

CONFIDENTIAL

file 26
a Pat Griffiths

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES

You will wish to see Sir Robert Armstrong's minute below and also the Policy Unit minute.

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute invites you to agree the composition of the Committee and the terms of reference.
Content?

Robert has also circulated a draft minute to be discussed at the first meeting of the new Committee setting out a programme of work. This makes much play with talk of cohesion and effectiveness and co-ordination. It fills me with gloom in its implication that the new Committee will head down the same barren road as its predecessor, MISC 104.

Nigel and I have chewed this over and we suggest the following.

Lord Young should be invited to prepare a report on the inner cities for discussion by the Committee in September. The work would be done by an official who, to avoid inter-Departmental tensions, would be located within the Cabinet Office, not within the DTI. The report would be treated in the manner of a Rayner scrutiny, as a personal piece of work by the official concerned, though he would probably need a couple of people to help him. An ideal candidate would be Eric Sorenson, who is an Under Secretary in charge of the Inner Cities Unit in DOE. (He wrote "It took a Riot" in 1981.)

The new Committee ought to meet so that you could tell colleagues that this is what you intend should happen. They would hold a preliminary discussion on the basis of an annotated agenda to help the person prepare the report. It would be made clear to colleagues that the report was not to

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

be an inter-Departmental report but it would be prepared with full co-operation from all the Departments concerned.

If you find this idea attractive, I could talk to Robert Armstrong about it tomorrow morning and you might mention it to Lord Young tomorrow afternoon.

Content that I should do so?

DAVID NORGROVE

25 June 1987