

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES: WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Office paper is anodyne, but should provide a starting point for discussion.

However the terms of reference proposed for Sorenson's study seem insufficiently pointed. He has at my invitation prepared the terms of reference below.

"To consider the effectiveness with which departmental programmes deliver the Government's urban policy; to propose changes as necessary both at central and local level, including for improved joint working between Departments and for target areas for such joint working; to make proposals for improving the presentation of the Government's urban policy; and, consulting Government Departments as necessary, to prepare an interim report before the end of July, with a final report in September."

I know Sir Robert Armstrong is concerned about the risk of friction between Departments in this area, and this is a valid concern. But if your inner cities initiative is to have any chance of an impact it must not be based on the highest common denominator amongst Departments.

If you agree, I could tell Sir Robert Armstrong that you are looking for firmer terms of reference and put to him the version above.

Content? - No - may we have a word - merely improving material things is not enough!

DW

DAVID NORGROVE  
3 July 1987

bearing in mind in particular  
great moderate and stimulate  
we need to / intend to  
a spirit of enterprise  
initiative  
and enterprise  
in inner cities