

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

REF (85) 6th Meeting

COPY NO 26

CABINET

STEERING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE STUDIES

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Conference Room D, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 1985 at 10.30 am

PRESENT

Mr P F Owen
Department of the Environment
(In the Chair)

Mr J R Jameson
Treasury

Mr N W Stuart
Department of Education and Science

Mr I Penman
Scottish Office

Mr M G Jeremiah
Welsh Office

Mr I Yass
Department of Transport

Mr B Houghton
Inland Revenue

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr A C S Allan
Treasury

Mr J M Healey
Department of Trade and Industry

Mr J Halliday
Home Office

Mr D Brereton
Department of Health and Social
Security

Mr W N Smyth
Northern Ireland Office

Mr R M P Bright
Department of the Environment

Mr J W Smith
Department of the Environment

Mr P D Ward
Department of the Environment

SECRETARIAT

Mr J E Roberts
Ms J K Rutter

SUBJECT

DRAFT GREEN PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT GREEN PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The Committee considered Notes by the Secretaries covering chapter 9 and Annex J of the draft Green Paper (E(LF)(O)(85) 10 and 11).

THE CHAIRMAN said that draft text of all the chapters of the Green Paper had now been circulated to Departments. A further annex, on the relationship between taxes and income, would be circulated later that day. It was intended to circulate a revised complete draft of the text, in the form which it would initially be sent to the printers, early the following week.

In discussion a number of drafting points were made. The following are the other main points made -

- a. Some further analytical work would be undertaken in the period between sending the text to printing and publication.
- b. The Chartered Institute of Finance and Public Accountancy were being consulted informally about the proposals on the budgetary framework, but were unlikely to raise difficulties. Similarly the Audit Commission were likely to be content.
- c. It was for consideration whether the Technical Annex to the White Paper on Social Security Reform (published on 16 December), which contained the exemplifications of the affects on households, would need to be revised and re-issued to take account of the proposals for local Government finance.
- d. Work was continuing to identify transitional arrangements which would enable rates to be eliminated in England within a decade. It would not be necessary to describe fully worked up proposals in the Green Paper, but it was necessary to be sure that a workable scheme could be devised. Proposals would be put to Cabinet with the text of the Green Paper on 9 January.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that Departments should submit any final drafting points urgently. The final text would be circulated for discussion in Cabinet on 9 January, and the Committee would meet again just prior to that.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up of their discussion.

Cabinet Office

20 December 1985