

P.A. and B (i.e. 3/3 p.m.)

PRIME MINISTER

ACTION FOR CITIES LAUNCH

IN FOLDER

Before you go to Brussels you may like to look at the present drafts of the material for next Monday's launch. There are three main items:

- (i) A draft of your opening statement. This has been put together by the Cabinet Office. I have discussed it with Bernard and we feel it is broadly on the right lines, but I have marked one suggested addition.
- (ii) A draft press notice summarising the action points. This is Bernard's work.
- (iii) Drafts of the opening statements by other Ministers. A number of these - particularly Messrs. Fowler and Clarke - are probably too long for two minutes. But you may like to look at the broad coverage proposed. One other point to note in this material is the example (at flag A) of the proposed format for all the press notices.

S. Morris

D. Clerk

P.P. PAUL GRAY

1 March 1988

Note

Spoke Eric Soessa and passed on the change to the opening statement. He will now circulate this pack to all other Ministers and seek to ensure all their contributions are trimmed back to 2 minutes.

RRG
2/3

EL3COI



Mr Gray

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION FOR CITIES LAUNCH

1. As agreed I attach

*IN
FOWLER*

- a) a draft of the **Prime Minister's opening statement;**
- b) a draft of the **Press Notice covering all the announcements** as amended by Mr Ingham. We need, of course, to marry the Prime Minister's quotation with her statement at the launch. We also need to **add in a reference to another announcement - on Mr Fowler's School/Industry Compacts.** This will bring the tally to ten Government announcements;
- c) **drafts of the Ministers' statements,** each one accompanied by their draft Press Notices.

2. The Secretary of State for Education is not issuing a Press Notice.

3. The Secretary of State for Employment may wish to add items to his Press Notice on his return from the USA.

K.E.C.

K E C SORENSEN

1 March 1988

- c Mr Ingham
- Mr Wilson
- Mr Lean/Ruth Thompson

ACTION FOR CITIES LAUNCH MONDAY 7 MARCH 1988

DRAFT OF PRIME MINISTER'S OPENING STATEMENT

1. The Government is today launching Action for Cities. The aim is to help our cities prosper by encouraging enterprise and civic pride. What is needed are good practical measures. This is what Action for Cities is about. These measures are not imposed by Government or local councils. They respond to people's aspirations and individual effort.
2. This is the eighth year of successive growth and we are now the fastest growing economy in Europe. This national economic success gives us better opportunities than for many years to help the inner cities prosper as they should.
3. Too often the impression which people have of our inner cities is one of dereliction and decay, of unrelieved gloom. I know from my own visits that this picture is false. There are examples galore of success. There is an immense well of energy and talent in our inner cities. Enterprise, initiative, new businesses and new investment are there for all to see.
4. What people want is the opportunity to benefit from our successive years of growth. The Government is giving them that opportunity through better education and training, through supporting enterprise and encouraging choice, through removing obstacles to development. We are now launching a drive to step up the momentum and make inner city decay a thing of the past.

5. The Action for Cities booklet brings out what can be done to regenerate our cities. Giving people the confidence that change is possible is such an important part of the process. The cover shows Salford Quays which I visited 10 days ago. Only a few years ago all that was here were the remnants of an inland port business, at the end of the Manchester Ship Canal, which was no longer competitive. 150 acres of dockland in the heart of the Greater Manchester conurbation lay idle, depressing to look at and a symbol of the need for change.

6. At Salford Quays I saw new homes for sale being built. I saw the new hotel. And alongside the new offices. A waterside restaurant and a marina are to come. And there is a multi-screen cinema. £25 million of pump-priming public money is encouraging total private investment of £150 million. It can be done and it is being done.

7. The measures we are announcing today add to the many radical and exciting initiatives already underway. The Urban Development Corporations are transforming the business climate of our cities. Private companies are helping people start up in business. They are also linking up with schools. The Government is spending a great deal of money to improve people's skills. These are practical and specific contributions to the regeneration of our cities. That regeneration rests on our wider economic, education and housing policies. These give local people more say and a stake in their communities.

