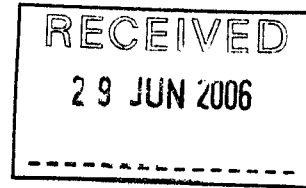




South West of England
Regional Development Agency



Jane Bransby
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

28 June 2006

Dear Jane

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further information to the Casino Advisory Panel following the announcement of the provisional shortlist.

The South West has four locations short listed in the 'large and small' category – Bath and North East Somerset (small only), Bournemouth (large only), Restormel (Newquay) and Torbay (large or small).

The SW RDA has not commissioned any specific research to identify the benefits of, or preferred locations for, new casino developments in the region. Our advice therefore draws on existing strategies, policies and plans. In particular, the recently refreshed Regional Economic Strategy identifies those areas in the region which display the greatest concentrations of multiple deprivation and where partners in the region will aim to deliver targeted regeneration programmes. Two of the short listed candidates, Bournemouth and Torbay are identified as areas for priority action.

'The Way Ahead' – the region's response to the Sustainable Communities Plan - identifies eight key places for focussed delivery of growth and regeneration, as places that will have the greatest impact on regional priorities - specifically housing affordability, productivity and intra-regional disparities. Three of the short listed candidates, Bournemouth, Bath (as part of the West of England conurbation) and Torbay, are amongst these 'key areas'.

Each of the short listed proposals has merit, but we think that the proposals from Bournemouth and Torbay have the potential to contribute most to regional priorities, particularly as part of targeted regeneration programmes. In both cases, a casino would be a good fit with local plans to update and reshape the visitor/leisure "offer" for adults. Both build on their reputations as premier resorts and quality conference venues. Bournemouth's case is supported by its relative accessibility to London and the South East and coherence with its plans for developing its night time economy, whereas the regeneration case – in terms of economic need – argues in Torbay's favour.

Sterling House
Dix's Field
Exeter
Devon
EX1 1QA

Telephone +44 (0) 1392 214747
Facsimile +44 (0) 1392 214848
www.southwestrda.org.uk

I trust that you will find this advice of some use in your detailed deliberations. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jane Henderson
JANE D HENDERSON

Jane Henderson
Chief Executive