of Cardiff Council
G Williams – Cardiff International Sports Village