



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

URBAN POLICY: MISC 104

1. You have invited me to attend the meeting tomorrow morning of MISC 104.
2. Three papers are to be considered and my views on these are as follows:

Expenditure and Output - MISC 104(84)8

The information assembled by David Young is encouraging and shows that a good basis exists for drawing up plans for a coherent attack on urban problems, as envisaged in the report of the scrutiny in which the Efficiency Unit participated earlier this year.

Targets for 1985/1986 - MISC 104(84)9

David Young is right to say that actual targets have to be developed by those involved in managing the programme. However, the Government machine has great reluctance to set clear targets and it will be very necessary to specify who should do what and by when.

Urban Policy Machinery - MISC 104(84)10

I am convinced that if effective impact on inner city problems is to be achieved with good value for money, only Option 1 (an executive agency) will deliver this. The situation is of a kind where good management means having a clear focus of accountability for achieving results. Interdepartmental co-ordination on its own is a poor way of delivering results, as the scrutiny earlier this year demonstrated. I appreciate the difficulties surrounding Option 1 which are fully described in the paper. I can well understand that departments dislike the idea and are fighting it. But if effective results and good value for money are to be achieved these difficulties should be faced.

3. I am copying this to Sir Robert Armstrong.

ROBIN IBBS
26th November 1984