

Minutes of Panel Meeting
Wednesday 16th August 2006
British Waterways, 1 Sheldon Square,
Paddington Central, London W2 6TT

Present:

Professor Stephen Crow (Chair)

Chris Collison

James Froomberg

Neil Mundy

Deep Sagar

Valerie Curtis (Secretary)

Kate Rounce

Gavin Fleming

1. Apologies

No apologies

2. Conflicts of Interest

It was agreed that the Panel would continue to monitor and ensure that all conflicts are noted.

3. Minutes

Minutes from meeting of 11 August were agreed.

4. Examinations in Public (EiPs)

a) Update on practical arrangements

The Secretary gave an update on EiPs and practical arrangements to include travel, accommodation and press handling.

b) Consideration of proposed participants

It was agreed that at each EiP there would be one seat round the table for the local authority, but they could also have a support team who could participate when required. It was agreed that no casino operators would be invited to participate in the EiPs. It was decided that representations from MPs would be acknowledged at the start of each EiP.

c) Consideration of selected matters for discussion at EiPs

The Panel considered selected matters for discussion at EiPs and agreed that they would follow the format of the Key Lines of Enquiry. Panel members would take responses to questions put to regional shortlistees away to study.

5. Post-EiP procedure for decision making on regional casino and final answers from small and large casinos

The Panel discussed ways of evaluating and reaching a decision on the best location for a regional casino, and the next stage following receipt of answers to small and large questions. The Chair will write a paper on the evaluation process in light of the Panel's discussions.

6. Consideration of additional information submitted by local authorities

The Panel looked through the submissions with a view to deciding whether information was a) new and b) compelling and c) could not reasonably have been submitted with the original proposal, and if so, whether they were so compelling as to warrant addition to the shortlists.

Some of the submissions improved on the previous position, but altogether did not add sufficient to justify addition to the shortlists.

After a full discussion, the Panel reached the following decisions:

- West Dunbartonshire would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Great Yarmouth would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Southend would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Solihull would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Coventry would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Southampton would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Leeds would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Dudley would not be added to the regional shortlist
- Havering - The Panel noted that Havering had said that they had reconsulted the Mayor of London on their proposal. The Panel decided to await the Mayor's response before considering the Havering submission. The Panel deferred discussion of the other submissions until 29 August 2006.

7. AOB

No other business.