



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
 Secretary of State for the Environment
 Department of the Environment
 2 Marsham Street
 LONDON
 SW1P 3EB

1 February 1984

Rees Secretary of State,

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEWS: URBAN PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 25th January. I welcome the large measure of agreement between us on the need for a radical review of the Urban Programme in time for it to inform the discussions on PES '84.

Given that you have already put work in hand under David Edmonds, I would not wish to press my original proposal for a Treasury-chaired steering committee. I am very content to fall in with your suggestion that representatives from the Treasury the Efficiency Unit and the No 10 Policy Unit should join the working group.

I am glad that you agree that the Treasury should provide a good man to work full-time on the review. It will be important that he should be able to get about, ask whatever questions he judges to be necessary and put forward his frank appraisal and conclusions. As you put it, the subject requires concentrated and informed effort - this is just what such a man, backed by the authority of the Edmonds group, should be able to achieve. This is, in my view, the essence of the successful scrutiny technique.

I think we now have a good basis on which officials can get to work. I am asking mine to get in touch with yours.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Robin Ibbs and John Redwood.

yours sincerely

PR

for PETER REES
 (approved by the Chief Secretary
 & signed in his absence).

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