



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject**      **Consultation on Casinos**

**Date**          **15<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**Author**        **Deputy Chief Executive**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To outline a consultation letter on casinos and to determine an appropriate response.

### **2. Information**

The Department for Culture Media and Sport (dcms) has written to all local authorities inviting them to indicate the likelihood of a formal proposal for a casino in their area. This includes an indication that the Council will not be putting forward their area as the location for a casino. The indication is not binding. A copy of the letter is attached at appendix 1 and is self-explanatory.

The questionnaire that forms part of the letter has to be returned by the 31 December 2005.

### **3. Recommendation**

Members' views are requested.

F AO The Chief Executive



11 November 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the Gambling Act recently passed by Parliament will allow three new types of casinos to operate in Great Britain. One regional casino will be permitted, along with eight large and eight small casinos. The regional casino will have a minimum total customer area of 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 1,250 Category A jackpot machines, which will be able to offer unlimited stakes and prizes. Large casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 1,500m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 150 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000. Small casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 750m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 80 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000. The one regional and eight large casinos will be permitted to offer bingo, and all three categories will be permitted to offer betting.

The Government expects that a regional casino will be a major development, offering clear potential for regeneration. It will provide not just a range of gambling activities, but may include hotel accommodation, conference facilities, restaurants, bars, areas for live entertainment and other leisure attractions, gambling activities and non-gambling leisure facilities. The Government believes that it will have the potential to bring in major investment and economic regeneration to the area where it is located. The Casino Advisory Panel's task is to recommend to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport the areas where the one regional casino and eight large and eight small casinos would best be located. The primary criteria, as laid down by the Secretary of State are:

- . to ensure that locations satisfy the need for the best possible test of social impact (which may require a range of locations of different kinds such as seaside resorts, edge of town developments or inner city centres);
- . to include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by unemployment and other social deprivation data) and which are likely to benefit in these terms from a new casino;
- . to ensure that those areas selected are willing to license a new casino.

You may be interested in our working milestones for the coming year which we shall publish shortly:

1. (by end January 2006)  
Scoping and research; consideration of selection criteria, consultation with stakeholders; programming; Invitation to submit formal final proposals

We shall be inviting your local authority to submit an application for funding of up to 3 years. We have calculated your allocation (as shown above) and those for all other local authority areas in England, based on your child population weighted by the level of poverty in your area. In calculating all the allocations we have taken into account relatively affluent areas that have pockets of deprivation, for example rural areas.

2. (by end March 2006) Closing date for Submission
3. (by end of summer 2006)  
Complete Examination and evaluation of proposals
4. (by **mid December** 2006)  
Consideration and report

As part of the initial scoping and research exercise, and to help us plan and programme our work we are looking for a good indication of the number of formal proposals we are likely to receive - and for which category of casino. To that end, and without asking for any commitment on your part to take this further, we would like to ask you if you would be willing to share with us your preliminary plans by completing the enclosed short questionnaire.

I must stress again that returning this form does not commit you in any way, nor does it constitute a formal application. I would also ask that you do not submit further information at this stage. We will be asking for formal proposals in the New Year, after we have published the criteria and process for evaluating the proposals as detailed above. This questionnaire is purely for our information only. Nonetheless it would be most helpful to us if you would return the completed form by 31st **December** 2005.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Bransby  
Secretary to the Casino Advisory  
Panel

We (please fill in name of Local Authority)

are interested in: (please tick one of the following)

- A Regional Casino
- A Large Casino
- A Small Casino
- A mixture of Regional/Large/Small/all types (delete as appropriate)
- One of the above  
(for example if we are not successful for a Regional Casino/Large we would like to be considered for a Large/Small- please delete as appropriate)
- We do not intend/are unlikely (delete as appropriate) to put our area forward as the location for a casino

The different types of casino are defined again as follows:

The regional casino will have a minimum total customer area of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 1,250 Category A unlimited jackpot gaming machines.

Large casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 150 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000.

Small casinos will have a minimum total customer area of 750m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 80 Category B gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000.

The one regional and eight large casinos will be permitted to offer bingo, and all three categories will be permitted to offer betting.

Please return this form by **31st December 2005**

To:

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Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel  
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London  
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