



JF2372  
Secretary of State for Industry

GJV 2

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY  
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10 January 1983

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3EB

*Prime Minister*  
*Mr King intends to revise*  
*the list of authorities with*  
*special status under the Urban*  
*Programme. The revised list is at A.*  
*Mr Jenkin raises no overriding*  
*objection but draws attention*

*Dear Tom,*

Michael Heseltine sent me a copy of his letter of 21 December to Willie Whitelaw declaring your intentions for the designation of districts under the Urban Programme.

2 Michael took the view that decisions following the present official level review of regional policy are unlikely to lead to wholesale changes in the organisation of the Urban Programme. I can of course see the force of this view, but equally I understand that the report will certainly recommend that there should be a review of the Urban Programme map in parallel with any changes that may be proposed to the Assisted Area map. Thus while I accept that if anything is to be achieved in 1983/84, you cannot delay your proposals for this reason, I hope we can agree that these changes will not in any sense prejudice the outcome of any more fundamental review of the Urban Programme map which may take place.

3 So far as the changes themselves are concerned, it is unfortunate that a number of your specific proposals might be claimed to demonstrate that there are inconsistencies in the Government's regional and urban policies: parts of the West Midlands and NE Lancashire in particular will doubtless feel that your decisions lend weight to their case for Assisted Area status. However, I have no strong objections to what is proposed and we shall therefore simply have to live with any resultant protest from such areas.

4 I am sending copies of this letter to those to whom Michael copied his.

*Your ever*  
*Patel*

*mt*

*implications for our regional policy.*  
*to me*  
*LM*  
*11/1*

Regional Hwy: Inner Cities  
Pt 3

JAN 1983



NG

REGIONAL POLICY



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

21 DEC 82

*De Lakin*

Following our review of inner city policy I announced in February last year that we had decided not to make any changes in the lists of authorities with special status under the Urban Programme. Since then we have come under increasing pressure to make changes, particularly in the light of 1981 census data which show various changes in the distribution of urban deprivation, with considerable increases in the West Midlands and Inner London. Taken together, these changes make it impossible in my view to defend the current lists.

We have now carried out a detailed analysis of 1981 census data, and in the light of that I propose a number of changes in the lists. There is a number of authorities where it could be argued that levels of deprivation do not justify current status, but I do not think that we should make any demotions now - such demotions would lead to major rows, and would save little money in the short term because of the high levels of commitments within approved expenditure programmes. Instead, I shall reduce Urban Programme allocations as circumstances permit.

At the other end of the scale, there are a number of authorities with strong claims to enhanced status, and I therefore propose the following changes:

New Programme Authorities

Blackburn, Brent, Coventry, Knowsley, Rochdale, Sandwell, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth.

New Other Designated Districts

Burnley, Langbaugh, Walsall

/ I enclose a note showing what the lists would look like if these changes were made. In arriving at these changes I have sought to maintain as far as possible our policy of concentrating UP resources in the most deprived areas, and also to achieve a balance between London and the rest of the country. The second aim is particularly difficult - there are a number of other Inner London boroughs for which programme authority status could easily be justified.

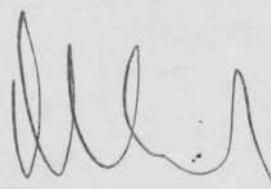
I shall be able to find the UP resources for the authorities I propose to promote from the existing provision for 1983/84.

It might be argued that decisions on changes should be put off until the present official level review of regional policy is completed and decisions on that have been taken. But if the new programme authorities are to achieve anything in 1983/84 I need to announce the changes as early as possible in the New Year. I cannot believe that the review will lead to wholesale changes in the organisation of the Urban Programme and the changes I propose in any case are fairly modest. Subject to any comments from you or colleagues, I therefore intend to invite the authorities to accept their new status as soon as possible and then to lay the necessary statutory instruments designating the extra authorities under the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978.

I ought also to raise the marker at this stage that I may have to consider special treatment for Kensington and Chelsea, which faces particular problems under the block grant system. I will if necessary write again to colleagues. This need not however, delay the announcement of the proposals I describe in this letter.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Keith Joseph, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Patrick Jenkin, David Howell, Norman Fowler, Leon Brittan, Norman Tebbit and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yes m



MICHAEL HESELTINE

A

URBAN PROGRAMME AUTHORITIES - REVISED LISTS

Partnerships (7)

Birmingham  
Hackney  
Islington  
Lambeth

Liverpool  
Manchester/Salford  
Newcastle/Gateshead

Programme Authorities (23)

Blackburn  
Bolton  
Bradford  
Brent  
Coventry  
Hammersmith  
Hull  
Knowsley  
Leeds  
Leicester  
Middlesbrough  
Nottingham

