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PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

You saw some of the papers for tomorrow's meeting last weekend. But there have been a number of developments and changes in the last couple of days and I have now re-packaged the material. The enclosed papers are:

Flag A - The Cabinet Office handling brief. This is unchanged from the version you saw before.

Flag B - Mr. Clarke's minute, again unchanged.

Flag C - A note on presentational aspects which I asked Bernard to prepare. This covers much the same issues as the Cabinet Office brief but in a more prescriptive way. You might like to consider handling the meeting by going through the issues broadly in the order Bernard has set them out. (Bernard will be at the meeting.)

Flag D - A minute from Mr. Walker, which you have not previously seen, protesting against your earlier ruling that the document should include some summary material on Scotland and Wales. You might like to consider this issue at the same time as the points about the coverage of the document in Bernard's note. I still think there is a strong case for a short passage in the document as a trailer for the action programme Mr. Walker will present later. (The one thing we cannot have is a document with some material about Scotland and nothing about Wales.)

Flag E - The latest text of the "Action for Cities" document. Although you saw a version of this at the weekend, I do not think you were able to look closely through it. In this latest version, the

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first three chapters have been amended to take on board changes Mr. Clarke wanted to make.

*In fact there are 2 alternatives from which you could pick and choose. I personally prefer no. 2. NB the text in the mock-ups is out of date - for the text refer to Flag E.*

Flag F - A revised mock-up of how the document would look. The version you saw (and disliked) at the weekend has been widely condemned by all concerned and did in fact represent COI's uncorrected first effort. I think Mr. Clarke, but none of the others at the meeting, will have seen this revised mock-up. You will want to consider whether it is more along the lines you want.

Flag G - The Policy Unit's note by Hartley Booth you have already seen.

Flag H - The proposed target areas "A Guide to Action".

Flag I - Some area profiles. It is not proposed that this should be published, but simply available as document briefing for Ministers undertaking regional visits.

We have allowed one hour for the meeting so you will want to try to get fairly quickly through business. Given the shortness of time for the 7 March launch, you might want to consider convening another meeting in about ten days.

PRCG.

PAUL GRAY

9 February 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Gray



## INNER CITIES

1. The papers given to you on Friday evening were in five parts
  - a covering minute from the Chancellor of the Duchy
  - the text of the Action for Cities document
  - a mock-up of part of the document
  - a 'Guide to Action' for business (part of the document but also to be produced as a free-standing booklet)
  - area profiles on individual cities to form briefing for Ministers, and not for publication
  
2. The Prime Minister was not happy with the design of the mock-up. Neither was she content with the text of the mock-up. We should have made it clear that the mock-up text was very out of date, and was very different from the text circulated on Friday evening which took account of comments from the Chancellor of the Duchy and from Bernard Ingham.
  
3. We have therefore prepared two further mock-ups, the first - with the same cover but substantially revised layout; the second with a different text and layout. Obviously the best features of each can be combined. My own preference is for No 2 which combines clarity with authority.
  
4. I understand that the Chancellor of the Duchy has this evening circulated a further version of the opening sections of the text. There is no change in the structure of the document which I assume the Prime Minister will want to get settled as soon as possible.
  
5. You may wish to draw on this for your cover note for the Prime Minister.

*K.E.C.*

K E C SORENSEN

9 February 1988

c Mr Wilson

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

You may like to look over the weekend at the papers for the Inner Cities meeting on Wednesday. These are:

Flag A - The Cabinet Office handling brief, which covers all the main points for discussion.

Flag B - A minute by Mr Clarke.

Flag C - The latest text of the Action for Cities document.

Flag D - A mock-up of how the final version of the document would look. I gather this has not yet been seen by Mr Clarke but I insisted that you should have an early chance to see it. Given the lead times in production and general layout, you will want to consider carefully whether this is the sort of production you want. An instant straw poll in the Private Office has generated considerable criticism - particularly concerning the small print size and rather cluttered appearance of the pages.

*Terence - We have the old one in the office (from Roberts' desk) we look at it.*

*Graphics or presentation are dreadful*

Flag E - Some area profiles that might be used in future Ministerial visits to Inner City areas.

Flag F - Some Policy Unit comments on the Action for Cities document. This note was put together on the basis of an earlier draft but I think most of the comments are still relevant.

Recd. *G - [unclear] B - [unclear] C - [unclear] D - [unclear] E - [unclear] F - [unclear]*

PAUL GRAY  
5 February 1988



A

P 03011

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

Meeting of Ministers on 10 February 1988  
(Draft document circulated by the Chancellor of the Duchy  
of Lancaster on 5 February 1988)

1. The main purpose of the meeting is to review progress with plans for launching 'Action for Cities' on 7 March.

2. You may wish to take the meeting through:

Flag C |

a. the text of 'Action for Cities' which the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is expected to circulate today;

b. the main announcements which will be made on 7 March, in parallel with the launch;

c. the practical details of the launch, and its follow-up. The details will need to be finalised with Mr Ingham closer to the date but you may wish to review progress.

