

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND
TUESDAY 29 MARCH 1988

URBAN POLICY - SCOTLAND

WITH PERMISSION, MR SPEAKER, I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT URBAN POLICY IN SCOTLAND. I AM TODAY PUBLISHING A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "NEW LIFE FOR URBAN SCOTLAND" WHICH EXPLAINS OUR POLICIES AND SETS OUT OUR PLANS FOR MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VOTE OFFICE AND HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE LIBRARY.

SINCE THE 1970S MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO REVIVE SCOTLAND'S URBAN AREAS AND IN PARTICULAR TO BRING NEW LIFE TO INNER CITY AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE THROUGH GEAR, IN LEITH AND IN DUNDEE. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT GLASGOW AND OTHER AREAS OF SCOTLAND ARE BEING TRANSFORMED. BUT IN THE 1980S IT IS THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE LARGE PERIPHERAL ESTATES WHO ARE SUFFERING MOST FROM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION, WHO HAVE THE LEAST CHOICE IN THE TYPE OF HOUSING THEY OCCUPY, WHO HAVE THE LEAST SAY IN RUNNING THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND WHO ARE MOST DEPENDENT ON STATE BENEFITS AND SERVICES.

IN DRAWING UP OUR PROPOSALS WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE LESSONS OF RECENT EXPERIENCE. FUTURE ACTION WILL THEREFORE BE FIRMLY BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF HELPING RESIDENTS TAKE MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN VARIOUS WAYS FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES, OF FULL INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DIFFERENT PUBLIC BODIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE RENEW THE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND INITIATIVE OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND HELP THEM TO ASSUME INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE WAY IS OPEN THROUGH, FOR EXAMPLE, INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, TENANT CO-OPERATIVES, HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS, SMALL BUSINESSES AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE RESIDENTS ARE FULLY INVOLVED AND COMMITTED TO PLANS TO REGENERATE THEIR AREAS.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANT PART IT CAN PLAY IN BRINGING BACK NEW LIFE TO DEPRIVED URBAN AREAS. THE GOVERNMENT ARE COMMITTED TO INCREASING FURTHER ITS INVOLVEMENT, BOTH THROUGH OUR WIDER ECONOMIC POLICIES AND THROUGH ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN DEPRIVED AREAS. IT IS PART OF THE TASK OF BOTH CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR FEELS ABLE TO INVEST. WE HOPE THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL EXAMINE WITH ENTHUSIASM THE SCOPE FOR INVESTMENT IN AREAS CURRENTLY NEGLECTED. WE WANT TO SEE IT INVOLVED FROM THE OUTSET IN NEW URBAN REGENERATION INITIATIVES. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT WHICH WOULD BE BOTH OF BENEFIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REGENERATION OF THESE AREAS.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PART, THERE IS IN PLACE IN SCOTLAND A STRONG ARRAY OF INSTRUMENTS TO PURSUE URBAN RENEWAL. SOME £500 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON URBAN RENEWAL IN SCOTLAND IN 1988-89, OVER AND ABOVE LOCAL AUTHORITY SPENDING. THE SDA IS USING ITS COMPREHENSIVE POWERS IN MANY PLACES. LAST YEAR IT SPENT £62 MILLION ON URBAN RENEWAL. URBAN RENEWAL IS A MAJOR PRIORITY IN ITS CORPORATE PLAN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE URBAN PROGRAMME WILL SPEND £44 MILLION THIS YEAR, AN INCREASE OF £6.4 MILLION. WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY APPROVAL OF 225 URBAN PROGRAMME PROJECTS WORTH £8.9 MILLION. SCOTTISH HOMES IS SOON TO BE CREATED AS A NEW AND IMPORTANT HOUSING AGENCY WHICH WILL WORK ALONGSIDE THE SDA IN PURSUING URBAN REGENERATION. IT WILL BUILD ON THE EXPERTISE OF THE HOUSING CORPORATION AND THE SSHA, WHO BETWEEN THEM SPEND OVER £125 MILLION PER YEAR ON URBAN RENEWAL AND WHO FULLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY. IN ADDITION, WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT £25 MILLION IS BEING SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED NEXT YEAR FOR NEW HOUSING-RELATED URBAN REGENERATION INITIATIVES BY THE HOUSING CORPORATION. THIS REPLACES THE ORIGINAL FIGURE OF £12 MILLION REFERRED TO IN PARA 45 OF THE DOCUMENT. AS ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY, WE HAVE ALSO JUST ISSUED EXTRA HOUSING CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS TO DISTRICT AND ISLANDS COUNCILS TOTALLING £77 MILLION AS A RESULT OF THE POPULARITY OF COUNCIL HOUSE SALES. POLICIES ON

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, CRIME, EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDE SPECIAL SUPPORT TO AREAS OF URBAN DEPRIVATION. ENTERPRISE IS TO BE ENCOURAGED THROUGH THE WIDE NETWORK OF ENTERPRISE TRUSTS, THE ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE SCHEME, TRAINING AND THE NEW RANGE OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE. THE MSC WILL SPEND SOME £250 MILLION IN URBAN AREAS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN RENEWAL.

WITH SO MUCH ALREADY HAPPENING, THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST AIM IS TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM. BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS A NEW PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF THE PERIPHERAL ESTATES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREFORE ESTABLISH A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, WHICH WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY PURSUE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, HOUSING AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES, IN PERIPHERAL ESTATES. FOUR MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES WILL BE LOCATED IN CASTLEMILK (GLASGOW), FERGUSLIE PARK (PAISLEY), WESTER HAILES (EDINBURGH) AND WHITFIELD (DUNDEE), SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER BODIES CONCERNED.

PARTNERSHIPS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR TAKING FORWARD THESE INITIATIVES, INVOLVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT, THE SDA, SCOTTISH HOMES, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE HEALTH BOARDS, THE MSC, AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES. THE SCOTTISH OFFICE WILL INITIATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH PARTNERSHIPS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEERING THEIR PROGRESS. MINISTERS WILL BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THE GOVERNMENT WILL LOOK TO THE SDA AND, IN DUE COURSE, SCOTTISH HOMES, TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE INITIATIVES, AND THE INITIATIVES WILL NEED A LOCAL BASE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES.

MOREOVER, THE SDA, WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE HOUSING CORPORATION AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HAS PLANS WELL ADVANCED FOR SMALLER SCALE LOCAL INITIATIVES IN PERIPHERAL ESTATES AT BARLANARK (IN EASTERHOUSE, GLASGOW), FORGEWOOD (IN MOTHERWELL) AND TULLOCH (IN PERTH). THESE PILOT INITIATIVES ARE AIMED AT REVITALISING THESE ESTATES THROUGH ACTION ON HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THE PUBLIC AND

PRIVATE SECTORS WILL CONTRIBUTE AN ESTIMATED £45 MILLION TO THESE SMALLER NEW PILOT INITIATIVES. THE SSHA IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HOUSING CORPORATION ALSO HAS IN HAND AN IMPORTANT HOUSING INITIATIVE IN CASTLEMILK, WHICH WILL COST SEVERAL MILLION POUNDS.

WE EXPECT THESE NEW INITIATIVES WILL MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING THE CHARACTERISTIC PROBLEMS OF URBAN DECAY AND WILL SET A PATTERN FOR URBAN REGENERATION IN SCOTLAND INTO THE 1990S. THE WORK OF URBAN RENEWAL IN SCOTLAND, HOWEVER, WILL EXTEND MORE WIDELY THAN THESE OUTLYING ESTATES, AND THE POLICIES WHICH WE HAVE SET OUT ARE AIMED AT BRINGING NEW LIFE TO CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.