

PRIME MINISTER

Meeting, 29 April, with the Sainsbury Group

The main paper on the table for Monday's meeting on planning is the Environment Secretary's minute at Flag A, on the outcome of his discussions with the Sainsbury Group. Essentially, he argues that the report DOE has drawn up with the Sainsbury Group (Flag B) satisfactorily deals with the Group's recommendations (Flag C), and that the Group are happy with the result. The key document is the proposed new circular, with its presumption in favour of development (Flag D).

Policy Unit advice is at Flag E. They believe the Sainsbury Group has to some extent had the wool pulled over its eyes. They think DOE could go further to meet the Group's earlier recommendations.

David Young and Patrick Jenkin have been in correspondence (Flag F, if you wish to read it) arguing whether or not the matter should be dealt with further through the group on de-regulation, MISC 114. Mr. Jenkin has resisted.

At the Ministerial pre-meeting, as Hartley Booth says, you need:-

- i) to agree the line to be taken with the Sainsbury Group at the meeting which follows. The Policy Unit advice is that the draft circular should be endorsed, but that the rest of the Group's report should be treated as interim.
- ii) to discuss and agree the publication timetable for the circular.
- iii) to discuss how far MISC 114 should become involved in further work. It would be very odd if a group

on de-regulation did not get in to, at least, how  
DOE proposals on planning (which of course go wider  
than the Sainsbury Group remit) should be  
implemented.

Mark Addison

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