

## CASINO ADVISORY PANEL

Formal Proposal Cover Sheet

Please fill in all categories below:

Name of Local Authority:

Scarborough Borough Council

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Statement of basis of application:

What exactly are you proposing? Please make clear which type of casino you **primarily** wish to be considered for.

Regional No

Large (state number) One

Small (state number) One

If this proposal is unsuccessful what if any is your fall back/ second proposal?

Large (state number) One

Small (state number). None

# Scarborough Borough Council's Proposals for Two National Casinos

## Introduction

This bid has been prepared within the strategic context of the Scarborough Urban Renaissance programme.

In the autumn of 2001, Yorkshire Forward launched the Urban Renaissance programme to support the social and economic regeneration of major towns and cities across the region. In Scarborough, following a phase of technical audits and research, the vision building phase of the process culminated in a large scale community planning weekend held at the Spa in Scarborough between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002. This event was attended by over 1000 people and culminated in the development of the Scarborough Renaissance Charter. The purpose of this charter is to encourage support and develop consensus on future projects which contribute to the renaissance of the town. There is wide spread consensus that the town should move from its image as a traditional seaside resort to becoming a "high quality town by the sea". The charter has six key themes:

- Key theme 1- Playing a key role in Yorkshire and Humberside's Regional Strategies.
- Key theme 2 – Developing a framework for quality public space.
- Key theme 3 – Delivering culturally led regeneration.
- Key theme 4 – Diversifying the economy, attracting inward investment and delivering quality services.
- Key theme 5 – Building strong, stable and healthy communities.
- Key theme 6 – Planning for growth

The bid for a national Casino will contribute most directly to key theme 4. This theme focuses on capital investment to provide new employment opportunities, a targeted approach to attracting new investment into the town and on the provision of quality visitor facilities. Unemployment within the Borough is the highest within North Yorkshire and above regional and national averages. There is a need to provide a variety of employment opportunities ranging from high to lower skilled levels. Whilst the town is still dependant to a degree on tourism as an employer, many of the jobs in this sector are seasonal and low paid. Casino investment would provide more secure long term employment opportunities and would further aid the diversification of the local economy.

The investment would also contribute to a number of the other themes, particularly theme 1, as securing a national Casino would be viewed as a flagship investment in the town.

## ***“Seaside Resort Complex Gets Go-ahead***

*NEW holiday homes, shops and restaurants have been given the go-ahead for Scarborough's North Bay.*

*Developer Benchmark Leisure said work would begin "almost immediately" on the first phase of The Sands after the plans won consent yesterday from Scarborough Council. The first section of the £120m project, on the Corner Café site, includes 100 private seafront flats with views of the castle or the bay.*

*There will be shops, cafés, restaurants, new beach huts and beachside toilets and Benchmark hopes to have some elements of the scheme ready for this summer. Profits from the first phase will go towards the cost of the overall plans, which include a village of 320 buy-to-let holiday homes, a hotel and conference centre, indoor and outdoor sports and adventure play areas, a casino, a spa and a health and fitness centre. A covered water park with whirlpool rides, an eight-lane swimming pool and lounge areas will replace the Atlantis water park.*

*Benchmark managing director David Rhodes said plans for The Sands – expected to create up to 1,000 jobs – had been amended after public consultation. He described yesterday's decision by councillors as a "vitally important" step towards creating one of the finest seaside resorts in Britain.” Scarborough Evening News 24 February 2006.*

The Sands development marks the beginning of a new era for the town of Scarborough. The start of this development represents the culmination of years of work and planning by the Borough Council and partners – however it is just part of a larger canvas: the urban renaissance of the town.

Scarborough is set in an unrivalled location on the North Sea. There is no other town with such a unique position, strategically bridging the cliffs and sandy beaches at the shore with the Arcadian Yorkshire moors. More than this, Scarborough bridges a splendid and well-kept Victorian heritage with a contemporary culture.

The new spirit captured in the town will result in further new initiatives, social and economic investments and new urban structures. The renaissance process will not be a short-term event, but demands self esteem and endurance by the people of Scarborough, along with a clever urban strategy.

For Scarborough, with its beautiful topography with listed historical monuments and exciting landmarks, the catalyst could be a new national casino. In a town rich with green valleys, deeply carved medieval urban tissue, winding up the cliffs and offering the ultimate picturesque décor in contrast to the ever-changing skies and sea; the landscape and public space should be seen as the focus and the framework for urban renaissance.

