



CCB/G

Prime Minister

Drop cell

SAFER CITIES

At our meeting on 30 November we discussed Government policy for the inner cities. During the meeting I outlined my "Safer Cities" programme, about which I had written to Willie Whitelaw on 11 November. I was pleased that our useful discussion confirmed that the programme would fit well within the broader framework of the Government's activity.

Choice of Areas

2. You will recall that the plan is to establish "Safer Cities" in eight areas in 1988/89, with another eight in 1989/90, and four more in 1990/91. I propose that we should make an early start in two areas. I have it in mind - although a final decision will need to wait on detailed consultation - that these should be Wolverhampton (one of the areas focussed on at our meeting on 30 November) and Bradford. Both areas face substantial crime problems, but there are a number of useful initiatives already established there with which our work would link. Furthermore, I believe that there are local leaders in both areas with whom we could work. My selection of areas for "Safer Cities" must chime with the choices being made by colleagues in relation to other areas of urban policy, and that is one of the reasons why

DTI/DOE/
DEup are
all content

Wolverhampton is amongst the first group of areas I should like to involve. I still have the reservations about Manchester which I expressed at our meeting; I would not want to include it in the first phase of the "Safer Cities" programme, although I would be prepared to look at it again later.

3. We have also given some thought to the choice of a further six areas which we would bring into the programme later on in the year. For the record, these are Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, Nottingham, Hartlepool, Rochdale and Coventry. These are all areas in which we could build on or complement other Government-inspired activity; and I intend that our approach to the different local interests there should be one that is concerted with City Action Teams or Task Forces wherever that is possible. I will consider over the next few months the additional areas which might be brought into the programme in 1989/90 and 1990/91, again in consultation with colleagues and taking the progress of other strands of our inner city policies very much into account.

Announcing the Programme

4. I propose to announce the "Safer Cities" programme at a press conference, probably in the second half of January. John Patten and I will explain the principles on which the programme is based, its foundation in the successful work which has developed over the last five years and its firm place within our inner cities policies generally. We will illustrate the local nature of a great deal of urban crime,

3.

describe the success which has been achieved in many areas already, emphasise the importance of local commitment and co-operation, and point out the extent to which the concerned and active citizen can find the solution in his own hands. We will give specific and concrete examples of what we hope the "Safer Cities" programme will be able to achieve in the areas to which it will apply, and we will explain the basis on which particular areas will be chosen. We will not at that stage announce the choice of particular areas - experience has shown us the importance of local consultation and understanding before that kind of announcement is made, and the time and effort which can be wasted if it has not been achieved. But we will immediately follow up the press conference by approaching the relevant local bodies - the police, the probation service, the local authority and the voluntary organisations - with the aim of having schemes on the ground in two areas by 1 April. Approaches to a further six areas will then follow.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to those who were present at the meeting on 30 November and also to the Lord President's office, to other members of E(UP) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

M. Sanderson
(approved by the Home Secretary
and signed in his absence).

16 DECEMBER 1987

REG POL: Inner tubes pt 11



FILE
Smt.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 December 1987

Dear Nick

SAFER CITIES

The Prime Minister has seen the Home Secretary's minute of 16 December. She is generally content with his proposals, but would prefer that the Safer Cities Initiative be announced alongside the Inner City White Paper in February, rather than at a separate press conference in January.

I am copying this letter to Robin Young (Department of the Environment), Nicholas Wilson (Department of Employment), Alison Brimelow (Department of Trade and Industry), Peter Smith (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Roy Griffins (Department of Transport), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office), Richard Wilson, Eric Sorenson, Andrew Lean (Cabinet Office), Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office) and Hartley Booth (No. 10 Policy Unit).

Yours
Paul

P A BEARPARK

Nick Sanderson, Esq.,
Home Office

da