8. The Government places much emphasis on the private sector. Of course public spending is essential to help prime the pump and to encourage people's initiative and enterprise. But it is the successful small businesses and the larger growing ones which generate the wealth and which provide jobs.

9. Competition ensures that the consumer is paramount and this is especially important in our inner cities. They have suffered from intervention which has not reflected people's wishes and not given them choices. Expensively built council estates have been massively rejected. Familiar neighbourhoods have been cleared in the name of planning.

10. What Action for Cities does is add to the momentum, opening up new opportunities, improving motivation and raising skills, encouraging business and enterprise, making cities secure and attractive places to live in. ↑

11. ^{B+} I shall now ask my Colleagues to each say, briefly, what their latest contribution to Action for Cities is. First, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

So I am especially pleased that we have here today representatives of 3 important private sector organisations, who are today announcing details of their latest inner city ~~initiatives~~ initiatives.

You
right
who to
add this.
RRCB.

DRAFT PRESS NOTICEACTION FOR CITIES

7 March 1988

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, today launched a new drive to bring the benefits of Britain's economic success to the inner cities.

She announced nine new Government initiatives and ^{? 10} recommended three major private sector developments at a press conference to mark the publication of "Action for Cities", an illustrated booklet which sets out the Government's inner city policies and programmes.

Mrs Thatcher was joined at the launch in The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, by six Cabinet Ministers - Douglas Hurd (Home Secretary), Norman Fowler (Employment), Nicholas Ridley (Environment), Kenneth Baker (Education), Kenneth Clarke (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) who has special responsibility for day-to-day coordination of inner city policies, and Paul Channon (Transport).

The Prime Minister said:

"The Government is determined to build on a strong economy a new vitality in our inner cities.

"In partnership with the people and the private sector, we intend to step up the pace of renewal and regeneration to make our inner cities much better places in which to live, work and invest.

"The new initiatives being taken by the Government and announced by the private sector show that we all mean business and that we are releasing the talent, enterprise and energy that is at the service of our inner cities.

"We are embarked on a great enterprise which will leave its mark on Britain for decades and carry our towns and cities into the 21st century in much better shape."

The new Government measures are:

- Urban Development Corporations: A new UDC in the Don Valley, Sheffield and the extension of an existing UDC on Merseyside.

The new UDC in the Lower Don Valley, Sheffield covers 2,000 acres to the north east of the city centre. It will have a budget of about £50 million over seven years.

- The area of the Merseyside Development Corporation is to be doubled by adding 800 acres on both sides of the Mersey. The enlarged MDC could spend between £50 million and £100 million over seven years in the new areas.
- **City Action Teams:** Two new City Action Teams are to be set up in Leeds and Nottingham in addition to the five established three years ago which have successfully pulled together Government support for enterprise and development in these areas.
- **City Grant:** A new simplified grant to support private sector developments in inner cities is to be introduced from May 1988. It will replace Urban Development Grant and Urban Regeneration Grant which have produced from the private sector over £580 million in investment, providing 28,500 jobs and more than 7,000 homes since 1982.
- **Unused Land:** The drive to bring unused and underused land onto the market is to be stepped up by requiring publication of information about land in public ownership.
- **New Inner City Roads:** Two new roads costing some £100 million, both of which will directly benefit inner cities - a £50 million improvement of the A13 between Limehouse and Dagenham and a £50 million spine route through the Black Country to the M5 and M6. [The £100m investment is on top of the £[...] already planned to be spent on roads in urban areas.]
- **Safer Cities:** A major new initiative to tackle crime and the fear of crime will be introduced in 20 inner cities over the next three years; some £2.3 million is being made available in the first year to support the initiative, which has been successfully piloted in five urban areas.
- **Action for Jobs:** More help for businesses and people seeking jobs in the inner cities, including strengthening the Small Firms Service and inner city Local Enterprise Agencies and appointing additional specialist staff to help unemployed residents.
- **Managed Workshops:** Provision of premises and business advice through English Estates to enable people to start new businesses in run-down inner cities areas. Up to £11 million of public funding will go into the programme in the first year.

