



CCBG

PRIME MINISTER

SOUTH CARDIFF URBAN RENEWAL

NBM

I have seen a copy of Nicholas Edwards' minute of 13 November to you about setting out his proposals for a new Urban Development Corporation in South Cardiff.

I very much support Nicholas's initiative here, which will broaden and strengthen our policy of bringing UDCs in to deal in depressed and derelict areas of our old industrial cities. These areas have suffered from years of neglect compounded by the inability and unwillingness of local authorities to put aside bureaucratic red-tape and political bloody-mindedness. So I hope that his plans can proceed, although I cannot of course make any comment on the financial issues which John MacGregor has raised in his minute of 17 November 1986.

On the associated issue of the way in which the EC Birds Directive relates to the proposed barrage across the Cardiff harbour mouth I am currently holding separate discussions with Nicholas and I hope that this is a matter on which we can find a satisfactory solution.

I am copying this to members of E(A), John Wakeham, Richard Luce and Sir Robert Armstrong.

NR

November 1986

REGIONAL POLICY
TWINNED
CITIES

PT 8





~~CCBG~~

NBN

PRIME MINISTER

SOUTH CARDIFF URBAN RENEWAL

I have seen Nick Edwards' minute of 13 November to you about the creation of an Urban Development Corporation for Cardiff Docks and the building of a barrage across the harbour mouth.

I note that construction of the barrage would require either a hybrid Bill or a Private Bill which would be promoted by South Glamorgan County Council, and that work on the barrage is envisaged as beginning in the middle of 1988. As you will know, there is no provision in this Session's programme for the necessary legislation, and I assume therefore that it would be for next Session. On this basis I believe that meeting the proposed timescale is by no means certain, even though as a hybrid Bill the legislation could, if necessary, be carried over into the next Parliament. Construction of a barrage will arouse considerable opposition from conservationists and we might expect a substantial Select Committee stage of the legislation in both Houses. I therefore take the view that the announcement which Nick hopes to make on 5 December should contain no firm reference to the likely timing of the project, and that the legislative implications should be discussed further.

I am copying this minute to Nick Edwards, other members of E(A), Willie Whitelaw, John Wakeham, Richard Luce and Sir Robert Armstrong.

WJB

W J B

19 November 1986

lower cities: REGIONAL POL PT 8.



CONFIDENTIAL

CCB



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

9 November 1986

Dear Nich.

SOUTH CARDIFF URBAN RENEWAL

FILE WITH DN

Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent minute to the Prime Minister.

I welcome your proposal to establish a UDC and the plan for a barrage across the river mouths. On the issues raised by John MacGregor I cannot comment. On the barrage, I note that the intention is that its northern end would be landward of the main entrance to the Cardiff docks, thus leaving them open to the sea. However, perhaps I should register now some subsidiary but potentially awkward questions that will need to be addressed. There will presumably still need to be a lock in the barrage for other shipping; the balance between size and cost may be difficult to strike. A similar question will arise on the new bridge that is envisaged. It will also be necessary in due course to decide who should bear the costs of the additional dredging costs that are likely to arise as a result of the construction of the barrage, and which could be extensive.

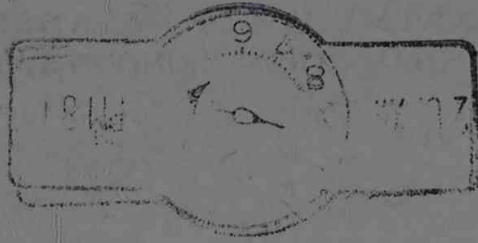
I was slightly surprised that your paper seemed to make no reference to the Cardiff Freeport. I know it has been slow to get off the ground, but presumably some thought has been given as to how it will mesh in with the UDC's remit.

I am sending copies of this letter to the members of E(A), William Whitelaw, John Wakeham, Richard Luce, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN MOORE

CONFIDENTIAL

REG. 702 Lower. Cuis PT8





ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

01-936 6407

Received 28 November

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Edwards, MP,
Secretary of State for Wales,
Welsh Office,
Gwydyr House,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2ER.

November 1986

Dear Nicholas:

SOUTH CARDIFF URBAN RENEWAL

file with DW?

I am grateful to your private secretary for sending me a copy of your minute to the Prime Minister of 13 November on this subject.

I have not, of course, been involved in consideration of the re-generation scheme you propose, but I am prompted to write by your reference (in paragraph 7 of the note attached to your minute) to the possible impact of the Community Directive on the conservation of Wild Birds. The Lord Advocate and I were asked to consider a number of questions of interpretation of this Directive, and we gave our Opinion at the end of October, expressed as being in draft form in order to give Environment Departments an opportunity to comment before it was finalised. I understand that your officials have received a copy of my Department's letter setting out our views: no suggested alteration has been put to us.

I fully accept that the development you propose will bring very great economic and social benefits to Cardiff and elsewhere in South Wales. I am concerned, however, that before steps are taken which could have an effect on any wild birds which are the subject of the Directive we must be satisfied that our obligations under the Directive, which I emphasise are legal obligations, will be fulfilled. We ought to be clear that we can meet a challenge from the Commission should one arise, otherwise there is a risk that a great deal of work may come to nought.

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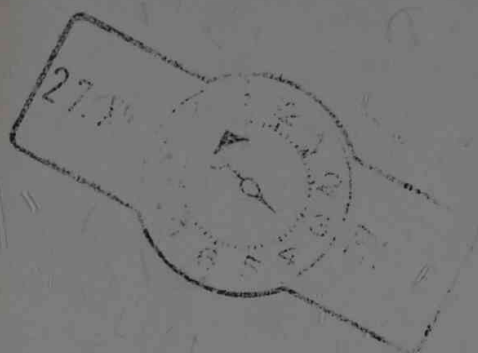
I am copying this letter to the recipients of your note.

Yours ever,

A. K. H.

Inner Cities: Regional Pol.

118.





Cabinet Office

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

From the Minister of State
Privy Council Office
The Rt. Hon. Richard Luce MP

Great George Street
London SW1P 3AL
Telephone 01-233 8610

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London SW1A 2ER

NBPN.

17 November 1986

Dear Nicholas,

SOUTH CARDIFF URBAN RENEWAL

Your minute of 13 November to the Prime Minister proposes the setting up of a new Urban Development Corporation which would, of course, be a NDPB. I am writing to say that the proposal poses no difficulty from the point of view of NDPB policy.

As you know, before setting up a new NDPB Ministers should be satisfied that its tasks are essential and that their expected benefits justify the costs; that the tasks must be carried out in the public sector; and that no existing organisation could carry them out.

You have considered possible existing organisations and concluded that none of them would be appropriate. You have also satisfied yourself that the corporation will have the full support and co-operation of local authority and private sector partners and have indicated that the corporation would be wound up as soon as practicable. The final, and most important, question - whether the proposed tasks are essential and whether their benefits justify the costs - must be a matter for your judgement. On this basis I am content with your proposal.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, members of EA, John Wakeham and Sir Robert Armstrong.

RICHARD LUCE

Richard

REGIONAL POLICY

INNER CITIES

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