

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute below seeks your approval to circulate his report for MISC 104's discussion on inner cities after Cabinet on Thursday.

Subject to any Policy Unit comments (which I have not seen at the time of dictating this):

- (i) ✓ agree that the paper may be circulated as a basis for discussion;
- (ii) ✓ agree that your decision that Lord Young should lead the work may be recorded in the first paragraph of Sir Robert's paper;
- (iii) ✓ agree that the passage in square brackets in paragraph 10 of the paper should remain (it is of course a statement of Lord Young's views, not yours);
- (iv) ✓ agree that a statement should not be planned for next Thursday and that the timing of a statement will need to depend on the meeting's reactions to what is proposed in the paper;
- (v) ✓ agree to leave any detailed comments on the organisational structure proposed to be made by you at the meeting rather than try to change the paper now;
- (vi) ✓ are you prepared to allow discussion to go forward with the Treasury on extra money for the initiative as proposed by Lord Young and Sir Robert Armstrong?

I am told that Mr. Baker knows that you have decided to put Lord Young in charge of the project. But it would be worth someone preparing the ground with him before the meeting to avoid misunderstanding. Agree that Sir Robert Armstrong should talk to Mr. Baker before the meeting?

DN

24 January 1986

VC4AFA

CONFIDENTIAL

Yes - Kenneth  
already has more than  
enough to do. Dept of Regional  
have 2 Cabinet Ministers and

Parsmar



From the Secretary of the Cabinet

Prime Minister

The Secretary of State for Employment would like to make a very early statement on inner cities (see submission below): preferably on 30 January, failing that on 3 February. He would like to pre-empt:

(a) the Synod of the Church of England, which is due to turn its attention to the problems of inner cities later in the week beginning 3 February;

(b) the Member for Henley (Mr Heselthine), who — Lord Young suspects — may before long turn his restless energies to the problems of inner cities and (especially) Liverpool.

RCA 24.1.86



PRIME MINISTER

24 January 1986

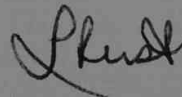
INNER CITIES


Sir Robert's minute raises important points, some of which we cannot agree. This matter is not of immediate urgency and given present circumstances, we strongly suggest that the next meeting is deferred so that the minute can be considered fully next week.

Do you agree to this course?



HARTLEY BOOTH



 BRIAN GRIFFITHS

CONFIDENTIAL



2924TW  
cc: Prof. Griffiths

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

INNER CITIES

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute of 24 January to which you attached a draft paper for MISC 104.

The Prime Minister is content for the paper to be circulated as a basis for discussion.

On the two points mentioned in paragraph 3 of your covering minute, the Prime Minister believes it will not be possible to plan for a Statement this Thursday: its timing will need to depend on the meeting's reactions to what is proposed in your paper. On the second point, the Prime Minister is content for the references in the paper to extra money to be discussed urgently with the Treasury.

I have already mentioned to Mr. Stark the thought, with which the Prime Minister agrees, that it would be useful for you to have a word with Mr. Baker about the fact that Lord Young will be taking primary responsibility for the further work. The Prime Minister has pointed out that the Department of Employment has two Cabinet Ministers to share the load.

David Norgrove

27 January 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

887