- **Freefone:** The Government is introducing a single contact point - Freefone 0800-181518 - for information on Government inner city initiatives and, in particular, on what companies can do to help inner city regeneration.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The private sector is separately announcing three new initiatives today. In summary these are:

- **Business in the Community:** BiC is establishing eight teams headed by business leaders in a campaign to promote business involvement in inner city regeneration. They will focus on key areas of business involvement in education, training, small firms and investment.
- **Investors in Industry:** The venture capital group 3i is launching a new phase in its £10m inner city investment programme which has already put more than £2 million into schemes in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Cardiff.
- **Elevenco:** The eleven largest British civil engineering and construction companies have formed a consortium which will seek out inner city sites to develop. The companies have pledged £55 million towards a rolling programme of development. The companies are:

2. The existing UDCs are..... Their total budget is.....

3. The existing CATS are.....

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION FOR CITIES
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

My Department is involved with the inner cities in nearly all aspects of its work, and we work closely with the other Departments concerned both at headquarters and in the regions.

Firstly there is our range of grant programmes. I am announcing today a new one called City Grant which combines and streamlines three existing types of grant in the inner cities (UDG, URG and private sector DLG). Last year these three grants put about £..m into the inner cities and attracted private sector investment of around £..m. Then there is the Urban Programme totalling £..m this year, and which is increasingly concentrated on local economic and environmental projects.

Secondly, I am announcing today a new initiative to increase the pressure on local authorities to publish details of the unused land that they own and to offer it for sale so that it can be put to good use. Our policies and programmes for environmental improvement, historic buildings, land reclamation and sport all have an inner cities dimension, often involving the voluntary sector. For example, we are the main source of funding for Operation Groundwork and UK 2000 although they are also attracting very substantial support from private sector sponsors.

Thirdly there are the Urban Development Corporations which are our most direct and positive contribution to solving some of the worst problems of urban decline and dereliction. We already have six UDC's in operation, with three more in the process of setting up, and today I am announcing proposals for a new UDC in the Lower Don Valley in Sheffield and for a major extension of the Merseyside UDC. So we will

Don have ten UDC's on the go, with a total programme budget of £..m this year rising to £..m in 1991, plus the huge private sector investment that they generate.

Fourthly, our new Housing policies are concerned very largely with the inner cities, improving the housing stock and increasing the range of choice for those who already live in the inner cities and those who would like to live there. Again the involvement of the private sector is essential and our proposed Housing Action Trusts will provide a new mechanism for achieving this.

All of these programmes in DOE are concerned with regeneration, reclamation, development and investment in the inner cities. That is my Department's distinctive contribution to the Government's urban policy.

NEW CITY GRANT

A new grant - City Grant - was announced today by Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley. It will replace Urban Development Grant, and Urban Regeneration Grant in May 1988.

City Grant will:

- support private investment in inner cities, providing jobs and better homes, which could not be carried out without grant
- bridge the gap between costs and value to allow a fair return on investment
- simplify procedures with quicker decisions direct from the Department of the Environment.

Announcing the new grant, Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment said:

"City Grant will simplify and speed up assistance to private sector developments in urban areas. It will encourage the private sector to invest in our most run-down towns and cities.

It will build on the success of Urban Development Grant and Urban Regeneration Grant, which together will have levered over £570m of investment and will have provided 25,000 jobs and 6,500 homes. In replacing these grants and private sector derelict land grant in the inner cities we shall introduce new procedures aimed at giving developers an early indication of the prospects of grant being available for their project.

