

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Meeting of the Forward Plan Select Committee**  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2006

**Report from Director of Policy & Regeneration**

For information

Wards affected: ALL

### Report Title: Casino Advisory Panel Update

Forward Plan ref:

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This briefing paper sets out progress made since the discussion at the last Forward Plan Select Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 with regard to Brent's response to the independent Casino Advisory Panel. It also clarifies the process between now and the due date for submissions of responses to the Panel on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

#### 2.0 PROGRESS

- 2.1 Consultants have now been appointed and work is progressing on two key impact assessments of a resort style casino at Wembley. NERA are undertaking an Economic Impact Assessment and EDAW are undertaking a social impact assessment. Both pieces of work will be completed prior to the Executive on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2.2 The Casino Advisory Panel has now published its guidance and format for the full Statement of Case that needs to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> March. The submissions should not exceed 20 pages, and need to include the following sections:
- Type of Area;
  - Social Impact;
  - Need for Regeneration;

- Willingness to License;
- Probability of Implementation;
- Regional and Local Context;
- Community Benefits;
- Unique Characteristics.

2.3 All submissions received by the Casino Advisory Panel will be deemed to be public documents, and open for inspection.

2.4 Following receipt of submissions the Panel will then begin an initial sift of all submissions received, with a view to compiling a 'short list' of areas to be investigated further. Selected proposals will then be tested using an Examination in Public.

### **3.0 BRENT PROCESS**

3.1 The Executive will receive a report on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006 which considers the findings of both the Economic and Social Impact studies in order to make a decision as to whether to progress with the submission for a Statement of Case for a casino to be located in Wembley.

3.2 The report will also suggest key lines of argument that could be used within any Statement of Case, should it wish to submit one.

3.3 In line with the recommendation at the Forward Plan Select Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006, this report will also be considered at the Forward Plan Select Committee scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006. This will allow members of the Committee to fully discuss the issues contained within the report prior to the deadline for submission on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

3.4 Any final submission will make it clear that the final contents is subject to full approval by Executive in April, following consideration by it of any comments or recommendations received from the Forward Plan Select Committee.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report. All consultancy expenditure will be met from within the existing Wembley regeneration budgets.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Any casino operator would be required to obtain planning permission and gambling and entertainment licences in the normal way. Detailed consultation would be undertaken as part of the application process. A Statement of Gambling Policy is

required to be adopted by September 2006 in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

## **6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no specific diversity implications as a consequence of this report. The proposed social impact study will examine this issue in more detail. A key theme of Our Vision for Wembley is that the new developments reflect the multi-cultural character of Brent. Preliminary work has suggested that there will be over 2000 direct new jobs created by a casino complex, and that typically the profile of employees in such facilities reflects the diversity of the areas in which the facility is located.

## **7.0 STAFFING/ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no staffing or accommodation implications as a consequence of this report.

### ***Contact Officers***

Andy Donald  
Assistant Director, Regeneration  
Tel: 020 8937 1049  
Email: andrew.donald@brent.gov.uk

**Philip Newby**  
**Director of Policy & Regeneration**