



Prime Minister ^①

Ref. AO83/1752

Agree to these proposals?

PRIME MINISTER

Yes

MCS 21/6

Abolition of Greater London Council and Metropolitan
County Councils, Control and Reform of Rates

The minute of 16 ^{with MCS?} June from the Secretary of State for the Environment discusses the follow-up to the Government's decisions on the future organisation and financing of local government. It appears to be in accordance with collective decisions; but no doubt the Ministers concerned will take up any points of difficulty.

2. The Secretary of State also makes proposals on the Cabinet Committee organisation to take work forward. This minute is concerned with that aspect.

Control and Reform of Rates

3. The Secretary of State says that he doubts whether it will be necessary to establish a special Cabinet Committee to oversee work on the control and reform of rates, since the decisions of principle have been taken. The Ministerial Sub-Committee on Local Government Finance (E(LF)) will be there to resolve any issues should that prove necessary.

Abolition of GLC and MCCs

4. The Secretary of State proposes the establishment of a new Ministerial Group to oversee the preparation of legislation and to take remaining policy decisions. I think that this would be advantageous, and recommend the establishment of a Group in the MISC series. Its membership might be as follows.

Secretary of State for the Environment (Chairman)
Home Secretary
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Social Services
Secretary of State for Employment

Amend mt

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Secretary of State for Transport
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Minister for Local Government (Lord Bellwin).

5. There are other Ministers with less central interests in the subject; they would receive copies of papers and be invited to attend meetings as necessary.
6. For the title of the Group I suggest: 'The Ministerial Group on the Abolition of the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils'. It is long; but I think that accuracy is important: if, for example, it became known that a 'Group on the re-organisation of local government' had been set up, there could be serious misunderstandings.
7. If you agree, I will put the necessary arrangements in hand. You will no doubt wish to reflect your decisions in any reply to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Amend mt

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

20 June 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Abolition of Greater London Council and Metropolitan County Councils

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 20 June (Ref A083/1752).

She agrees to the establishment of a Ministerial group to oversee the preparation of legislation and to take remaining policy decisions on the abolition of the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan County Councils. She agrees to the membership proposed in paragraph 4 of your minute, and would be grateful if you would put the necessary arrangements in hand.

M. C. SCHOLAR

23 June 1983

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