



Prime Minister²

cc/ll

A worrying trend - It
 it is striking that a large
 proportion of these initiatives
~~are~~ relate to food safety or
 environmental
 concerns.

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My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
 Lord President of the Council
 Privy Council Office
 Whitehall
 LONDON
 SW1

environmental
 concerns.

3 November 1989

REC6
 6/11

CF-PC.

REC6
 6/11

Dear Lord President,

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I am enclosing the latest list of central government initiatives, having financial and manpower implications for local government, which have been notified to my Department during the last six months.

The first list contains details of 34 proposals which are likely to result in increased demands on local authorities. This compares with the 17 items identified in the spring trawl. Although at least 12 of the items are unlikely to have more than a minimal impact, 7 may have a potentially major impact on local government.

Many of the initiatives still remain unquantified. I recognise that it is not always possible to produce meaningful estimates at an early stage: nevertheless I should be grateful if, wherever possible, my officials are at least given an order of magnitude.

I recognise that various issues have emerged recently but I am nonetheless disappointed with the high number of new burdens. Local authorities often complain about the cumulative impact of burdens placed on them and, with the community charge coming into operation in England and Wales next April, we ought to be particularly careful about placing extra demands on them that lead to higher charges.

The new burdens procedure is also concerned with proposals likely to lead to overall savings. In the latest period we were notified of 3 such cases (compared with 4 last time). None of the savings appear to be significant. This compares poorly with 34 additional burdens and it is all the more important that colleagues look very closely at the scope for reducing the demands on local government, especially when they are already proposing additional burdens elsewhere.



A new system for selective monitoring of major burdens placed on local government was introduced this year and led to the first trawl of relevant sponsors in July. This will become a regular feature of the burdens drill. My officials are as always very grateful for sponsors' help in taking these initiatives through and more generally for helping administer the whole burdens procedure.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA) and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely


PP CHRIS PATTEN

(Approved by the Secretary of State
and Signed in his Absence)



INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 MARCH-12 SEPTEMBER 1989 -
POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

A POTENTIAL INCREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Proposed EEC Regulation for the production and marketing of fresh meat.	MAFF	Any increased costs to local government should be recovered from industry.	Currently under discussion in Brussels at Commission Working Group level.
2. Sheep Scab-Proposed Statutory controls.	MAFF	Increased costs of licensing system will be offset by savings resulting from one national compulsory dipping period.	New controls to be introduced in the autumn.
3. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Use of certain offal in meat products.	MAFF	Extension to local authorities' existing procedures unlikely to result in significant extra costs.	Consultation letter issued on 26 July.
4. Charging for Residue Testing.	MAFF	Not yet quantified	Local authority Associations consulted on 4 August.
5. Guidance to LAs on improvements in hygiene standards during poultry processing.	MAFF	Any increased costs should be minimal.	Draft guidance being sent to LAAs for their assessment of implications.
6. Notification and verification procedures for newly-marketed foods for particular nutritional uses which are not the subject of specific EC Directives.	MAFF	Not yet quantified but unlikely to result in significant costs.	Proposals to implement EC Directive at an initial stage.

