

PRIME MINISTER  

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*Also M*  
*copies also filed in*  
*HOUSING Policy Pt 15*  
*LOCAL GOVT: Planning Pt 6*

MEETING OF E(LF): TUESDAY 11 JULY

There are three items for E(LF) next Tuesday. I am afraid there is rather a weight of paper in the folder, but this minute is designed to guide you through it. Material on item 2 has kindly been provided by Caroline.

1. Homelessness

This is the third of the discussions you have had over the last six months or so on homelessness. The papers are:

Flag A - main paper by Nicholas Ridley

Flag B - Cabinet Office handling brief

Flag C - note from the Policy Unit, suggesting it is important not only to address the issues covered by Nicholas Ridley but also the problem of rootless youngsters.

2. Planning Appeals and Charges

The main papers are:

Flag D - latest minute from Nicholas Ridley

Flag E - Cabinet Office brief

Flag F - Carolyn Sinclair's very succinct and clear brief.

At the back of the divider are also some contributions from other Ministers, which you probably do not need to refer to.

The main issue is whether charging for appeals should be introduced solely in England or also in Scotland and Wales. There seems no reason why charging should not be introduced in England alone but it may be that Scotland and Wales can be persuaded to follow suit. The main stumbling blocks for

Mr. Walker and Mr. Rifkind appear to be concerned that the Treasury will not allow charges to be used by the Planning Inspectorates to improve service; and that charging will be a disincentive to businesses and homeowners.

On the first, the Treasury have been positive in discussions for the Planning Inspectorate in England. On the second, the Sainsbury Group have responded positively to proposals to introduce charging provided they are linked to positive improvements in performance. You might wish to explore the feeling on this at Monday's separate Sainsbury Group meeting; and to press in E(LF) on Tuesday for a clear commitment to the linking of charges to positive improvements in the performance of the Planning Inspectorate. A potential area of compromise is on the scale of the charging. Mr. Ridley wishes to cover the full cost of processing appeals.

Mr. Ridley wants to see the Planning Bill in the next Session. I believe it is still first reserve.

### 3. Standard Community Charge

You saw some of the papers on this subject last weekend, and decided it should be added to the E(LF) agenda.

The main papers are:

Flag G - Cabinet Office brief, which very helpfully details the main issues from the mass of ministerial exchanges.

Flag H - John Mills' note, which you saw last weekend.

At the back of the divider are the various ministerial exchanges, but these are very hard work to plough through, and I do not think you need bother with them; the two briefs at G and H should suffice.

PAUL GRAY

7 July 1989

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