

PPS 122



Minister of State for the Environment,
Countryside and Planning

Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB
Telephone 01-212 3434

THE HON WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE MP

Prime Minister ⁴

RL6

This has gone to all London members. 04 FEB 1987

Dear Mr Thatcher,

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21/2
6/2.

THE AGENDA FOR STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FOR LONDON

28th July at 11.30 AM

As you know, under the Local Government Act 1985, the Secretary of State is responsible for issuing strategic guidance to assist the London Boroughs in the preparation of their unitary development plans. In drawing up the guidance, the Secretary of State will be consulting the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) and other bodies. Lord Elton's letter of 24 July 1986 invited LPAC's views on the scope, contents and timing of the guidance.

/ I attach for information copies of recent correspondence between the Minister and the Chairman of LPAC. This sets out the basis on which it has been agreed that the preparation of LPAC's advice should be carried forward following consultation on Lord Elton's letter.

Please note that the topics for the first stage of the guidance will include consideration of nature conservation and wildlife matters (under green belt and open land) and offices and tourism-related development (under industry and commerce).

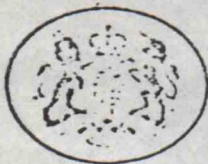
I am copying this letter to all the recipients of Lord Elton's letter.

Yours sincerely

A. N. Ashbourne

A N ASHBOURNE
Private Secretary





24 November 1986

Dear Miss Hamwee

At the meeting on 17 November which you, Councillor Deanshaw and Councillor Williams, representing LPAC, had with me I promised to write to you on the next steps in the preparation of strategic guidance for London. I felt that the meeting provided an opportunity for a useful exchange of views on the way that the work on the guidance should develop and the timetable that might be adopted.

We discussed first the objectives set out in paragraph 3.3.4 of your paper of 2 October outlining the response to Lord Elton's letter of 24 July on the draft agenda. A copy of these objectives is attached. I indicated that I thought that some of the objectives went beyond those matters which I would regard as subjects for strategic guidance. We also agreed that, while there was everything to be said for aiming for an agreed version of strategic guidance, there is room for a divergence of views as to the ways in which the objectives should be achieved. Nevertheless, in my view, they provide a useful starting point for the exercise.

We then discussed a possible timetable and coverage of your advice to the Secretary of State and his subsequent guidance. You made the point that you were keen to move ahead as quickly as possible whilst ensuring that the advice was underpinned by a sound professional approach and the necessary consultation. I accepted this and made it clear that we wished to provide the guidance as quickly as possible so that Commencement Orders for the preparation of UDPs could be issued, as we all agree is desirable.

We agreed that the best way forward was likely to be a staged approach, concentrating initially on the headings which are clearly of the highest priority for the production of strategic guidance and without which it would be impractical to initiate Unitary Development Plans. We agreed, on that basis that the first instalment of your advice and the Secretary of State's guidance should concentrate on housing, industry and commerce, transport, retailing and green belt and open space. This stage would be followed by an assessment of other subjects to extend the coverage of the guidance. No doubt we would also wish, at that time, to consider the arrangements to monitor the changes taking place in those matters already covered.

These are very broad subjects areas and there was not time at the meeting to discuss the points on which we might concentrate in each case. As I explained the Secretary of State's guidance will deal only with those matters which are directly relevant to Unitary Development Plans and I hope that the work will concentrate on such matters within each heading. Clearly the definition of a work programme will be the next stage in the process. I trust that it will be possible for our two sides to keep in close contact as this is developed.

At the meeting we agreed that you would seek to provide advice under the agreed headings within a year. We all accepted that this was a very tight timetable for you to achieve, particularly as you still have to recruit a number of your staff. You mentioned that, besides your own staff, you hope to make use of the resources in the boroughs and their support clearly will be crucial. We agreed that we would meet again in six months both to review the timetable and to assess whether any topics should be added to those for immediate study.

I hope this letter, which takes us on from Lord Elton's letter of 24 July, reflects fairly the matters discussed at our meeting. As I have already mentioned I was encouraged by the progress we made and hope that it will now be possible to move forward quickly and effectively on the provision of your advice and the Secretary of State's guidance.

Yours sincerely

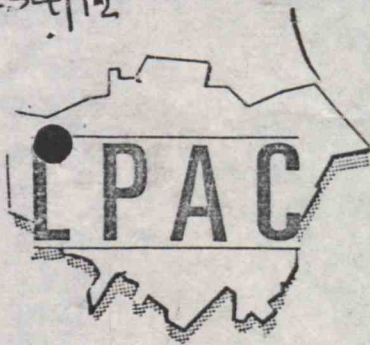
A. N. Allbone (Private Secretary)

for WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE

*Approved by the Minister
to sign in his absence.*

254/12

Dpt - Mr. Mahagan
cc: P/W/W
ANNEX A

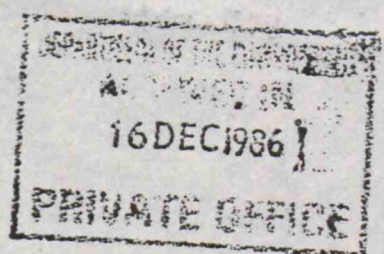


London Planning Advisory Committee

Honorary Secretary
J L Guest. LLB Solicitor

Chief Planner/Co-ordinating Officer
E N Lewis. MA. Dip. TP. MRTPI.

Minister of State for the Environment,
Countryside and Planning
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB



15 December 1986

Dear Mr Waldegrave,

Thank you for your letter of 24th November, following up our meeting on 17th November. I particularly welcome the agreement we reached that the objectives for the strategic guidance set out by LPAC, and attached to your letter, should form the starting point for the exercise. I think it is helpful that we are able to work from these rather than confine ourselves to Lord Elton's letter.

We are convinced that the guidance needs to be as comprehensive as can be managed and will endeavour to meet the target timetable of a year. For that reason it will be necessary to concentrate initially on the five subject areas of housing, industry and commerce, transport, retailing and green belt and open space. But in doing so it will, of course, be necessary to have full regard to the other objectives such as the need to promote equality of opportunity, the distinctive needs of central, inner and outer London, and the question of resources and to incorporate their impact on the priority topics.

We agreed also that extensive consultation would be undertaken, both by LPAC before providing its advice and by the Department subsequently. For our part we regard such consultation as vital to ensure that Londoners are well informed about the strategic guidance and that their views are fully taken into account.

We are now pressing ahead with setting up the machinery to carry out this substantial and important task, and will keep your side in touch as it progresses

I look forward to our meeting again at the next appropriate stage.

Yours sincerely,

SALLY HAMWEE
Chairman