The establishment of a new national casino is seen as a potential catalyst for Renaissance. Outline planning permission exists for a large casino in The Sands development. Scarborough already has two casinos in the town centre area. Another casino has been granted planning permission on the seafront at South Bay.

## **Tourism in the Borough of Scarborough**

A national large and a small casino would contribute to the aspirations of the Borough's Tourism Strategy including the strategic vision which is:

The vision for tourism in the Borough is one of...

...an environmentally world class, authentic tourist destination with well preserved and interpreted heritage,

.... a tourism product that is culturally vibrant and activity rich with wide appeal that delivers interest and entertainment throughout the year,

.... an overall quality of product that can compete strongly in an international market, provide the highest standards of customer service and surpass the expectations of the Borough's visitors.

A key strategic aim of the Tourism Policy is to:

Develop a daytime, evening and night-time economy with broad appeal.

The tourism economy is vital to the Borough. A leisure visitor staying in a hotel in Scarborough spends on average £70.15 per night. Casino users are more likely to stay in hotel accommodation and, depending on the size of the Casino/s, it is likely that the impact would be at least 20,000 additional visitor nights. Even at this conservative estimate, a new national casino could contribute an additional £6.5m visitor expenditure per annum, excluding gambling.

## **The Renaissance Process**

"Everyone has a part to play in delivering the urban renaissance. Government at all levels must lead and enable, working in partnership with local communities, the voluntary sector and businesses"

### Urban White Paper Summary

Assisted by Yorkshire Forward and other Partners the Urban Renaissance process began in 2001. The public has been involved in the process from the outset and their wishes have been taken on-board as the momentum has increased.

A Public Space Framework Plan was developed with the ambition of re-igniting Scarborough's urban life. This Framework plan is the result of much discussion between the partners. Monthly Town Team meetings, monthly Urban Space Group meetings, the specially formed Urban Space Taskforce, Council meetings and associated networking has all fed into the process, informing the view about what was particular and peculiar to Scarborough.

The design of Scarborough's parks, gardens and streets was based on the cultural and socio-economic conditions of Victorian times. They were designed for the condition of large numbers of people using the space. Conditions have changed and the time has come to re-engineer that which the Victorians left behind.

This Public Space Framework for Scarborough focuses on the town centre in the belief that an attractive and diverse town centre is vital for the town development as a whole. In many towns in Europe urban regeneration has started with a big investment in the town's public space in combination with an investment plan that incorporates private and public investment. Working in the public domain is a public affair and will require a substantial governmental investment. Good public space will change the perception of a town, increase land value and create a sense of optimism amongst private investors.

### **Renaissance Scarborough**

The Strategic Development Framework is an integral part of the larger vision for Scarborough. It is central to changing our attitude to the future of the town, creating a new future and raising confidence.

Scarborough's heritage, and its future rely on its almost perfect natural setting with a background of varied beautiful coastline and country. However, confidence, determination and vision can all go through troughs and Scarborough has not been immune from that phenomenon. A growing public realisation that the downward trend must be reversed coincided with the Yorkshire Forward Renaissance Towns initiative.

Scarborough, with its valleys, castle, beaches and legacy of noble Victorian architecture, has huge potential. That potential will start to be realised. There is an aspiration to promote a shift in how people, residents and visitors alike, see the town. What is needed is for people to see good futures for themselves here, to choose to stay here, and to come to Scarborough because of the quality of life - physical, cultural and

economic - on offer. The premise of the Renaissance program is that this transformation has started, albeit slowly. The prospect of a new national casino will provide a catalyst to accelerate this process.

### **The Sands**

Originally conceived as a seaside “Center Parcs”; this brown field development will reposition Scarborough in the tourism market, creating a new critical mass of staying visitors linked to the North Bay. The Sands development is underway. The development includes homes, a hotel and conference centre, indoor and outdoor sports and adventure play areas, a casino, a spa and a health and fitness centre. A covered water park with whirlpool rides, and an eight-lane swimming pool are also planned. The development of a national casino is, however, a foundation stone for this project.

