

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**

#### **Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 2 August 2006**

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**Subject: Gambling Act 2005 – Casino Advisory Panel**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To advise the Committee on the outcome of the submission to the Casino Advisory Panel (CAP) seeking the location of a Regional Casino in West Dunbartonshire.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Committee will recall that the Council submitted an “expression of interest” to CAP in December 2005, to bid for the location of a Regional Casino in West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** The Committee will also recall that following an extensive public consultation exercise which resulted in a generally positive response, a formal submission was made to the “call for proposals” by the CAP.
- 2.3** The Committee should note that in support of the submission in addition to the public opinion report, two other independent reports were commissioned, an Economic Impact Study by EKOS Limited and a Social Impact Study by Responsible Gaming Solutions Limited.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** In the letter dated 23 May 2006, the CAP advised the Council that its submission had been unsuccessful.
- 3.2** The CAP recognised the commitment of the Council to the proposal and the pressing need for economic regeneration in the area but concluded that other proposals appeared to have more to offer in respect of their remitted criteria.
- 3.3** On examination of the successful bids, it was not apparent why they had been chosen over the bid by the Council.
- 3.4** The Chief Executive wrote to the CAP on 9 June 2006, seeking clarification as to why West Dunbartonshire’s bid had not been successful and asking if further representation could be made at this stage.

- 3.5** The response from CAP indicated that sound reasons would have to be given as to why any further representation could not have been submitted at the time of the original submission. However it was very general in nature, was far from satisfactory and did not respond to specific questions asked. It was also apparent that the CAP had not reviewed the independent reports commissioned by the Council before coming to a decision.
- 3.6** Notwithstanding the offer of the CAP to consider further representations, it was clear that this would not result in a change to the shortlist.
- 3.7** The Chief Executive Officer has now written to the CAP reserving the Council's position in relation to possible future action.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1** There are no Financial Implications.

#### **5. Personnel Issues**

- 5.1** There are no Personnel Issues.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1** The Council has been advised by the Casino Advisory Panel (CAP) that its bid for the Regional Casino in West Dunbartonshire was unsuccessful.
- 6.2** The Chief Executive has written to the CAP and reserved the Council's position in respect of possible future action, given their failure to provide a satisfactory explanation as to why the Council's bid had been unsuccessful.

#### **7. Recommendation**

- 7.1** The Committee is invited to note that:-

- (a) the Casino Advisory Panel has advised that the Council's submission in respect of the siting of the Regional Casino within West Dunbartonshire has been rejected; and**
- (b) the Chief Executive has written to the Casino Advisory Panel querying the basis upon which this decision was taken and reserving the Council's position with respect to any future action in support of its bid.**

**David McMillan**  
**Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**  
**Date: 13 July 2006**

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**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Appendix:** Nil

**Background Papers:** Letter from CAP to WDC dated 23 May 2006.  
Letter from CE to CAP dated 19 June 2006.  
Letter from CAP to CE dated 22 June 2006.

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