



Prime Minister

MINI UDCs

*Prime Minister*

*Yes no*

*Content; subject  
to colleagues? DRW*

Following the agreement to my proposals for <sup>4/12.</sup>  
mini UDCs at our meeting on 30 November, I  
intend to announce them on 7 December in a  
written PQ. I attach a copy of my proposed  
answer.

I am copying this and the attachment to the  
other members of E(UP), to Sir Robert  
Armstrong and to Eric Sorensen.

*NR*

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*4* December 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT PQ

To ask the Secretary of State if he has decided where to locate the next generation of Urban Development Corporations and if he will make a statement?

I propose to set up "mini" Urban Development Corporations in Bristol, Leeds and Central Manchester. I also propose to extend the area of the existing Black Country Development Corporation to take in parts of Wolverhampton.

I have placed maps in the library today showing the areas which the UDCs are likely to cover. I will be appointing consultants shortly to advise on the development potential of the areas and on the boundaries of the UDCs. Final decisions on the boundaries will be taken in the light of the results of these studies and of the views of local interests.

I have chosen these areas because they all have significant amounts of derelict and disused land and vacant buildings. It will be the job of each UDC to bring about the regeneration of its area by bringing sites and buildings back into productive use, to encourage the development of existing and new industry and commerce, to create an attractive environment and ensure that housing and social facilities are available to encourage people to live and work in the area. Each corporation will attract considerable private investment to its area.

These new UDCs will be modelled on the six Urban Development Corporations already established in England which are already clearly demonstrating the rapid progress which can be achieved with a single minded approach to urban regeneration. These new Corporations, however, will be based on smaller areas than their predecessors, varying in size from 250 acres to 1600 acres. Each UDC could spend about £15 million over four to five years. They will also be responsible for coordinating expenditure in their areas on urban regeneration grant, urban development grant and derelict land grant paid to the private sector. In some areas this could be considerable.



## CONFIDENTIAL

I am greatly encouraged by the achievements of the first two Development Corporations in London Docklands and Merseyside and also by the enthusiastic progress already being made by the four Corporations I set up earlier this year on Tyneside, Teesside, Trafford Park and the Black Country. I have every confidence that the proposals I have announced today will lead to similar achievements in Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Wolverhampton.



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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 December 1987

**MINI UDCs**

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 4 December to which was attached a draft announcement of the new mini UDCs, and is content, subject to the views of colleagues.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(UP), Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office) and to Eric Sorensen.

(David Norgrove)

Robin Young, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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