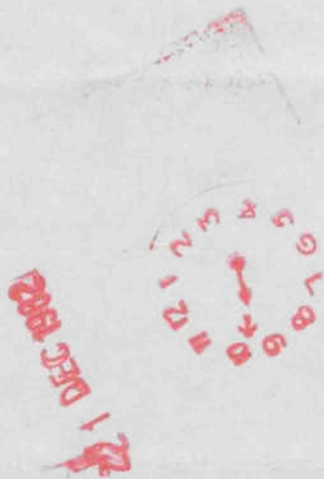
Oldham  
Rochdale  
Sandwell  
Sheffield  
Sunderland  
Tower Hamlets  
North Tyneside  
South Tyneside  
Wandsworth  
Wirral  
Wolverhampton

Other Designated Districts (16)

Barnsley  
Burnley  
Doncaster  
Ealing  
Greenwich  
Haringey  
Hartlepool  
Langbaugh

Lewisham  
Newham  
Rotherham  
St Helens  
Sefton  
Southwark  
Walsall  
Wigan

Reg Pol, Inner Cities, Pt 3





Prime Minister

(2)

MUS 7/2.

*[Handwritten scribble]*

Regional Policy  
cc J.V.

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

4<sup>th</sup> February 1983

Dear Norman

As I mentioned in my letter to you of 28 January about Urban Programme Designation, I have had the position on the closed shop agreement at Sandwell checked. I thought I should let you know the outcome of my inquiries.

I understand that the closed shop agreement was introduced in 1980 when the controlling group on Sandwell Borough Council was under strong left-wing influence. Following the local elections in May 1981, however, I gather that there was a shake-up in the controlling Labour group and the local "Tribune Group" was expelled and 3 of its members who had chaired the key committees involved in the affair (Finance, Personnel, and Works) were replaced by moderates. This change has stuck and Sandwell is presently operating under moderate traditional Labour leadership. I understand that the closed shop agreement has never again been enforced since the Joanna Harris incident nor is there any sign that it is likely to be.

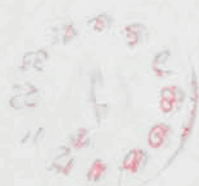
I am satisfied, therefore, that there has been a change of heart and that in proposing this local Task Force I am not condoning practices which I find just as unacceptable as you do. I might add that the leader of the local Conservative Group on the Council was present when I discussed the Task Force proposals and supports it.

I shall, however, take a personal interest in the development of the Task Force in Sandwell and in their Urban Programme proposals and shall emphasise that they need not expect a sympathetic relationship with the Government if there is any recurrence of such practices. It is an advantage of the Urban Programme that it provides opportunities to watch out for this sort of thing and point out the consequences directly to the authority leaders.

As it happens - current events permitting - I intend to visit Sandwell next week, and I will be having discussions with the local authority and representatives of the private sector about the Task Force.

I am copying this letter as before.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
TOM KING



ST. JAMES





MC

Reg Pol  
Imm Citiz



Prime Minister ②

ms 4/2

cc JV

Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1H 9N&F

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The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

ms

7 February 1983

D Tom.

CANDIDATES FOR ENHANCED STATUS WITHIN THE URBAN PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 28 January. As I said in mine of 14 January, I do not wish to get involved in the details of this selection process. I still think it is odd that you have not selected a single one of the places in the south-east outside London, some of which at least, on the face of it, are strong candidates. But since you are confident that your list can be defended I shall not persist.

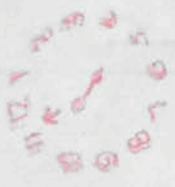
I look forward to hearing from you on the question of an area task force for Sandwell.

I am copying this as before.

J. Norman

Reg. Pbl.  
Imer Cities  
ptr

JAN 1961





Prime Minister ②

CE JV

MS 4/2 2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref: K/PSO/10209/83

Your ref:

3 February 1983

Dear Patricia,

MF

Thank you for your letter of 10 January about the designation of new districts under the urban programme.

I am grateful for your agreement that the proposals Michael Heseltine made in his letter of 21 December should be implemented in time to allow payment of grant in 1983/4. Designation must carry a commitment beyond that if we are to help the local authorities concerned make any impact on the needs of their inner areas. I shall nevertheless give full consideration to the proposals emerging from the review of regional policy, and do not regard any designations under the Inner Urban Areas Act as permanent or irrevocable.

That said, I am not persuaded that there is a need for close conformity between assisted area status and urban programme designations. The Inner Urban Areas Act requires me to be satisfied that the local authorities I designate have inner areas in which there is "special social need". This obliges me to consider a range of factors which may not all be relevant to the need for industrial assistance. However I am sure that this is a point we can, if necessary, consider further in the heat of the review of regional policy.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

TOM KING

Res Pol.  
Inner Cities #3

5 FEB 1983

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Prime Minister (2)

ms 30/1

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref K/PSO/10298/83

Your ref:

28 January 1983

Dear Norman,

MS

Thank you for your letter of 14 January about changes in the list of authorities with special status under the urban programme.

