

EFFICIENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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DON'T LET THE GLC FOOL YOU; IF
YOU BELIEVE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
TAKE THE RIGHT ACTION

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The Government's attempt to deal with corrupt and high-spending local authorities is like a virtuous child dealing with a burglar. The Government is quite right to try and stop local authorities like the GLC running riot on political spending. The Government's intentions are excellent, but they are innocent children in comparison to the ruthless rule-breakers in certain local councils.

Efficiency in Local Government makes these recommendations to be considered for the debate in the House of Commons on Monday:

1. Boroughs must be given specific powers as soon as possible so that plans can be prepared for the transition in order to cut out chaos and disruption.
2. The Government is proposing that no contracts of £100,000 or over can go through without Government permission. Certain local councils and direct labour organisations are well used to busting these kind of rules simply by breaking down the contracts into smaller sub-contracts. The Government is innocent not to understand this - and must legislate to prevent it.
3. A special body of people must be created to handle the extremely tricky and complicated task of winding down what are nothing less than multi-thousand-million pound operations.
4. The Government must tackle the Greater London Enterprise Board. It has a £32 million budget, is a quango of the worst type and is a natural organisation for "laundering" operations.

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5. As an example of the sleight-in-hand operating at present, the GLC have sold the Coin Street site to a new-born co-operative, Coin Street Community Builders, for £750,000. It was bought from Greycoat Properties for £2.7 million. The Government was warned of this - and yet allowed it to happen.