We shall be consulting the development industry and others on those procedures before the City Grant starts in May."

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

RELEASING UNUSED LAND IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The Government is stepping up its drive to bring unused and underused publicly owned land onto the market so that it can be put to good use, the Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley announced today.

It will keep up the pressure on local authorities [and other public bodies] through the land register system to sell unused and underused land. And it will ensure that [they] publish information about their ownership of such land so that housebuilders and other developers can see where there is potential for development and investment.

Mr Ridley said:

The Government has powers to force local authorities and other public bodies to sell unused and underused land and we have shown that we are prepared to use them. So far the statutory powers to compel disposal have been invoked for nearly 250 sites covering over 1,400 acres.

Since we brought the land register system into operation in 1981, some 50,000 acres of publicly owned land recorded on the register has been sold or brought into use as a result of publicity, financial discipline and forced disposals.

The recent report by the Audit Commission on local authority property management shows how better information and management can help to free wasted land and property assets. I will be consulting the local authority associations on measures to implement the Audit Commission's report.

DRAFT *press notice*

NEW URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR SHEFFIELD

The Government is to set up a new urban development Corporation in Sheffield, Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley announced today.

It will:

- be located in the lower Don Valley
- cover an area of about 2000 acres to the north east of the city centre
- have a budget of about £50 million over seven years.

Announcing the new corporation Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment said:

"The UDC will adopt the comprehensive and integrated approach to regenerating the lower Don Valley recommended by consultants last November.

"It will be backed by substantial Government funds and I expect it to work closely with the City Council and business interests in Sheffield.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to rebuild one of the most important industrial areas in the country."

MERSEYSIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO BE EXTENDED

The Government is to double the area of the Merseyside Development Corporation, Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley announced today.

It is proposed that:

- 1000 acres of land on both sides of the Mersey will be added to MDC's area;
- it will cover the North Docks and Parliament Street in Liverpool, land in Central Birkenhead and New Brighton;
- consultants will be appointed shortly to study the proposed areas and advise on boundaries;
- the MDC could spend between £50 million and £100 million over seven years in the new areas.

Announcing the extension Mr Ridley said:

"In seven years the Merseyside Development Corporation has transformed its area. It will have completed its task in about four years' time and I have now concluded that we should extend its scope.

"That is why I want the MDC to take in more land in the area which also needs the direct and determined approach of the Development Corporation to restore economic vigour.

"The extension will be a major boost for Merseyside. Substantial extra Government money will be spent. This extension will enable MDC to ^{build} on the success of several big private sector investment schemes, announced recently."

CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSPORT IN THE INNER CITIES

* Good transport is essential for the development of our inner cities.

* Transport links them with the nation's commercial arteries. It stimulates new industries and helps create new jobs.

* New ideas in public transport are breathing new life into run-down areas.

- the Docklands Light Railway has drawn private sector investment into London's East End.
- Manchester is planning to follow this example.
- bus operators freed from 50 years of regulation have brought new minibus services to housing estates and inner areas, which were bus-free zones.

* We are assisting local authorities in improving inner city road links, so essential for enterprise and business growth. We are committed to paying them £300 million, half the cost of 120 schemes. The £32 million Bradford City Ring Road is one example.

* Two fifths - £2 billion - of my trunk road programme directly assists the development of the inner cities particularly:

- in the West Midlands;
- in Manchester;
- in Newcastle; and
- in London.

* More schemes will follow but today I am adding 2 major projects to my programme:

- a £50 million grant to build a road through the Black Country linking the Black Country Development Corporation area to the M5 and M6; and
- a £59 million improvement to the A13 between Limehouse and Dagenham, to assist the development of the Docklands.

An over £100 million vote of confidence in the Docklands and the Black Country.

A further example of our commitment to the regeneration of our cities.

INNER CITIES 7 MARCH 1988

STATEMENT BY KENNETH BAKER, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Education can do a great deal for the inner cities. There - more than anywhere - youngsters need a decent education if they are to have a better future.