### **South Bay, Scarborough**

South Bay is the traditional sea-side entertainment area of the town with a large number of amusement arcades, entertainment centres, gift shops and catering outlets. Planning permission has been granted to convert an existing large entertainment centre into a casino. The casino was permitted as part of a redevelopment of the site involving the demolition of an existing 2-storey building, which is a mix of amusement centre and flats and the erection of a 3-storey building including amusement centre, casino (Class D2) and residential accommodation. Whilst the development of a casino at The Sands is an important development not only for the town but the entire Borough, the possible development in South Bay would be a valuable asset to this part of the town.

### **The Night Time Economy**

As a resort town the night time economy is an important area for future development. The Borough Council has established a “Night Time Economy Working Group” to look at all the issues which surround this subject. The broad aims are to:

- Continually improve the image of the Borough of Scarborough for those people who live and work in and visit our community and
- Challenge and change an excessive drinking culture, reducing the negative impact on our communities and economy.

The group includes the Borough Council (Licensing, Marketing, Planning, Regeneration), Police, Urban Renaissance Group and trade and industry representatives.

Whilst the group is working towards a “continental style” café culture in Scarborough it is also supportive of the proposal to establish one or more national casinos in the area.

## The Community Strategy

The Community Strategy has been developed through a partnership involving the Scarborough Borough Council and numerous other local agencies as well as the voluntary sector. The following extracts are submitted in support of the proposal to host a large and a small national casino:-

The Scarborough Borough Community Partnership has developed a Community Strategy. The Strategic vision is that ***by working together we aim to achieve an improved quality of life for the communities of the North Yorkshire Coast by 2020.***

Our Vision for the Borough of Scarborough is:

An outward looking, vibrant and prosperous place where people have opportunities and support to achieve their full potential.

This means that by 2020 we aim to achieve:

- **Sustainable communities** where people want to live now and in the future and where there are better opportunities for communities to participate in and influence local decision-making.
- **The protection of our natural assets for future generations**, so the outstanding natural beauty of the landscape and rich cultural heritage is maintained, protected and developed sensitively.
- An **improved quality of life** for all, particularly for those communities experiencing most disadvantages.
- **Prosperous communities**, underpinned by a strong, diverse local economy, with high quality opportunities for education and skills development for people of all ages.
- **Safe, strong, inclusive communities** characterised by respect for each other and the environment, where diversity is respected but the distinctive character and identity of local communities within the Borough is retained.
- **Healthy and vibrant communities** with good access to services and facilities and where there are opportunities for all to participate fully.

## Economic Issues

The Borough of Scarborough has experienced some deep-seated economic problems in recent years. The traditional economic base for the area was centred around long

stay tourism, agriculture and fishing. With the decline in these key sectors, combined with the peripheral location and generally poor transport links into the area, the Borough has suffered economic decline.

Much of the economy is based around relatively low paid, seasonal and part time work. Overall the skills base of the existing workforce is poor and there are significant areas of disadvantage, particularly in the urban areas.

Many of the issues faced are common to other coastal resort towns, yet the specific problems of economic decline and disadvantage on the coast have not received the recognition nor resulted in widescale public sector investment targeted at other areas of decline.

There are, however, increasingly positive signs. There has been a diversification of the economy and steady employment growth in recent years, although at a slower rate than the rest of the region. The area does contain some long term growth sectors and is keen to develop these further.

External funding through the Renaissance programmes in Whitby and Scarborough, European and other Regeneration funding has helped to address some long standing issues. The Evron Centre in Filey, the Enterprise Centre in Staithes, business unit development in Wykeham and targeted action to improve skills and employment prospects in the most disadvantaged areas of Scarborough, Whitby and Filey have made an impact. There are large publicly funded programmes of development planned or currently taking place. In addition with the Sands development on the Northside of Scarborough, the redevelopment of part of the Primrose Valley Site in Filey, and thriving town centres in Scarborough and Whitby, there are promising signs of increasing levels of private sector investment in the Borough.

### ***Need for a Stronger, Diverse Economy***

The Borough suffers from low levels of economic activity and too much of the economy is characterised by low paid, seasonal, part time work.

Almost half of those working are employed in three industries, namely wholesale and retail (18%), manufacturing (15%) and hotels and catering (10%). 2001.

Of the total jobs in the Borough 42% of these are part time in nature, significantly higher than regional or national trends (2003)

27% of the population is in part time employment (02/03).