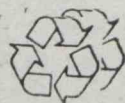
PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
7. Draft Regulations on Bottled Water and water used in Food Production (Quality Standards).	MAFF/DOE	Not yet quantified.	Proposal at an initial stage.
8. Introducing higher standards for home produced and imported egg products.	MAFF/DOH	Not yet quantified.	Consultation paper in preparation to be released later this year - implementation next year.
9. Straw and stubble burning.	MAFF	Many months before possible effects on LAs workload could be quantified, but likely to be small.	Minister to write to Secretary of State DOE in general terms during the next two weeks.
10. Proposals following the Elton enquiry into discipline in schools.	DES	Financial consequences in 1990/91 being met through Education Support Grants (£5m) and LEA Training Grants Scheme (£1.7m).	Government response to Elton Report announced on 13 March.
11. Regulations on school records.	DES	Not expected to be significant; schools will have power to charge for the supply of copies of records.	Circular issued on 27 July.
12. Batho Report on tree preservation.	DOE DRA	New powers and provisions should be offset by proposed simplification of procedures.	Consultation Paper to issue shortly.
13. Licensing of sale of unauthorised fuel in smoke control areas.	DOE AQ1	Proposed scheme could have significant resource implications.	Local authority Associations to be consulted.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
14. Control of Pollution Act 1974: Review of the Special Waste Regulations 1980.	DOE LEQ	Resulting in some additional costs for disposal authorities which should be offset by savings resulting from increased cost effectiveness of enforcement action.	Consultation paper to be issued shortly
15. Action on Dogs: Draft Consultation paper.	DOE LEQ	The proposal to employ dog wardens in England will cost local authorities around £15.3m.	Consultation paper has been issued. It is intended to include the measures in the Environmental Protection Bill.
16. Action on Litter.	DOE LEQ	Limited increased costs expected.	Consultation paper issued in June. LAA's comments on resources awaited.
17. Review of Sport and recreation in Inner Cities	DOE SARD	Some of the report's recommendations could result in extra costs for local authorities	Report to be published in November. Unclear how far the recommendations will be implemented.
18. Report of Review into sport for people with disabilities	DOE SARD	Some increase in costs likely	Report published 7/8/89
19. Government response to the Report: School Sport Forum	DOE SARD	The recommendation to appoint sports development officers could result in increased costs of £½m. This will be offset by increased revenues from sports facilities.	DOE to issue Government's response to the Report in October.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
20. Guidance booklet on the introduction of community use into school sports facilities (dual use).	DES DOE SARD	To the extent that schools and education authorities introduce new dual use schemes, some additional costs could be involved. These will be partially offset by increased revenues.	Guidance to be published in November.
21. Planning Policy Guidance on Sport and Recreation.	DOE	Unquantified	First draft being prepared.
22. Revision of the compulsory Purchase by Public Authorities (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1976	DOE PDC	De minimis. Local authorities will be required to undertake additional pre-inquiry work, offset by more efficient arrangements overall	Consultations complete, LAAs agree with resource assessment. Rules to be issued shortly
23. Planning Policy Guidance: Development on Unstable Land	DOE DPS	Unquantified	The Department has promised to keep any resource implications under review with the LAAs
24. Report on Co-ordinating Services for the Visually Handicapped	DOH	Proposals leading to additional staff would cost an extra £1m-£2m.	Local authority Associations will be consulted about resource implications later this year.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
25. Community Care	DOH	Proposals estimated to cost local authorities an additional £225m.	Resource implications to be discussed with LAAs shortly
26. Local Government Act 1966, Section II: more effective targetting	HO	Some recommendations would result in short term increases in costs	Still under consideration. An announcement is planned for later in the autumn.
27. Proposals for a Fire Service Civil Defence training package	HO	Unquantified	
28. Housing Benefit Scheme: Changes in the rules	DSS	Significant burden on local authorities probably some £14m pa increase in costs	Local authority Associations have now been consulted
29. Bus Fuel Duty Rebate: Proposals to end the subsidy	DTp	Removal of the subsidy could cost local authorities up to £50m pa.	DTp/Treasury firming up their views in readiness for a PAC Report on the subject.
30. Display of information at Offstreet Parking places - includes availability of allocated spaces for disabled people.	DTp	About £547,500 per annum.	Bill completed final stages 7 July 1989.
31. Departmental Advice Notes on Traffic Signals - equipment to measure loop operating frequency.	DTp	About £86,700 per annum.	Draft Departmental Standard issued August 1989.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
32. 1991 London Area Transport Survey.	DTp	London Boroughs share 1/3 of survey costs - About £1.6m-£1.9m.	Proposal to be discussed with London Boroughs. Meeting imminent.
33. Computerised Street Works Register.	DTp	Initial setting up and supervisory costs offset by eventual savings.	Awaiting results of liaison between local authorities and utilities.
34. Public Utilities Street Works Act - charging of utilities for use of road space.	DTp	Unquantifiable at present - certain amount of revenue but collection costs	Proposal for legislation.



INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 13 MARCH-12 SEPTEMBER 1989 -
POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

B. POTENTIAL DECREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. New CPO Regulations: Draft Circular.	DOE PDC	Marginal savings resulting from removal of requirement to hold local inquiries in certain cases.	Circular to be issued before Christmas. Regulations to come into force in January.
2. Application of the compulsory competitive tendering provisions of the Local Government Act 1988 to the management of local authority sport and leisure facilities.	DOE SARD	Any increased costs in preparing specifications and contract supervision should be more than offset by savings which result from either tighter in-house management or contracting out.	Draft order to be laid before Parliament Oct/Nov 1989.
3. Design of Highway Structures in Areas of Mining Subsidence - Use encouraged of reinforced earth structures as abutments and retaining walls instead of concrete.	DTP	Small cost saving - unquantifiable, but in order of 30-40% of current costs.	Amendment issued.



