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rec. 9/8/06
Kate Rounce
Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat
DCMS
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

4 August 2006

Dear Kate,

Examination in Public: Sheffield, 6th September

Sheffield First Partnership is a city-wide partnership bringing together public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors to coordinate Sheffield's regeneration activity.

The Partnership is responsible for setting the City Strategy and ambitious goals for the transformation of Sheffield. The Partnership is not a direct service delivery organisation, but works through its partners to bring about improvements in the prosperity and quality of life of Sheffield.

The Partnership Board oversees the development and collective performance of the Sheffield First 'family' of partnerships. Since 2002, this 'family' has been recognised by UK Government as the 'Local Strategic Partnership' for the city of Sheffield.

The City Strategy sets out 5 'big ambitions' for the City:

- To have an economy that matches the best in Europe
- Learning to be a part of everyone's life
- Every neighbourhood to be a successful neighbourhood
- To establish excellence in public transport, and
- Sheffield to be an exciting, magnetic city

As Director of Sheffield First Partnership I have been working to ensure that Sheffield's aspiration to host a regional casino will deliver against each of these challenging targets. Should Sheffield be chosen as the location for the regional casino, the Partnership will play a key role in ensuring the benefits are applied to local and city-wide priorities.

Furthermore, the Partnership has commissioned a specific Task Group to examine the likely impacts of a regional casino – both positive and negative. This group has met throughout most of 2006 and applied sustainability appraisal techniques to identify the practical measures that would maximise the positive impacts whilst

mitigating the potentially negative effects of a regional casino. This group is formally reporting back to the Partnership in early September.

For the reasons outlined above, I would be extremely keen to participate in the Examination in Public on 6th September.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

pp M Rowland.

Jane Brown
Director, Sheffield First Partnership