

licensing authorities. Mention was made of possible problems of crowd related crime, and crime by problem gamblers, but there was no suggestion of any particular local problems. We have not, therefore covered this ground again in the appraisals of individual proposals that follow.

Chapter 5: Some questions of regeneration

Government Policy

90. The Government takes the view that regional and large casinos have the potential to bring in major investment and economic regeneration to the areas where they are located.⁵⁰ Of a regional casino, the Government expects that it 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.⁵¹
91. Of course this is not to say that wherever a major casino is located, uniformly beneficial results would accrue. Overseas evidence⁵² suggests that one casino of the size proposed in Britain in isolation may not always bring about regeneration. What may be needed is the development of a mutually supporting complex of casino or casinos, including hotels and other complementary facilities such as conference facilities and large-scale entertainment and retail opportunities, ideally developed under the auspices of a commercially viable tourism development strategy and in recognition of the market viability of such a scale of development.
92. The “gold standard” for a regional casino, as we see it, is a regeneration that would not only provide jobs and demand for local services in the casino itself, not only have developed with it a good quality hotel or hotels, not only add to these facilities a desired local project such as large-scale entertainment and retail opportunities or an international standard conference facility, but set in train spontaneous growth that would continually revitalise the local economy.
93. The scale of such a development will in part be dependent on the limitations placed by the 2005 Act on the permitted amount of profitable gaming activity and in part on the market viability of all the other facilities. The key is to develop strategies that are economically viable and capable of sustaining economic growth.

Demand and Economic Modelling

94. As we were given a substantial amount of evidence in the form of a variety of economic modelling undertaken by different firms of consultants for different proposing local authorities and also commentary on the models involved we considered what weight

⁵⁰ Framework Document, paragraph 1

⁵¹ Statement of National Policy, paragraph 3

⁵² From Detroit, New Orleans and Dortmund