

Prime Minister 2 Regional Policy  
Wh  
29/1



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

MB

28th January 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

I enclose a very brief note of the Urban Programme.

The success stories are many and we will now increase concentration on getting the maximum publicity and Government credit for its contribution towards them.

Yours Sincerely,  
Govan

LORD BELLWIN

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

## THE URBAN PROGRAMME

The Urban Programme provides 75% grant aid to local authorities towards expenditure on economic, environmental and social projects in areas of special social need. The resources made available in 1982/3 will be some £270M. Projects aim to stimulate the local economy, improve the physical environment and alleviate social need and deprivation. Over 5,500 projects are currently supported. Innovative schemes and those aimed at helping ethnic minorities are encouraged in the ministerial guidelines governing the operation of the programme. About 12% of the projects are run by voluntary organisations, the remainder by local authorities.

### WHAT AREAS DOES THE URBAN PROGRAMME HELP?

Authorities receiving grant fall into four categories:

1. Partnerships have been set up in the 7 most deprived inner city areas (see the attached list of authorities). Partnership Committees are chaired by a DOE minister and include representations from the local authorities, central government departments and the area health authority. They draw up and co-ordinate implementation of comprehensive regeneration programmes in consultation with the private sector and the voluntary sector.
2. Programme authorities have been designated in 15 other seriously deprived areas. Here, the local authority itself prepares an annual inner area programme which is approved by a DOE Minister.
3. Fourteen 'Other designated districts' receive special grant aid for commercial and industrial projects.
4. In other areas of special need the 'Traditional Urban Programme' provides grant for specific projects. Over 160 authorities receive support in this way.

## HOW LARGE IS THE URBAN PROGRAMME?

The 1981/2 Urban Programme allocation is £215M. £129M of this will go to capital projects. The breakdown between authorities is as follows:

|                             | £M<br>(out-turn prices) | %          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Partnerships                | 119                     | 55         |
| Programme Authorities       | 49                      | 23         |
| Traditional Urban Programme | 42                      | 20         |
| Other Designated Districts  | 5                       | 2          |
|                             | <u>£215M</u>            | <u>100</u> |

The split of expenditure between economic, environmental and social projects in approved programmes is:

|                               | % of proposed expenditure: |               |        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------|
|                               | Economic                   | Environmental | Social |
| Partnerships*                 | 29                         | 23            | 48     |
| Programme Authorities         | 30                         | 20            | 50     |
| Traditional Urban Programme + | 8                          | 6             | 86     |
| Other Designated Districts    | 100                        | -             | -      |

\*excludes Liverpool and Docklands both of which have a high proportion of economic projects

+ new approvals only

Programmes for 1982/3 are now being finalised. The overall allocation for this period is:

|                             | £M (out-turn prices) | %        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Partnerships                | 137                  | 51       |
| Programme authorities       | 59                   | 22       |
| Traditional Urban Programme | 47                   | 17       |
| Other Designated Districts  | 8                    | 3        |
| Other                       | <u>19</u>            | <u>7</u> |
|                             | £270M                | 100      |

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Many successes have been achieved as a result of urban programme support. A brochure "The Partnerships at Work" was prepared last year to publicise some of them and highlight the range of schemes supported. Examples particularly worthy of note are:

- A. New Enterprise Workshops: Birmingham (no 13 page 17)  
A derelict building has been converted into 10 small units for small, first-time businesses
- B. L'Arche Workshop Lambeth (no 24 page 30)  
This provides training and full-time employment for the mentally handicapped.
- C. St Paul's Community Project, Birmingham (no 28, page 34)  
provides a range of services and projects for local children including an Urban Farm.
- D. Merseyside Maritime Museum (no 40 page 46)  
The Urban Programme contributed £110,000 to this major tourist attraction which has been created in the redundant Canning and Albert Docks.
- E. Cowgate and Blakelaw Housing Estates (no 31, page 37)  
Locally based housing management service run in conjunction with housing modernisation and environmental improvements on a difficult-to-let estate.

PARTNERSHIPS

Birmingham  
Docklands (until mid-1981)  
Hackney/Islington  
Lambeth  
Liverpool  
Manchester/Salford  
Newcastle/Gateshead

PROGRAMME AUTHORITIES

Bolton  
Bradford  
Hammersmith  
Hull  
Leeds  
Leicester  
Middlesbrough  
Nottingham  
Oldham  
Sheffield  
Sunderland  
S Tyneside  
N Tyneside  
Wirral  
Wolverhampton

OTHER DESIGNATED DISTRICTS

Barnsley  
Blackburn  
Brent  
Doncaster  
Ealing  
Hartlepool  
Haringey  
Rochdale  
Rotherham  
St Helens  
Sandwell  
Sefton  
Wandsworth  
Wigan