Our education reforms map out that future. We are establishing a NATIONAL CURRICULUM of basic subjects. That will set new standards of education for all our children, whatever their background, wherever they live. Parents in the inner cities can be confident that their children will get a basic mainstream education.

Many children in the inner cities do not have access to the kind of schools which measure up to their parents' reasonable expectations. The Government has a set of radical policies to extend parents' influence and choice.

OPEN ENROLMENT means popular schools will take in as many children as space allows.

OPTING OUT will give parents and governors the right to take over the running of their children's schools.

CITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES are another kind of new school, designed to give children in the inner cities high quality education with a technological bias. Private industry will help fund and run the new colleges.

ACTION FOR CITIES

7 MARCH 1988

£109 MILLION ON NEW ROADS FOR EAST-END AND BLACK COUNTRY

Paul Channon today gave the go ahead for two new road projects. They are:

- a £50 million 100% grant for the construction of the Black Country Spine Route; and
- the £59 million improvement of the A13 between Limehouse and Dagenham.

The Black Country Spine Route will provide an improved link through the Black Country to the M5 and M6.

The A13 improvements will assist the redevelopment of the London's Docklands and will link into the LDDC's distributor road.

Announcing the new roads, Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport said:

"Good transport is essential to the regeneration of our inner cities. Good roads provide both for movement within inner cities and links to the national network.

"More schemes will follow.

"These two strategic investments will provide better transport links to stimulate new enterprise and jobs in these inner city areas."



DEPARTMENT
OF
TRANSPORT

The first one opens this September in Kingshurst, Birmingham; the second next year right in the heart of Nottingham. Prospective sponsors have already promised more than £16m to support the CTC Programme. Plans are in hand for CTCs in Middlesbrough, South London and Thamesmead.

A very encouraging start to a programme first announced just 16 months ago. And we are doing much more.

Our plans to give pupils and teachers DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF WORKING in industry and business will open up schools to the economic realities their pupils will have to face.

I'm delighted that my Department will be co-operating with the Department of Employment and the MSC in backing TWELVE NEW COMPACTS in inner city areas. Employers, schools and colleges will work in partnership. There are great mutual benefits to be had from this closer working relationship.

Getting that relationship right is a key factor in raising education standards and ensuring that children leave school with the qualifications they need for adult life.

Better prospects grow out of better education: that's what we intend to give the children who live in Britain's inner cities.

SPEAKING NOTE FOR THE HOME SECRETARY:

ACTION FOR CITIES LAUNCH

Intensified work against crime is an essential part of our Action for Cities. It is in the inner cities that people suffer most from crime and anxiety about crime. The fact and the fear of crime can stunt the lives of those who live there - not least by discouraging the creation of jobs. A special effort is needed.

The police already give a high priority to the problems of inner city crime; they will continue to do so. Theirs will always be the primary role. But crime is not solely a matter for the police. They need, and they should be able to expect, the support of all responsible members of society. Passive support is not enough. I want to see an active partnership between the police and local agencies and concerned individuals - leading to a concerted and well-targeted programme of effective action in response to locally identified crime problems. That is what the Safer Cities initiative will provide and encourage.

The Safer Cities initiative will build on the successes already achieved by similar, smaller scale, approaches to local crime prevention. Safer Cities projects will be established in 20 local areas over the next three years. In each area, work will be guided by a local Steering Committee which will bring together representatives from the police and probation services, local authority services, the business community, and voluntary groups. To help the

/Steering Committee

Steering Committee the Home Office will fund a project co-ordinator - a locally recruited person who will be a key figure in developing effective local action - and a small administrative team.

In a Safer City project area, local people will identify particular crime problems, decide how they can most effectively be tackled, put those decisions into practice and measure the results.

