



File ECL  
cc BG

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*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

INNER CITIES: INTERIM REPORT (E(UP)(87)3)

The Prime Minister was grateful for the interim report on inner cities circulated as E(UP)(87)3. She believes this is a useful start and looks forward to seeing the final report.

Looking towards the final report, the Prime Minister hopes that it will bring out very clearly the way in which local initiative and enterprise, both by business and by individuals are central to the rejuvenation of inner cities and that it will make concrete proposals for encouraging this. The annex to this minute suggests some headings and some detailed questions which the report might cover, with the other areas described in the interim report.

The Prime Minister is content that work should go ahead on the selection of twenty areas where the impact of programmes would be clearly demonstrated. These should be areas where existing inner city initiatives are already being undertaken, particularly those where there are UDCs or mini UDCs in existence or planned. She would wish to consider the wisdom of identifying areas in this way at a meeting in the autumn and to take a final decision then, when the proposal can be seen in the context of the Government's overall approach, for areas which would not be identified as well as those which would be. Her present instinct is in any case that it would be wrong publicly to announce a list of areas to which the Government would be seen as giving particular priority.

The Prime Minister is similarly content that work should continue towards an authoritative statement of Government policy, leaving until the autumn a decision on whether publication would be desirable. Such a statement would need to bring together the common threads of policy on the reform of education, housing and local authority finance as well as policies more directly focussed on inner cities.

The Prime Minister has asked that the final report should be circulated by September 18 so that E(UP) can meet well before the end of the month. The aim should be to complete detailed plans by the end of October.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to members of E(UP).

DAVID NORGROVE  
31 July 1987

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## AREAS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE FINAL REPORT

(a) Realising development opportunities

Land and planning policies are the key to unlocking substantial development potential of many inner city sites, and can be a powerful force for change.

- How can we cut through restrictions to allow any derelict land to be acquired for development on application by an interested party?
- What radical new proposals could be enacted to force the disposal of unused public land?
- Are current incentives, together with development gain, sufficient to attract investment into all areas of dereliction if planning restrictions are removed?

(b) Breaking the dependency culture

In addition to tackling the physical environment, there is a need to capture the self-motivation and enterprise of the local population - weaning people off welfare dependency.

- Is it feasible to re-design all high-crime council estates along the lines suggested by Dr. Alice Coleman? What would be a realistic programme to undertake within available funding?
- What can be done to bring Restart, training, enterprise and employment programmes more into the heart of inner city areas and council estates?
- How can we ensure that inner city communities take advantage of opt-out provisions in education and housing?

- What can we learn from our own experience and the US about the best way of linking the local community interest to the economic gain from major developments?

(c) Establishing local leadership

The active leadership to rebuild our major cities can only come from committed local citizens with a personal stake in the success.

- What (if anything) can Government do to help encourage local business leaders to come together into active leadership groups?
- What can we learn from our own experience and the US about the conditions under which local leadership is likely to be successful?