

Leeds

Here is summary of representations received in relation to Leeds' casino bid.

Support

- We received 12 letters in support of Leeds' casino bid.
- Of these, one was sent by a local MP supporting the bid primarily for the access it would create to regeneration funding, given that the city has considerable pockets of deprivation.¹
- Two letters pointed out that a casino in Leeds would help to fund much needed infrastructure to further encourage regeneration in the city.²
- One of these two came from a business suggesting that Leeds city centre is currently insufficiently served in terms of the facilities expected of a major city and that Leeds City Council has a good track record in delivering major projects.³
- We received a detailed letter from a business highlighting Leeds as a member of the "English Core Cities Group" and also located within the strategic Northern Way Initiative. The letter also attaches a table comparing Leeds to other northern cities short-listed for a regional casino. A further letter emphasised Leeds' "unique characteristics" and the regeneration benefits a casino would bring to the area.⁴
- Another individual considered Leeds' location to be ideal, with extensive transport infrastructure, and that the city needs further investment to enable it to compete with other major European cities.⁵
- Four letters were generally supportive of the bid.⁶

Objections

- We received no letters objecting to a casino in Leeds

¹ Rt Hon Hilary Benn; MP for Leeds Central, no date supplied

² Shaun Harvey; Leeds United, 4 July 2006;

Alastair Da Costa; Marketing Leeds, 11 May 2006

³ Alastair Da Costa; Marketing Leeds, 11 May 2006

⁴ Iain Robertson; Skelton Business Park Limited, 27 June 2006, 11 August 2006

⁵ Jan Fletcher OBE; Montpellier Estates, 30 June 2006

⁶ Michael Riddy; Stanley Casinos Limited, 31 March 2006;

George Mudie MP, MP for Leeds East, 14 July 2006;

Councillor Mark Harris; The Leeds Initiative, 12 July 2006;

Wayne Bowser, Richard Mansell; Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 21 April 2006, 18 May 2006, 14 June 2006