The action taken will vary from area to area; but in each there is likely to be a combination of physical security measures, improved design, better management of property and services, and a range of constructive activities to engage the energies and interests of those who are most tempted to engage in criminal activity.

The programme will be steered nationally by the Home Office Crime Prevention Unit, which will be able to provide advice when necessary and some modest financial support to help promising local initiatives to get off the ground. We intend shortly to approach local agencies, including local authorities, in potential Safer Cities areas. I am confident that, with the goodwill and commitment of local people working together against crime, the Safer Cities initiative will help to restore confidence and provide new and much needed opportunities.

SAFER CITIES - TACKLING CRIME IN THE INNER CITIES

'Safer Cities' - a new programme to tackle crime in inner city areas - was launched today by Home Secretary Douglas Hurd.

As part of this initiative:

- Co-ordinators, funded by Home Office, will be recruited in twenty inner city areas;
- they will gather around them local teams drawn from the police and probation services, the local authorities, voluntary groups and the business community.
- their task will be to identify the particular crime problems of those areas, design ways of dealing with them, see that those ideas are turned into action and measure the results;
- £2.3 million will be made available in the first year to pay for co-ordinators and support local initiatives.
- the Home Office expects to see eight of the twenty projects under way in the coming year.

The essence is local initiative and action to solve local problems - involving all of the local statutory and voluntary bodies and other Government departments including City Action teams and Task Forces.

Announcing 'Safer Cities', Mr Hurd said:

"We need to reinforce our policies in the cities with strong new action against crime. The Safer Cities initiative will build on the experience we have had with smaller scale pilot projects in five areas. Partnership between the police and the rest of the community holds the key to reducing crime. The special effort being made through the 'Safer Cities' programme will help those areas where the problem is most acute.

This new initiative is a crucial part of our Action For Cities campaign. 'Safer Cities' will not only improve the quality of life for inner city residents. It will also play an important part in making our inner cities the kind of place where local enterprise can flourish."

INNER CITIES POLICY DOCUMENT LAUNCH
DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT
(Yet to be cleared by Mr Fowler, who does not return from the
United States until Wednesday)

The Government's commitment to stimulating jobs in our inner cities and to help people in those areas find work is substantial. My Department with the Manpower Services Commission already spends over £1.1 billion in providing unemployed residents with the skill and motivation to compete for jobs and in helping small businesses start-up and grow. Half a million people in inner cities are involved in our programmes. Unemployed people have been advised through over one million Restart interviews.

Enterprise and jobs are the key to inner city development and today, new initiatives are announced, building on our existing programmes, to reinforce our efforts and to focus support on those who most need it. In all this, we look to work closely with industry and commerce, which has its own major contribution to make to the development of the inner city economies.

First, we want to strengthen the links between businesses and schools to encourage young people to develop the right skills and aptitude for work and to encourage employers to take on inner city young people. The Industry-School Compact approach offers an effective route forward. I have asked the MSC to use its resources to encourage the development of 12 new Compacts. It will be for local groups of employers to agree such compacts with schools and colleges and to bid for our support. Once agreed, such schemes will benefit from special focussing of YTS and TVEI programmes. Our aim is to encourage employers to guarantee a job with training to all young people leaving school in those areas who meet the required standards of achievement and motivation.

Second, we want to ensure that all inner city residents know of our programmes and the range of help they offer, and have ready access to the job opportunities available. New measures are in

CONFIDENTIAL

hand to take our services out of Jobcentres and other offices. More specialist staff are to be appointed to help both the employed and unemployed to explore opportunities and to use our programmes to develop the skills needed for the new jobs arising. Information points, some based on new technology, will be developed to give immediate access to information on jobs in local centres such as libraries and community centres. Special help will be incorporated in the new training for employment programme to cover basic skills such as literacy, numeracy and English as a second language.