Background

3. At the last meeting on 20 January it was agreed that "Action for Cities" should be an attractive publication (not a White Paper) with simple, clear presentation including photographs and no jargon. It was to be published as soon as practicable (now arranged for Monday 7 March) and a collection of good announcements should be organised for the same day. The launch would take the form of an introduction by yourself followed by presentations by other Ministers. There would subsequently be 'breakfast meetings' in the regions and, if possible, a co-ordinated announcement of some private sector initiatives shortly after



publication. The Group would meet again in 2 to 3 weeks' time to discuss a draft of 'Action for Cities': hence this meeting.

#### The draft 'Action for Cities'

Flag B | 4. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's letter of 5 February encloses the latest draft text. It reflects considerable discussion between Departments, co-ordinated by Mr Sorensen's Unit, and incorporates comments from Mr Clarke and Mr Ridley (who had a hand in drafting the opening paragraphs). It concentrates on achievement, opportunities and development and on the positive presentation of Government policies, and deliberately says very little about for instance the voluntary sector and ethnic minorities.

5. The process of drafting is still continuing but the text will need to be finalised about a week after this meeting. You may wish to discuss:

- the structure;
- the length;
- the language;
- the general impact.

Flag D | 6. The text is only part of the publication. The photographs and their captions will make a considerable difference to how the final document looks. Mr Sorensen's Unit have prepared the attached mock-up (based on an earlier text) which shows how it is expected to look.

#### Consultations with other Ministers

7. Some parts of the document affect the interests of Ministers who have not attended this Group. In particular the Secretary of State for Education has not seen the text although his officials have cleared selected passages. You may wish to consider whether



the text should be circulated round E(UP) formally a day or two before it is finalised.

Co-ordinated Announcements

8. The most important point will be ensure that the publication of 'Action for Cities' and the accompanying announcements have a major impact and cannot be dismissed as stale news. You may therefore wish to run through the following main items which were identified at the last meeting and ask whether there is anything else which can be added to the list:

- a. the new unified City Grant (Mr Ridley);
- b. two new UDCs in Liverpool and the Don Valley (Mr Ridley);
- c. the new scheme for better managed workshops (Mr Clarke);
- d. the Safer Cities campaign (Mr Hurd);
- e. new road schemes in inner cities including the Black Country (Mr Channon);
- f. more inner city job centres (Mr Fowler).

Handling of events on 7 March

9. The detailed arrangements for 7 March will need to be finalised by Mr Ingham closer to the date. But you may wish to ask Mr Clarke about present plans. Our understanding is that:

- a. the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre has been booked (hall for 150 to 200 people);

*If you want to have any substantive discussion of all this I suggest that Bernard should join the meeting.  
PL CC.*

*Yes*



- b. the Ministers who will be at the press conference with you will be Mr Clarke, Mr Ridley, Mr Hurd and Mr Fowler;
- c. the audience will be press only;
- d. there will be a backdrop and display, but no music. why

#### Follow-Up

10. It will be important to ensure that the launch on 7 March is followed up by a series of further developments and announcements, and is not seen as a one-off presentational event. You may wish to ask Mr Clarke about his plans for further action including:

- a. his breakfast presentations in the regions;
- b. follow-up announcements by the private sector. There will for instance be the launch of Elevenco which Mr Hartley Booth will be running;
- c. future Ministerial visits. Mr Sorensen's unit will be producing area profiles setting out "bull points" about key inner city regions. I attach a sample.

Flag E |

#### Handling

11. You may wish to invite THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER to introduce the text which he has circulated. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT and other Ministers may wish to comment. You may then wish to run through the other aspects of the launch, calling on Ministers to speak as indicated above.

R T J WILSON  
Cabinet Office  
5 February 1988



TO:

PRIME MINISTER

FROM:

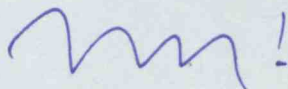
KENNETH CLARKE

5 February 1988

INNER CITIES

1 You have convened a meeting for 10 February to discuss the Action for Cities document. I attach a copy of the latest draft. This incorporates contributions from the Departments most concerned. Short sections will, however, need to be included on parallel developments in Scotland and Wales, as requested in your Private Secretary's minute of 2 February.

2 I am satisfied with progress so far. I want to show more clearly how the work of different Departments fits together. The emphasis on the role of the private sector and local enterprise will be strengthened. I want companies to be presented with a comprehensive list of the variety of ways in which they can help; the signposting guide for businesses, a first mock-up of which is enclosed, begins to do so. This will be backed up by examples, photographs and captions so as to produce an attractive forward-looking document.





the department for Enterprise

3 At the meeting I shall also be able to bring you up-to-date on arrangements for the series of breakfast presentations in the regions to follow the launch of the document.

4 I am copying this minute to Douglas Hurd, Nicholas Ridley, Norman Fowler, David Young, Paul Channon and John Major and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Peter Smith*

PP

KENNETH CLARKE

*(Approved by the Chancellor and signed in his absence)*