



8 August 2006

15/8/06
Kate Rounce
Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat
DCMS
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Ms Rounce

Proposed Regional Casino in Newcastle upon Tyne

I am writing in connection with the proposal to establish a Regional Casino and Convention Centre in Newcastle Upon Tyne. I understand that the Casino Advisory Panel are convening an Examination in Public in Newcastle on 5th September. The following information may be of interest to you in determining attendance.

The Newcastle Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for the city. Our membership comprises of key decision makers from across the public, private voluntary and community sectors and we are responsible for delivering the Newcastle Plan – the Community Strategy for Newcastle. We have a prominent private sector Chair, Barry Speker, a partner with Samuel Phillips Law Firm and member of the North East Chamber of Commerce.

The Newcastle Partnership has discussed the City Council's application to the Casino Advisory Panel for a Regional Casino, and debated the issue at some length – considering both the potential social and economic impact of the proposals. Because of our wide membership, and our local knowledge and perspective, the partnership is in a perhaps unique position to balance the potential risks and benefits of such a proposal.

The Newcastle Partnership considered and balanced a range of factors as part of our deliberation – including the societal impact and risks of problem gambling; the weight of public opinion; the spatial and planning context of the city centre; the impact of the proposed development on local businesses and the labour market; and infrastructural and transport considerations. Our debate covered not only the implications of the