11% of employed residents aged between 16-74 are self employed. (2001)

Only 73% of the working age population is in employment, which is very low by national standards. (04/05)

Wage rates locally are significantly below national and regional trends at £351.10 per week (2004).

By 2010 overall employment demand within the Borough is forecast to increase, with the most significant increases in volume terms being health, hotels and catering and education. Clearly, the development of one or more national casinos would further enhance the development of additional opportunities within the hotel, catering and leisure sectors.

Whilst it is important to support existing and growth areas, as important sources of local employment, there are also opportunities to further diversify the economy, building on existing assets. In particular there are benefits in developing higher value sectors to improve productivity and encourage not just more jobs but better quality jobs into the area.

Whilst the peripheral location is problematic for some industry sectors, communication links have improved recently and there is now broadband coverage across the majority of the area. There are opportunities to develop niche markets and sectors that do not require good transport links, for example knowledge based businesses, the creative sector or those wishing to capitalise on the outstanding natural assets of the area.

### ***Improved Image of the Borough***

Much of the Borough, particularly Whitby, the rural areas and the National Park has a positive image, particularly as a tourist destination. However, for some, the rather dated image of the coastal urban area is perceived as a barrier to growth and investment. Scarborough Town in particular is less positively perceived and the old fashioned “candy floss image” impacts on the ability to attract higher spending visitors from the tourism perspective or graduates and senior managers from the business perspective.

Almost a third of employers (31%) within the Borough reported problems with recruitment, mainly associated with the quality and skills of the local labour market. Whilst work is required to increase the skills of the existing population, there is also a need to retain and attract a younger, better skilled workforce into the area. (National Employers’ Skills Survey 2003. LSC factsheet Nov. 05)

Work is required, therefore, both to broaden the appeal of the area to new visitor markets that have the potential to grow and to encourage business and inward investment into the area to further diversify the economic base.

### ***Sustainable Tourism***

The Borough has a diverse tourism product including more traditional resorts, holiday parks, historic towns, the North York Moors National Park and the heritage coast. There are examples of world class tourism products and natural attractions, including Whitby Abbey, Scarborough Castle and the Stephen Joseph Theatre Company. Tourism brings over 5 million people to the Borough each year, generates £380m of spending and supports over 7000 local jobs.

Patterns of demand among domestic tourists are changing rapidly. It is a growth market overall, but seaside markets have experienced a lower than average growth rate in the last decade with an increasing preference for towns and cities. There is a move away from long stay trips, towards 1 to 3 night trips. The increase in short breaks is reducing seasonality but is more weekend based in demand. Significantly, customers are becoming increasingly demanding in terms of overall quality, not only of accommodation but of service and facilities.

55% of visitors to the area are regular visitors and 84% have visited the Borough before indicating high levels of customer satisfaction and loyalty. However, a successful tourism economy needs to be replenished with new visitors and therefore a sustainable balance between old and new needs to be achieved. There are opportunities to build on the assets of the area to develop new, higher value market segments, which are important to develop a strong, sustainable tourism economy resulting in better quality, more secure local employment opportunities.

The diversity of the tourism product is a strength of the area, however the three main areas (National Park, southern rural area and the smaller rural and coastal settlements) offer different tourist experiences, with different visitor profiles. There is a need to develop strong brands and identities to differentiate and market the area, to recognise the differences and build on local strengths.

### ***Reduced Economic Disadvantage***

The Borough contains areas of longstanding and significant deprivation, particularly in the central areas of Scarborough, Eastfield and East Whitby. Deprivation is more concentrated in the urban areas, however, there are small pockets of rural deprivation which are generally less visible.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 identified that out of 70 super output areas in the Borough, 7 (ie 10%) are in the worst 10% in England and Wales. All of these are located within Scarborough town. Employment opportunities are sparse and often poorly paid and seasonal. The Borough also has the lowest wage rates in North Yorkshire. It is imperative therefore that new employment opportunities are made available to the residents of these communities. Key indicators of deprivation are as follows:

- Unemployment in the Borough is above the national, regional and sub-regional averages.
- Approximately 30% of the unemployed in the whole of North Yorkshire reside in Scarborough Borough.
- The Borough has the lowest qualified workforce in the region.
- The Borough has the lowest levels of literacy and numeracy in North Yorkshire.
- 29% of Scarborough's full-time workforce earns less than £13,000 pa.
- Around 1,500 residents are on income support.
- Around 6,000 residents are on incapacity benefit.

