

E. R.

PRIME MINISTER

Planning System: Meeting with Sir John Sainsbury

The following are attending your meeting with Sir John Sainsbury and others to discuss their report on the planning system:

Mr. Christopher Benson - MEPC

Mr. Clifford Chetwood - George Wimpey (wrote to you about housing expenditure recently)

Mr. Nigel Mobbs - Slough Estates (+ PSA Advisory Board)

Mr. Idris Pearce - Richard Ellis (advised DHSS on St. George's Hospital sale)

Sir John Sainsbury

~~Mr. Roger Suddards~~ - ~~Last Suddards Solicitors~~

Mr. John Taylor - Chapman Taylor Partners

Lord McAlpine

Secretary of State for the Environment

Lord Young

Mr. David Trippier



The papers below are rather voluminous: I suggest you look at Mr. Jenkin's covering minute at Flag A, the Policy Unit brief at Flag B, and the summary of the Sainsbury groups recommendations at Flag C.

The Secretary of State suggests that the meeting should concentrate on general principles, and that the details should be remitted for further consideration by DoE. I think there is a danger in this approach. It will be easy to agree on the principles (minimum bureaucracy, maximum speed, importance of job creation, fairness to all, etc.). It is in the detail that improvements are likely to get bogged down.

I strongly agree.  
The Secretary of State's paper is too bland.  
FERB

It might, therefore, be worthwhile to take the meeting through the group's detailed recommendations at Flag C, <sup>\*</sup>one by one. It will then be clearer how far agreement on principles can be translated into practice.

\* especially para 2.6 onwards

DMB

DAVID BARCLAY

21 November, 1984