

from the office of the Chief Executive



Geoffrey Key

R25

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24th June 1986

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for seeing us yesterday.

I am sure that our discussions, with appropriate follow-up action both by your Ministers and my Council, will have helped to create a better basis to tackle Sunderland's current difficulties.

We are still, of course, very concerned about the uncertain future of our shipyards and we are greatly saddened that nothing can apparently be done to prevent so many jobs being lost over the next 12 months.

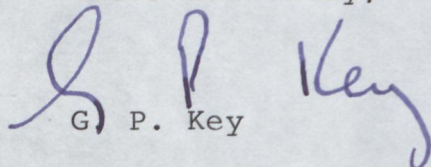
However, this has increased our resolve to fight back. We were much encouraged by your interest in and support for our proposals for the redevelopment of Deptford and North Sands, the refurbishment of our town centre and for our ideas on training. We shall be taking these ideas forward immediately. These and other projects will, of course, require the additional Urban Programme Derelict Land Grant and Urban Development Grant resources for which you promised ministerial support.

Equally, we face the challenging task of getting Sunderland on the institutional investors 'map' of Britain. We hope to do this by securing the support of financial interests in the City of London for our small public/private sector, 'Sunderland Economic Regeneration Team' (SERT). This will be the focus for the management of Sunderland's fight back.

Is there some way in which your influence could be used to secure this private sector interest in the town and also help obtain some short-term secondments to the new team? That would be very useful.

I hope that we may soon find an opportunity to review progress together.

Yours sincerely,


G. P. Key

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

NAT INO Shipbuilding PT10



From the office of the Chief Executive
General



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 June 1986

Ack

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mr. G. P. Key, Chief Executive of Sunderland Council.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for my signature, to reach me by 9 July.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Turner (Department of Employment).

(David Norgrove)

Robin Young, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

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