- Over 32% of adults between 16 and 74 have no formal qualifications.
- Child poverty is particularly acute in parts of Scarborough town.
- 2.7% of working age population claims job seekers allowance and 13% of these have been out of work for more than a year.
- 21% of the population lives in the most deprived areas in the Country.

## **Building a Healthy and Vibrant Community**

Fundamental quality of life issues are good health and housing with opportunities to participate fully in community life. Access to a range of services and facilities is important for people of all ages.

Well being, confidence and pride can all be promoted through art, culture and sport. Improved cultural provision, in the form of better sporting facilities, more public art, quality arts venues or festival development impacts positively on the lives of local communities, and adds significantly to the tourism potential of the area, thereby supporting the local economy. It has a significant role in building vibrant communities, where people want to live and has a strong positive impact on the image of the Borough.

### ***Improved Leisure Facilities***

*“Culture means all those things that make life worth living, the things that give us our identity and sense of place and enable us to celebrate our distinctiveness and diversity, understand and value our past and create the future for ourselves”. - North Yorkshire Culture, a cultural prospectus.*

Well-being, confidence and pride can all be promoted through art, culture and sport. Culture is a key driver of the new economy of the region and integral to regional development strategies. At a local level, the Borough has significant artistic, heritage and environmental assets. However, there is much scope to increase the opportunities provided by these assets, to increase participation in culture and sport and address the barriers which prevent some individuals from participating fully in the cultural life of their communities.

Throughout the Borough there is a lively arts scene, with a range of professional and amateur groups and societies, individuals, organisations and venues providing specialist activities for a variety of audiences. Examples of the range of activity includes:-

- The Stephen Joseph theatre which attracts audiences nationally and internationally as well as locally.
- The Spa Complex, Whitby Pavilion and the Evron Centre in Filey which host a range of arts and festival activity.
- A wide range of museums and galleries.
- National Student Drama Festival.

- Music organisations such as the Scarborough Spa orchestra, The Scarborough Orchestra and Scarborough Choral Society.
- Many festivals promoting art and music, including Musicport World music festival in Whitby, The Whitby Folk Festival, Scarborough Jazz festival, and “Beached” in Scarborough.
- An increase in public art at urban and rural locations across the Borough.

Considerable arts activity is delivered through the voluntary and not for profit sector. Examples include Whitby Coliseum, administered by Whitby Network, which provides art, film and an educational development programme. Crescent Arts hosts contemporary exhibitions and delivers education and outreach programmes for young people with limited access to the arts and the Festival of Youth Arts which promotes the participation of young people.

The diversity and vibrancy of local arts events and activities and the wide range of organisations involved are strengths and there is a growing recognition of the contribution of the arts in providing opportunities for learning, in promoting health and well being, in reducing social exclusion, in economic regeneration and in promoting cultural tourism. The Renaissance programmes in both Scarborough and Whitby are underpinned by recognition of the value and significance of art and cultural activity in regenerating the area.

However, there are also considerable challenges. The three towns and the rural areas face different issues. Access to opportunities for participation in arts activities is limited in the rural areas, with the majority of activity and organisations based in the more densely populated urban areas. In addition, the value of the arts can be underestimated and there is still reluctance to commit non –art specific budgets to art projects. Many organisations locally are over stretched with limited spare capacity for development.

### **Stronger and Safer Communities Issues**

This section of the Strategy deals with issues relating to community safety and crime, with the promotion of local decision-making and the building of strong, tolerant inclusive communities where people want to live and work. It includes outcomes relating to the creation of a safer more attractive environment, with the creation of greener communities maintaining and protecting the environment in which they live.

Whilst overall the Borough is a relatively safe place to live, some communities are disproportionately affected by crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly in the urban areas of Scarborough and to a lesser extent Whitby. There are significant problems of domestic violence and an ODPM survey carried out in 2003 identified the level of crime as the second priority for improvement in the local area, as defined by local residents.

