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pse

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434
My ref: J/PSO/11300/84

Your ref:

23 February 1984

Dear Tim

Thank you for your letter of 14 February to Andrew Allberry enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr Sean Hughes MP.

I attach a draft reply as requested.

Yours
Alan Davis

A H DAVIS
Private Secretary

Timothy Flesher Esq



DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO SEAN HUGHES ESQ MP

Thank you for your letter of 13 February.

I am aware of the problems faced by Knowsley. The Government has taken steps to assist the Council wherever possible.

You are no doubt aware of the Stockbridge Village initiative which has involved the purchase of a very run down Council estate by a private trust and a substantial investment and regeneration programme. There are other special housing initiatives at North Wood and Finch House and more are planned. Private Builders are being encouraged to undertake new developments in Knowsley with the back up of shared ownership facilities to widen their potential market of owner/occupiers.

At Knowsley Industrial Park and elsewhere in the Borough great efforts have been made, in conjunction with the private sector, to improve the environment, upgrade infrastructure, and provide more attractive opportunities for investment.

In 1983 the Borough was awarded Programme Authority status under the Urban Programme arrangements in recognition of its severe social and environmental problems. For 1983/4 the Council received an Urban Programme allocation of £1M, in addition to substantial support under the Traditional Urban Programme. The provisional allocation of £3.7M for 1984/5 reflects the relative needs of the Borough against the resources available nationally for Partnership and Programme Authorities. AS with all other Authorities the allocation is subject to receipt and agreement by Ministers of a satisfactory programme of worthwhile projects. Knowsley's programme is under consideration now and the Secretary of State will inform the Council of his decisions on their programme shortly. An early announcement of allocations helps Councils, especially those who have had programmes running for some years to plan their future expenditure more effectively. All Councils



tend to submit programmes which would take up more resources than they can reasonably expect to receive; allocations must have regard to relative needs and the total amount of available resources. Some over-programming is also encouraged, as this is a good way of ensuring that resources are actually spent during the financial year.

you will accept
I hope that ~~this explanation~~ shows you that there is no question of the early announcement of a provisional allocation for 1984/5 having prejudiced a proper consideration of Knowsley's Inner Area Programme.

I share your concern about the job losses suffered by Knowsley. Ultimately these can only be combated by making the Borough an attractive place for industrial investment, which includes making it an attractive place in which to live.

The Government is playing its part in assisting the people of Knowsley to create those conditions.

PM!
Flts with
Sean Hughes
Nov. 83





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1984

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Sean Hughes, M.P.

I should be grateful if you would let me have a suitable draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Hughes by Friday, 24 February.

B/K

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Andrew Allberry, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1984

file MJ
cc DTI
to Alison

Dear Mr. Hughes,

During our meeting on 8 December we discussed the role which enterprise agencies could play in helping new businesses to provide permanent jobs. I know that since then you and David Trippier have been in touch, and that you had a very useful meeting with local groups at the offices of the St. Helens Trust on 13 January. I am delighted that the project to establish an agency in Knowsley is attracting wide support (I understand that Nabisco have increased their offer of help) and is so well advanced. I am sure that it will make a great contribution to the area and I am greatly encouraged by this worthwhile local initiative.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sean Hughes, Esq., M.P.

LB