Thirdly, we are stepping up our support to small businesses in inner city areas. Jobs are only generated by healthy competitive businesses; the small business sector has a key role in building up local economies. We will be increasing the range of help directly available to small businesses in inner city areas by opening on a permanent basis six extra offices manned by the Small Firms Service. At the same time, specialist counsellors to work with ethnic minority businesses are to be appointed.

Further support will be given to those local enterprise agencies which, with private sector support, want to set up new projects aimed at helping inner city businesses. More encouragement and help are to be given to those going into self-employment under the Enterprise Allowance Scheme in our inner cities; and our training and employment programmes will do more to encourage people to consider self-employment as a work option. In the Inner City Task Force Areas, the banks will now receive a higher guarantee from Government for loans made under the Loan Guarantee Scheme; this, we hope, will encourage further bank lending in those areas.

Finally, the contribution of tourism to wealth creation and jobs, and improving the quality of life in inner cities is to be further encouraged. Tourism builds on heritage, it introduces new investment, it brings jobs and businesses to the inner cities and it helps makes cities better places in which to work and live.

CONFIDENTIAL

Today, I have asked the English Tourist Board to launch a new campaign to stimulate further tourism development. I hope to see businesses and local organisations come together to identify the wealth of undeveloped potential.

All these initiatives will build on our current substantial effort in the inner cities. They will encourage more investment and jobs and they will help local residents to compete for those jobs and to seize the opportunities now being created.

- The Manpower Services Commission will introduce new measures to encourage collaboration between employers, local colleges and other training providers to offer training relevant to the needs of local businesses.

Commenting on the plans, Mr Fowler said: "Our central concern in inner cities is that those who have the most difficulty returning to employment should be helped to take advantage of the new jobs now available.

The initiatives I have announced today will maximise the substantial investment in inner cities by my Department and the MSC. They will improve access to our training programmes, raise awareness of how they can help, encourage people to participate, and widen the range of opportunities available."

~~The full text of Mr Fowler's statement is attached.~~

NORMAN FOWLER ANNOUNCES MORE HELP FOR INNER CITY JOBLESS

New plans to help unemployed people in inner city areas acquire the skills they need to take advantage of the new jobs now available were unveiled today by Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, as part of the Government's inner city initiative.

- More specialist staff will work in local communities giving information and advice about the Government's training programmes.

- Inner city residents will be given more immediate access to information on jobs and training programmes, for example in community centres or libraries, in some cases using new technology.

- Training in literacy, numeracy and English as a second language will be included in the Government's new training for employment programme. Special Restart assessment courses will be set up for people lacking these basic skills.

- A campaign to recruit more employers as training providers, particularly for the new programme, will be mounted.

the workshop once the businesses start to move in. Our corporate partners will in effect "adopt a workshop".

The workshop programme will help to provide premises for small and new businesses and business advice to help them through the first difficult years of growth. Experience has shown that this is a very practical and effective way of encouraging enterprise in inner cities.

Wide range of today's announcements emphasises scale and scope of the Government's contribution.

Need to pull that whole effort together and concentrate it in on areas of greatest need.

Two new City Action Teams in Nottingham and Leeds will help us achieve that aim. Building on success of existing six. They will pull together the programmes and resources of DTI, DOE and DE. They will also have special top-up funds to make it possible for local projects - that would normally fall outside the national guidelines for Government programmes - to go ahead.

I have two further announcements which will help to carry forward all the programmes we now have and help more companies to become closely involved in our efforts.

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES : MK CLARKE

There are two key themes in the Action for Cities Document which have been underlined by all the Ministerial announcements this morning.

- The first is the importance of co-operation between the private and public sector. The Government is anxious to encourage and assist more private companies to take a leading role in inner city revival. Our cities need business leadership and private sector investment.
- The second is the importance of co-ordinating the Government's activities, so that we get the maximum impact for what we put in by fitting our various policies together into one combined Government effort.

A major DTI contribution to co-operation between Government and the private sector will be made by a drive to provide more managed workspace for new business start-ups in inner city areas.