Consultation with local people and stakeholders undertaken as part of the development of this strategy identified some common themes. When asked to describe their long-term vision for their area, the words people used most frequently were prosperous and harmonious. People described and wanted to live in communities where there was

tolerance and respect between older and younger people, and people of different ethnic or religious backgrounds.

People were keen to encourage community participation, ownership and pride and wanted to see increased opportunities to participate in decisions which affect them and to influence the way services are delivered. This was a message supported in each of the areas but was seen as a particular priority for communities in Whitby and the surrounding area. This is a message supported by young people who also like to be consulted and have a voice in decisions that affect them.

This section of the strategy also deals with the creation of “greener communities”, of improving the quality of public spaces and gardens. The Borough is situated within a rich and diverse natural landscape and much of the built environment is of good quality forming part of the rich culture and heritage of the area. However, there are areas of decay and neglect.

### ***Respect and Environmental Issues***

The Borough of Scarborough is a low crime area compared with similar areas nationally, although rates for all crimes are higher within the Borough than within North Yorkshire as a whole. Whilst crime rates in recent years have remained fairly static there is some evidence of a downward trend. Figures on overall crime show a slight reduction between 2004 and 2005, and North Yorkshire Police figures support the continuation of this downward trend between Feb 2005 and Feb 2006. Despite real success in some areas of crime reduction, the overall rate is not consistently meeting the challenging targets set for the area. The two highest volume crimes in the Borough remain criminal damage (which equates to 46% of all reported crime) and violent crime (including domestic violence).

Drug and alcohol misuse is visibly impacting on some communities. Alcohol in particular, is a factor in crime and disorder, particularly in Scarborough town centre and a perceived culture of binge drinking, whilst not unique to the area, is having a negative impact on the evening economy.

Whilst nationally the British Crime Survey suggests crime is at an all time low, the experience of anti-social behaviour has increased and is perceived to be a significant problem locally by both urban and rural communities. The effect of anti-social behaviour within communities can be long term and damaging, leading to neighbourhood decline and social exclusion.

There is no universally accepted measure of anti-social behaviour and most areas use criminal damage as an indicator. In the Borough further information is available through the anti-social behaviour reporting line. Both of these sources of information demonstrate that anti-social behaviour is a significant problem for communities.

- In the Borough of Scarborough between January and December 2005 there were a total of 2568 reports of criminal damage. Criminal damage accounts for 46% of all calls received by North Yorkshire Police.

- From April to August 2005 wards most affected by criminal damage were Castle (17%), Eastfield (10%) and Woodlands (7%).
- The ASB reporting line received a total of 669 calls between May and December 2005, with the main issues reported being noise and nuisance and intimidation from youths.

Litter, graffiti, flytipping, abandoned cars and poorly maintained open spaces are an issue for many communities. The creation of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces is a national government outcome, however, is of significance locally, linking closely with priorities to improve the quality of the built and natural environment and an important factor in improving the image of the Borough.

Locally there is much community led activity with a strong network of 17 “friends” groups for parks and open spaces and 7 “in bloom” groups. This is an area where significant work is undertaken at a Parish level, in particular the village caretaker service operating in Danby, Goathland and Staithes undertakes a range of maintenance and caretaking tasks and is a source of local employment.

The quality of public space is recognised as having a significant contribution towards the Renaissance of Scarborough and the Town Team is leading significant activity to clean up identified “eyesores” within the Town, through the Improving the Image focus group.

### ***Community Engagement***

Strong local communities are communities where there is effective engagement between local people and local service providers, particularly local government. They are communities where local people have a bigger say in the decisions that affect them and more control over their own community and neighbourhood. These are principles that apply to all communities, urban and rural, but they are of particular importance for communities which face deprivation and disadvantage.

There are examples from across the Borough of communities working together to influence decisions and the local partnerships, many of which bring together the community with public and private sector, have a key role to play. The area based partnerships such as Filey4wards, Scarborough Renaissance Town Team, the Whitby Renaissance Executive, the Pact partnerships, the Parish Councils and the Parish Plan Groups provide a strong basis upon which more effective engagement and local decision making can be built.

We are keen to see people more involved with the democratic process and using their right to vote. In addition an increasing number of people are taking an active part in their local community through volunteering and the contribution of volunteer activity in shaping and caring for their communities should be acknowledged, supported and encouraged more widely.

