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My ref:

Your ref:

10 April 1985

Dear Willie,

MS

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Pt 22 at flap

I wrote to you on 12 September last with proposals for handling new central government initiatives which are likely to have resource implications for local authorities and attached a list of new burdens which we had compiled. In the ensuing correspondence, colleagues agreed on procedures for dealing with new budens, including the circulation of an up-dated list of new budens on a 6-monthly basis. Accordingly, I now enclose a list of initiatives that have been brought to my attention since last September. I should be grateful if colleagues could comment on their items and suggest any additions or deletions.

You will note that my Department leads the rest in the number of new proposals implying some increase in local authority manpower. THIS to some extent, I hope, is because we already have a fairly rigorous system drawing Ministers' attention to such proposals even when the effects are de minimis. Nevertheless, this return has prompted me to issue new guidelines within DOE on the application of the new arrangements we agreed in December. Colleagues might find similar guidance within their own Departments useful, and I shall ask my Permanent Secretary to write soon to his counterparts describing the kind of arrangements we propose. I shall also be looking again at the 14 proposals where either minor manpower increases are forecast or where the resource effects are uncertain to see if the work is really essential or whether it might be handled in ways that are neutral in manpower.

Altogether 38 new items have been recorded, making a total of 74 items since the beginning of 1984. Certainly the implications of such a large number of proposals for our aggregate plans for 1985/86 are disturbing.

Finally, I appreciate that the new monitoring procedures were agreed only recently, but I hope that, in the next 6 months, the new prior consultation arrangements with my Department and Treasury will help to identify and assess more clearly new initiatives with possible implications for local authorities.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

You are
Patrol

PATRICK JENKIN

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SINCE 1ST SEPTEMBER 1984
POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Collection and publication of homeless statistics - increased information requirement from LAs	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Not quantified	Discussion at official level; Local Authority Associations to be consulted on resource implications.
2. Implementation of S.12-14 of Control of Pollution Act 1974 - new powers & duties for LAs	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Current expenditure: +£17.5M pa capital expenditure: +£4.3M for the first year, £1.5M pa thereafter manpower cost: +£10M pa	Discussion at official level; on options for implementation and approach to Local Authority Associations.
3. Control of noise from helicopters operating from private sites - possible extension of LAs' powers	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Not quantified; early stage.	Pressure for stricter control from LAs; discussion at official level.
4. Control of use of marine anti-fouling paints - new enforcement duty for LAs	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Not quantified; CDEP to estimate	Draft regulations; discussion at official level.
5. Mineral workings bill - new power for LAs in remedial work and compensation	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Insignificant; small no of LAs likely to be affected	Bill went through Committee Stage in House of Lords.
6. Circular on asbestos in electric storage heaters - guidance to LAs	DOE	<u>Increase</u> No significant effect	Issued on 17/12/84.
7. Proposed legislation on payment of interest on land compensation in advance of settlement - small new task for LAs	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Insignificant	LAAs' reactions to the proposals were mild, ministerial approval to be
8. Exemption of empty warehouses and industrial property from rates - new legislation to suspend LA rate-levying power	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Possible loss of rate income	New regulations to be laid shortly; effective date 1/4/85/.

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
9. Circular on Housing Defects Act 1984 - housing authorities to provide financial assistance to owners of designated buildings	DOE	<u>Increase</u> £170 - 250M over 10 years; first full year of payment £25-45M. Large proportion reimbursed through S of S's contributions; manpower implications for some LAs.	Issued on 7/11/84.
10. Proposed Minerals Compensation Regulations - new powers and duties for mineral planning authorities to renew sites and to secure environmental improvements.	DOE	<u>Increase</u> Some financial and manpower implications but partly offset by savings in compensation	Local Authority Associations to be consulted; draft circular promulgating regulations in preparation.
11. Code of practice for planning control of contaminated land - improved guidance to local planning authorities.	DOE CDEP	<u>Increase</u> not quantified; early stage.	Draft Code of Practice circulated within DOE.
12. Competition in provision of local government services.	DOE	<u>Decrease</u> Initially some increase in expenditure and administrative work but overall should lead to reduction in manpower and expenditure.	Consultation paper issued; responses required by 30/4/85. Legislation in 1985/86.
13. Proposed extension of Landscape Special Development Orders (LASDO) - more control for LAs.	DOE	<u>Unknown</u> Present estimate no additional administrative work; National Park Authorities and LAAs to be consulted on costs.	Ministerial undertaking to issue consultation document; extension subject to costs implications for LAs.
14. Amendment to S.43 of Wildlife and Countryside Act - extend duty on National Park Authorities to prepare maps under this section.	DOE	<u>Unknown</u> Countryside Commission advises no resource implications; NPAS to be consulted.	Part of Wildlife & Countryside (Amendments) Bill. S of S approved paper for 'H' committee.