English Industrial Estates will lead for the Government and will receive up to £11 million in first year for the necessary physical conversion of suitable buildings. Private companies will contribute by offering financial and managerial backing to

made their cities great. 'City Fathers'. They can do so again. Our businessmen today have the resources, expertise and, I believe, commitment to help the Government make lasting and worthwhile changes in our inner cities.

Next month will see the beginning of a series of Action for Cities Breakfast meetings.

Ministers will make presentations - initially in six cities - to explain to businessmen how they can play their part in inner city revival in their city. We will explain how they can work with the Government in doing so. We will be presenting them with a 'menu' of ways in which they can become involved. We believe we can persuade even more businessmen that it is a sensible commercial activity for a successful company to play a leading role in regenerating the cities which are their trading base.

We are also setting up centrally a Freefone Action for Cities number to provide a single contact point for businesses interested in taking part. Our people in Whitehall will offer advice about the range of possibilities and ensure contact with the right Department on the ground in the right City to take the matter further.

Why this emphasis on businessmen? Because we believe that the key to getting life back into our inner cities - just as it has been in promoting national prosperity - is encouraging enterprise. Businessmen provided leadership in the past that

PRESS NOTICE

MANAGED WORKSHOPS - ENCOURAGING ENTERPRISE IN THE INNER CITIES

A major new programme providing more managed workshops for business start-ups in the inner cities was launched today by Trade and Industry Minister, Kenneth Clarke.

The initiative will:

- be run jointly by the private and public sector, with English Estates in the lead for the Government;
- receive public sector funding of up to £11 million in the first year;
- receive financial and managerial backing from private sector companies which will "adopt" a workshop in the town or city of their choice.

Announcing the commitment of Government money to the programme, Mr Clarke said:

"This is a major new programme to help new business in our inner cities. We want to make sure that premises and business advice are available in some of our most depressed

inner city areas so that people can start new businesses. English Estates are in the lead with substantial new funding and are already actively engaged in working up projects in Manchester, Rochdale, Preston, Nottingham, Doncaster, Middlesbrough, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Spitalfields, Hackney and Peckham.

Private sector companies will be involved either by investing directly in the projects or by providing land, buildings or experienced managers to give business support on site. English Estates are looking for as much private sector involvement as possible."

PRESS NOTICE

NEW CITY ACTION TEAMS FOR NOTTINGHAM AND LEEDS

Two new City Action Teams (CATs) - which pull together and focus the efforts and resources of the Departments of Industry, Environment and Employment - were launched today by Trade and Industry Minister, Kenneth Clarke.

- one CAT will cover Nottingham, Leicester and Derby;
- the other will cover Leeds and Bradford;
- both will be given special top-up funds to make it possible for local projects - that would normally fall outside the national guidelines for Government programmes - to go ahead.

Announcing the decision to form the new teams Mr Clarke said:

"Experience has shown how vital it is to get the maximum impact from Government programmes by zeroing them all in on the areas of greatest need. City Action Teams have already proved their worth in six other cities by focussing our efforts more closely. They have also encouraged private sector companies to chip in and do their bit. This is the nuts-and-bolts end of inner city policy, but it is nonetheless crucial for that."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The City Action Teams were originally set up in April 1985 to cover the Inner City Partnership areas of London (Hackney, Islington and Lambeth), Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester/Salford and Newcastle/Gateshead. A sixth Team - the Cleveland Co-ordinating Committee - was set up in February 1986. The Teams consist of the Regional Directors of the three main Government Departments with a local presence - DTI, DE and DOE. Leadership of the Teams is shared between the three Departments.

2. In the Inner City Partnership areas covered by the Teams, the three Departments are estimated to be responsible for programme spending of at least £850m in 1987/8. The Teams aim to co-ordinate Government help to, and action in, the areas they cover with a particular focus on boosting business confidence and development, improving training and the build environment, and encouraging small business development.

ENDS