

PRIME MINISTER

5 February 1988

INNER CITY PAPER

At the moment this White Paper lacks a certain amount of colour. We suggest some brushwork that might improve it.

1. What should our Inner City paper achieve?

*This has some much better & more lively suggestions*

We suggest these achievements:

- a. It should make a short clear definitive statement of our philosophy underpinning our current and future policy.
- b. It should make various Government announcements and set the scene for some more announcements to come from Departments.
- c. It should describe Government action so as to help companies and individuals readily to access and use our initiatives.

2. So far the draft does little of these.

- a. There is no statement of our philosophy (definitive or not). The first part entitled 'Opportunities on Facing the Challenge and Framework for Action' does little more than give a 'satanic mill' type description of the inner cities and make the obvious points that people want better and that to provide this the Government has a list of departmental programmes. We have therefore drafted a suggested philosophy section (set out below)

that could go before a short bugle call of our best actions to date.

- b. There are some Government announcements but most are disguised so they appear to be initiatives which are under way already. The foreword sets the tone for this heavy camouflage. It says 'This booklet explains Government programmes and policies which are helping to regenerate our inner cities'. It omits any statement that the White Paper contains announcements, any novelty, the grasping of a national nettle, or even the intention to engage in a partnership with the private sector.

We have therefore drafted a list of the highlights from the paper (set out below). We suggest they are flagged. We are hopeful that Eric Sorensen may do this in a subsequent draft. You might want to ensure this happiness.

- c. There is one page in the section 'Encouraging Business' which Kenneth Clarke describes privately as his 'Menu for Companies'. In the draft it is in a box entitled 'How Companies Help Inner cities'. It is in fact a good first description of what could be a well-signposted section 'How Companies can use available help'. To achieve this the page might be expanded and put on its own at the end providing an arrow points to it at the beginning.

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3. a. How do we underpin our policy? (Our draft points on philosophy.)

- First, we should set the context of the philosophy. We could usefully define inner cities in the

foreword. Bernard suggests this broad definition which we support.

✓ "Inner cities is a relatively new term which conjures up an image of a run down environment. It covers parts of relatively small towns as well as large cities and circumstances ranging from areas which have seen better days to depressing examples of crime-ridden dereliction. The decay is not necessarily related to the age of the property. But the social and environmental problems are invariably ~~inter~~linked. And there is a common need to generate new hope and provide encouragement."

- Secondly, we suggest we also say the following as an outline of our philosophy.

✓ "We differ from our predecessors in the way we intend <sup>to</sup> ~~tackling~~ <sup>e</sup> the problem of the inner cities. As a nation we have for too long permitted avoidable waste, measured both in lives and property. Since the last world war urban decline has increasingly been seen as a problem to be exclusively remedied by Whitehall or Town Hall. We take a different view. We believe in recognising the dignity of the British people by challenging them through their initiative and resource. Our attitude is that removing the chains of local or state bureacracy is more likely to achieve urban renewal than an ever-flowing fund of tax or ratepayer's money. We, unlike our predecessors, put faith in a delivery system of help not only through fine public servants but through the well motivated local leaders

businesses and teachers. Thus, whether it is training for jobs, enterprise agencies, work experience or business creation, we believe the private individual not the bureaucrat can best turn urban decline to prosperity.

In our inner cities we believe that all elements of life have a role to play, education, the arts, transport, business, architecture, planning, health, sport and the reduction of crime. Everyone has a part to perform to respond to a national challenge."

4. The announcements or facts we need to bring out.

a. Facts omitted at present

✓ - Estate Action is doubling this year from £70 to £140 million. This cannot easily be discovered from the paper.

✓ - Safer Cities - there is no mention of the fact that the crime that is listed is relevant to the topic of the White Paper (ie that it is a barrier to business).

b. Announcements that are hidden

- CATS The fact that the paper is unveiling two CATS at Nottingham and Leeds is unclear. DTI officials say that "the competence or area of work for City Action Teams is to be extended to all priority areas in their region". This could be added to the White Paper as a further amplification of the CATS announcement.

- NEW ROADS This announcement needs emphasis.
- ENGLISH ESTATES It is impossible to glean from the reference in this paper that English Estates are announcing a new move to bring in more site management for start-up managed work space and that they propose a new partnership with the private sector on managed workspace.
- GRANTS The simplification of grants is a bull point. This passed without comment.
- DES The novelties here barely receive a mention.
- SAFER CITIES More is to be included.

5. Conclusion

You might like to ask the Private Office or ourselves to ensure the philosophy is mentioned and the announcements receive proper attention.



HARTLEY BOOTH

Yes - Bernard's draft  
 would make a  
 much better foreword  
 than the present draft.