The basis of selection for the authorities we are proposing to promote is more than just the "Z-score" ranking. We have looked, for example, at the way the various individual factors affect different authorities, at the way the rankings change if different weightings are given to different factors, and have proposed no authority for designation with a total population much below 100,000. Although Scunthorpe, Wear Valley, and Corby have a degree of deprivation comparable to some of the authorities we are recommending for promotion, they have much lower populations. My officials would be happy to explain to yours the basis for any particular aspect of the selection you still find puzzling.

In presenting and defending the new designations I shall emphasise that the statistical underpinning for them is broadly based. It would be misleading to suggest that there can be any absolute rank order of deprivation, and I shall emphasise that the statistics have been tempered with a large element of judgement. On this basis I am confident that the selection can be defended.

I am anxious not to delay the announcement of the changes in status and I will therefore write to you separately about the Sandwell area task force and the attitude of the local authority in the wake of the Joanna Harris incident as soon as the results of further checks I have requested are available.

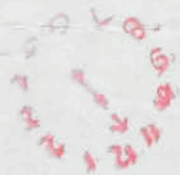
I am copying this as before.

MS

2-  
K

TOM KING

Regional Policy: Urban Develop  
Inner Cities Pt 3



31 JAN 1985



SV

NBM

MO 18

WELSH OFFICE  
GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)  
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From The Secretary of State for Wales

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG  
GWYDYR HOUSE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER  
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)  
01-233 6106 (Llinell Union)  
Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

14 January 1983

*De Willie*

I have seen Michael Heseltine's letter of 21 December setting out proposals to increase the number of local authorities in England which have special status under the Urban Programme. I have no comments on the detail of what is being proposed.

For my part, I have been reviewing the position in Wales in the same way in the light of the 1981 census data. I will be writing separately soon to let colleagues know the outcome and any proposals or change I think necessary, in parallel with what is proposed for England and bearing in mind any developments on regional economic policy generally.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Keith Joseph, George Younger, Tom King, Patrick Jenkin, David Howell, Norman Fowler, Leon Brittan, Norman Tebbit and Sir Robert Armstrong.

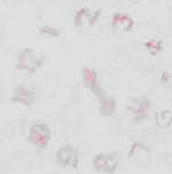
*in am  
NBM*

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP  
Home Secretary

Regional Policy

Inner cities

18 JAN 1983





Regional Policy *cf J*



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Telephone Direct Line 01-213 6400  
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NBPM  
ms 14/1

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

14 January 1983

*D. Tom*

*pm's Box*

Michael Heseltine copied to me his letter of 21 December to Willie Whitelaw about changes in the list of authorities with special status under the Urban Programme.

In view of the significant changes in the distribution of urban deprivation, shown up in the 1981 Census, I agree that some promotions should be made. However, I am not at all clear what basis of selection Michael employed in drawing up his list of 11 candidates for such promotion. The list departs quite substantially from your Department's "Z-Score ranking", or deprivation index, and though I can see that his wish to preserve a geographical balance can explain some of the disparities, some of those remaining will be hard to explain - particularly the absence of any of the seemingly well-qualified candidates from the South East outside London, or the East Midlands. And I should have thought that the inclusion of Langbaugh from the Northern Region, when both Scunthorpe and the Wear Valley come a good deal higher on the "Z-Score", would also be difficult to defend.

I do not wish to become involved in the details of the selection process. But without more information about the reasons for some of the choices I fear that it may prove more embarrassing to defend the promotions list than it would to preserve the status quo, particularly if you decide to publish the Z-Score rankings.

I notice that Sandwell's place in the list of candidates is amply supported by its Z-Score ranking. I do not therefore oppose its promotion to "programme authority". But I still feel very strongly that it is quite wrong to go further, and to make Sandwell one of the only three authorities which are to enjoy the special attentions of an "Area Task Force". As I said in a private letter I wrote to Michael Heseltine on 10 December, Sandwell Council has an appalling record of persecution of their own employees and defiance of the law, all from purely ideological motives. In their determination to enforce their closed shop policy on all their employees they have dismissed one employee without compensation in flagrant disregard of her statutory rights, they have harried countless others into



joining trade unions against their wishes, for fear of losing their jobs, and they have totally ignored a ballot held by the local NALGO branch in which the overwhelming majority of their staff voted to end the closed shop agreement immediately. It is no exaggeration to say that Sandwell's disgraceful behaviour towards its own employees, together with that of the former Walsall Council, was primarily responsible for the wave of revulsion against the closed shop, particularly amongst our own backbenchers, which led directly to the much stiffer penalties for dismissing non-unionist employees contained in the Employment Act 1982.

I do hope that on reflection you will feel able to withdraw the offer to establish an Area Task Force in partnership with this disgraceful council.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*J. Now...*

JAN 4 1983

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