Community engagement has intrinsic benefits to individuals and communities. It can strengthen neighbourhoods and foster community cohesion, creating communities where people of all ages, races, ages and backgrounds feel free to mix together.

Many young people are actively involved in their communities as volunteers and participate in Forums such as the Young People's Council and Sports Forums both in school and during their leisure time. A significant number of young people, however, would like to be more involved with the democratic process and in influencing decisions that affect them. Consultation undertaken with young people in North Yorkshire underlines that children and young people like to be consulted and have a voice in decisions that affect them. They want to be part of the process for information sharing but can be confused about what different councils are responsible for and how they can influence decisions. (source - "Sort It").

The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Plan identifies a number of activities and milestones to encourage personal responsibility, increase participation in voluntary activities and to improve the active involvement of children and young people in all aspects of services provided for them. Local young people, including the Scarborough Borough Young People's Council will be involved in working with the Council and partners to develop a Young People's Policy.

### ***An Improving Environment***

The quality of the built and natural landscape within much of the Borough is outstanding. There is a rich and diverse natural landscape.

- 10% of the Borough (excluding the National Park) is within a Heritage Coast.
- 50% of the North York Moors National Park lies within the Borough.
- There are 9 national and internationally important nature conservation sites.

The area has a rich culture and heritage and important geological assets, being part of the "Dinosaur Coast". There are distinctive local environments within the Borough and local people are keen to maintain and protect this distinctiveness as part of the special quality of the area.

The quality of the natural environment and the culture and history of the area are probably the greatest strengths and assets of the Borough, underpinning significant economic activity and providing a good quality of life for those who live within the Borough. The challenge, however, is to balance the opportunities provided by the landscape with the protection and preservation of the environment for future generations.

Many of the activities planned as part of the creation of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces will contribute to the achievement of this outcome.

## Proposal Summary

The Casino Advisory Panel has stated in the terms of reference that the primary consideration, relative to the sites of national casinos, will be to ensure that locations satisfy the need for the best possible test of social impact. Subject to this, the criteria will include:

- To include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by employment and other social deprivation data);
- To establish areas likely to benefit in these terms from a new casino; and
- To ensure that those areas selected are willing to license a new casino.

Scarborough has a good case in relation to the first of these criteria. The need for regeneration, and the steps that have already been implemented to address the inherent problems, are outlined above but the headline facts remain. 21% of the population of the Borough lives in the most deprived areas in the Country and 16% of the working age population is claiming benefits.

In relation to the second of these criteria the proposal summarises the Scarborough Renaissance process and Community Strategy and their context in relation to this proposal. Tourism is vital to Scarborough – tourism accounts for 18% of all employment in the Borough and, if this proposal is successful, this is a potential growth area. The Tourism Strategy sets out the vision for the Borough and this includes making Scarborough a tourism product that is culturally vibrant and activity rich with wide appeal that delivers interest and entertainment throughout the year as well as providing an overall quality of product that can compete strongly in an international market, provide the highest standards of customer service. The proposal would clearly have a huge benefit for the Borough.

Finally, the Borough Council make this proposal in the hope that the Panel will select Scarborough as a site for a new large and a new small casino. The Council has already granted planning permission for two additional casinos as outlined earlier in the report and is therefore willing to see the number of casinos in the Borough increase. The Council's Cabinet considered this proposal on the 14 March 2006 and agreed that this proposal would be made and that the Licensing Authority would grant casino licences under the Gambling Act 2005. Scarborough is more than willing to licence a new casino. The Cabinet minute reads:

### **“16. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - CASINOS**

The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Environmental Health Services (Reference HEHS/06/016) which established whether or not the Council should make an application for a Regional, Large and/or Small Casino in the Borough and determines whether or not to issue new casino Premises Licences under the Gambling Act 2005.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- (i) receive this report;

- (ii) approve the preparation of an application to the Casino Advisory Panel to host a national casino; and
- (iii) determine that a resolution to limit the number of Casino Premises Licences not be made.”

Aspers Casinos has already written to the Borough Council expressing keenness to work with the Council to progress development of a “new style casino”. There is no doubt that if this proposal is accepted there would be many more potential developers keen to work with the Council and establish casino premises as part of this exciting project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. M. Archer", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

David Archer  
Strategic Director of Operations  
Scarborough Borough Council