

# Luton

Here is summary of representations received in relation to Luton Borough Council's casino bid.

## Support

- We received 5 letters of support for Luton's casino bid.
- Of these, 3 suggested that a casino in Luton would provide the best test of social impact, and serve as a much needed catalyst for regeneration.<sup>1</sup>
- Another letter approved of the casino proposal for its boost to local employment and visitor economy. It also suggested that Luton had the best catchment area in the East of England (27 million people in a two-hour catchment area) and that the development would have a limited impact on nearby residents.<sup>2</sup>

## Objections

- We received 3 letters opposing Luton's casino bid.
- Of these, one was sent by a local Christian organisation which attached a petition signed by 482 individuals. It suggested that the proposal to develop a casino with other leisure facilities unsuitable, and highlighted the poor local access to debt counselling.<sup>3</sup>
- Another letter mentioned the high levels of debt among Luton's population and the vulnerability of such groups to problem gambling. The proposed casino location was also criticised for its proximity to residential areas and the social problems gambling would bring to the community.<sup>4</sup>
- One letter pointed out that Luton already has 3 casinos and is more in need of facilities such as a new school and doctor's surgery in the new housing development, rather than a casino.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Margaret Moran; MP for Luton South, 22 June 2006; Cllr Hazel Simmons; Luton Borough Council, 26 June 2006; Cllr Sid Rutstein; Luton Borough Council, 20 June 2006

<sup>2</sup> Tony Palgrave; Southside & City Developments Limited, 29 June 2006

<sup>3</sup> Major David G Ryder; The Salvation Army, Luton Corps, 26 June 2006

<sup>4</sup> Revd Peter C Budgell; Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, 4 June 2006

<sup>5</sup> Judy Dexen; Pastoral Leader High Town Methodist Church, 1 June 2006