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PRIME MINISTER

ABOLITION OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL - THAMESMEAD

After the GLC goes some organisation has to take over the Council's interest at Thamesmead. This mainly consists of some 5,500 tenanted properties and some 470 acres of development land.

Last month we consulted Thamesmead residents and they were asked to choose between a Government proposal to transfer ownership to a private community trust and a Greenwich alternative backed by the GLC for a similar organisation but controlled by Councillors. A ballot was held and by a majority of 600 votes out of 6,600 cast the residents chose to back the Government's option of a Thamesmead Community Trust, whose Chairman-designate is Clive Thornton. Some 45% of the electorate voted.

This is a significant victory for the Government and for Clive Thornton. It shows that people do care about the way their community is run. It also encourages us to extend our plans to involve tenants in housing management rather than rely upon the more conventional local authority method of housing management. It means that 5,500 council homes will now be managed and owned by a private Trust.

Copies of this minute go to Norman Tebbit and John MacGregor.

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K B

5 November 1985