15. Possible proposals for improving hazardous waste management following publication of Hazardous Waste Inspectorate Report.	DOE	<u>Unknown</u> early stage	Report due out April 1985
16. Minibuses Unifying Legislation - widening scope of permits issued by LAs	DTp	<u>Increase</u> Will mostly affect central government; unlikely significant effect for LAs	Transport Bill; committee stage in House of Commons.
17. Proposed Restructuring of District Council Bus Operations - formation of municipal bus companies	DTp	<u>Increase</u> Possible knock on effect on the spread of costs for LA services; staff will be transferred to companies.	" "
18. Proposed changes in provision of concessionary fare schemes for the elderly and disabled-new administrative and legal requirements on LAs	DTp	<u>Increase</u> Effects on LAs depend on existing practices	" "
19. Tendering for LA subsidised bus services - new arrangement	DTp	<u>Increase</u> Additional staff may be required to administer new arrangements	" "
20. Registration and Control of Bus Operations - County Councils as new authorities	DTp	<u>Increase</u> Costs of operation could be recouped from fees	" "
21. Relaxation of control and extension of licensing of taxis and private hire cars	DTp	<u>Neutral</u> Only district councils affected; additional work offset by fee; should be some savings	" "
22. Proposed changes in structure of public transport services in the metropolitan areas following abolition of the MCCs.	DTp	<u>Unknown</u> Depends on whether MDCs take over responsibilities for public transport services	" "

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
23. Charities Bill - extension of LA (County Councils) existing functions	HO	<u>Increase</u> Not quantified; ACC agreed financial consequences minimal	Private Bill by Lord Colville; Committee stage in House of Lords; Local Authority Associations consulted.
24. Voting by proxy or by post in parliamentary and local elections - largely technical changes	HO	<u>Increase</u> Increase in expenses for returning officers estimated at £100,000 pa	Representation of the People Bill; royal assent probably in October 1985.
25. Proposed deregulation of shop opening hours	HO	<u>Neutral</u> Likely to be increases and decreases in expenditure	Auld Report published; H Committee agreed on introduction of a government bill.
26. Proposed time limits on bringing of criminal proceedings - field trials	HO	<u>Neutral</u> Readjustment within existing resources; cost of field trials £100,000 paid out of HO programme provision	Ministerial correspondence; possibility of trials developing into national programme.
27. Consultation paper on Review of Fire Precautions Act 1971 - proposals to replace existing certification system with new control system.	HO	<u>Unknown</u> To be accommodated within existing resources	Discussion at official level; Local Authority Associations to be consulted.
28. Introduction of the Advanced Supplementary level examination	DES	<u>Increase</u> LEAs expressed concern about resource implications; DES asked to quantify	White Paper on Schools; agreed at Cabinet that LEAs would not be tied to a strict implementation timetable; claims for additional resources would be resisted.
29. Further report by LEAs on development of curricular policy	DES	<u>Increase</u> DES asked to quantify	" "
30. In-service teacher training grant - replacement of existing pooling arrangements by specific grants	DES	<u>Increase</u> Pressure on LAs to increase spending; DES asked to quantify	" "

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
31. Proposed Circular on re-shaping of education welfare services - local educational authorities to review existing practices	DES	<u>Unknown</u> DES asked to quantify	White Paper on Schools; S of S for ES to advise S of S for E of Local Authority Associations' reactions to resource implications.
32. LA charges for residential accommodation - revised guidance on assessment of charges	DHSS	<u>Increase</u> Depends on existing practices; could be substantial additional work for some LAs	Draft circular; discussion at official level.
33. Proposed changes in supplementary board and lodging payments - effect on LAs' statutory duty to provide accommodation for the homeless	DHSS	<u>Increase</u> Substantial	Consultation document circulated; DOE Ministers to be consulted before final decisions are taken
34. Publicity programme to discourage misuse of drugs - each LEA to appoint an initiative co-ordinator	DHSS DES	<u>Increase</u> Not quantified	Circular to LEAs expected in March 1985; to be discussed at H Committee
35. Dangerous substance in harbour area - new enforcement duty for LAs	HSE	<u>Increase</u> HSE asked to estimate	Discussion at official level.
36. Proposal to revise allocation of enforcement duties to LAs under Health and Safety at Work Act 1974	HSE	<u>Increase</u> More manpower than financial; LAAs willing to take on extra duties within existing resources	Consultation paper to be issued; discussion at official level.
37. EC 'Special Sale' Butter scheme - small enforcement work for LAs	MAFF	<u>Increase</u> insignificant	Implemented
38. Composite Rate interest scheme for LAs - new tax deduction system for local bonds	IR	<u>Increase</u> Loss of investment and more administrative work but overall not significant	Partly implemented; transitional period.

Local Govt Pt 26 Relating

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