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My ref:

Your ref:

You or 9?

The Rt Hon The Viscount Whitelaw CH MC  
Lord President of the Council  
Privy Council Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

14 October 1986

NBRM

Dear Sir

NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

X/ In accordance with established practice, I am attaching the latest lists of Government initiatives having resource implications for local government which have been notified to my Department during the last six months. The first list contains details of proposals which are likely to result in increases in the demands on local government and the second list identifies measures which are expected to lead to some reduction.

Although the first list shows an increase over that for the preceding period (27 compared with 15) there was a welcome fall from 40 during the corresponding period last year. Some could have very substantial implications for local government expenditure. The second list contains initiatives which should lead to savings for local government. That it is slightly longer than its predecessor - 8 items compared with 5 - is perhaps a sign of grace and I am encouraged that the list is growing rather than diminishing.

There is some way to go before we can be fully satisfied with progress, particularly in quantifying the implications of proposals for local government at a formative stage and then where appropriate seeking the informal advice of the local authority associations. The procedure is nevertheless valuable in focusing attention on the potential impact of policies on local government and it should continue in force.

My officials have received a great deal of co-operation from officials in other Government Departments and I am confident that this will continue. They particularly welcome early notice of new initiatives so that the new burdens drill can be integrated into the development of proposals. If sponsors do encounter any problems in relating these procedures to their own initiatives my officials are ready to offer whatever assistance they can.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, members of E(LA) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Nicholas Ridley*  
*Nicholas Ridley*

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

LOCAL GOVT. Relations  
P630



NEW INITIATIVES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT 13 MARCH - 12 SEPTEMBER 1986:

POSSIBLE EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

A. POTENTIAL INCREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Extension of clean air grants to comply with EC Directive 80/779	DOE	Not yet quantified	
2. Charter for sport for all disabled people	DOE	Not yet quantified	Council of Europe recommendation
3. The control of pollution (supply and use of injurious substances) regulations 1986	DOE	De minimis	Legislation implemented 30/6/86
4. Access by public sector tenants to landlord's files; possible code of practice	DOE	Number of options proposed: not yet quantified	Legislation possible
5. Reform of local government finance	DOE	Not yet quantified	Green Paper January 1986
6. Disposal of publicly-owned land	DOE	Not yet quantified; some off-setting of costs expected from more rapid sales	Very early stage; option still being discussed
7. Listing of historic buildings; transfer of responsibility	DOE	Not yet quantified	
8. Commons Bill providing for further rights of public access and schemes of management	DOE	Some increases expected: LAA assessment awaited	Ministerial approval for publication of consultation document to be sought; Bill unlikely to be ready before 1988/89 Session

POTENTIAL INCREASES (cont'd)

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
9. Devolution of the voluntary after-care projects and approved hostels grants schemes	HO	£0.8m-£0.9m	Amendment to the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973
10. Representation of the People Act: electoral registration overseas	HO	De minimis; potential increase in costs expected to be largely offset by re-ordering of priorities	Take-up has been slow
11. Qualifications of court clerks in Magistrates' courts	HO	£3-4m plus £75,000 for training costs	Decision still pending on whether to proceed
12. Liquor licensing hours	HO	Not yet quantified	Private Member's Bill prepared by the Brewers' Society
13. Home Affairs Committee report on racial attacks and harassment	HO	Not yet quantified	Recommendations not yet adopted
14. Traffic and highway proposals in London; LAs to notify the Secretary of State about proposals which effect strategic network planning	DTP	Quantified in the context of the local government re-organisation package as a whole	Local Government Act 1985
15. Litter on roads; use of MSC community programmes	DTP	De minimis	Launch expected by Ministers in November/December 1986
16. Zig-zag markings at pelican crossings	DTP	£1.1m-£1.8m spread over two years	Revision of existing regulation
17. Disabled persons (services, consultation and representation) Act	DHSS	£120m per annum	Implementation deferred pending resources being made available
18. Activity holidays and other out-of-school provision for children	DHSS	Not yet quantified	Part of Child Care Law White Paper

POTENTIAL INCREASES (cont'd)

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
19. Community Care	DHSS	Not yet quantified	Discussion document proposed
20. Report of the Eden Committee on Metrological Control - Self verification by manufacturers	DTI	Reduction in verification work will be counter-balanced by a reduction in fee income; also training costs for which special Govt. funding may be sought	Depends on new primary legislation details, currently undergoing consultation
21. Advance Factory Group Report: guidance to LAs on improving co-ordination	DTI/DOE	Not yet quantified	
22. Collection of ethnically based statistics on school teachers	DES	Not yet quantified	Working Group to report to Secretary of State for Education shortly recommending requirement on LEAs to submit ethnically-based data
23. Education Bill: freedom of information proposals	DES	De minimis	New clause provides regulation-making power requiring governing bodies to make papers available as may be prescribed.
24. Collection of ethnically based statistics on school pupils	DES	Not yet quantified: expected to be very small	Draft circular to be issued. Question of resources to be addressed in consultation
25. Supervision of swimming pools; advice to LAs	HSE	No agreement yet on costs; ADC suggest £6m per annum and 900 extra staff	

POTENTIAL INCREASES (cont'd)

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
26. Privatisation of British Gas	HSE	Not yet quantified; expected to be minimal	
27. Charges to Local Planning Authorities for advice on planning applications for agricultural dwelling-houses commencing in March 1987	MAFF	Financial and manpower implications not yet quantified	Consultations with LA Association agreed by Treasury

B. DECREASES

PROPOSAL	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL & MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT STATUS WHERE KNOWN AND OVERALL COMMENTS
1. Airports shops: exemption from Sunday trading restrictions	DTP	Not yet quantified	
2. Proposed traffic and parking regulation working group (TAPWORK)	DTP	Not yet quantified	
3. Competitive tendering for highway maintenance	DTP	Overall savings expected; but laas anticipate net costs of £3m pa	Amendments to existing Regulations
4. Public Utilities Street Works Act review	DTP	Not yet quantified	
5. Regulations under section 23 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982; Amendments to the 1983 Accounts and Audit Regulations	DOE	Minor adjustments; small savings to parish councils	
6. Caravan and Tent Site Legislation	DOE	Not yet quantified	
7. Surplus school places: draft circular	DES	Not yet quantified; further round of consultation should produce an assessment	
8. Capital allocations for police, magistrates' courts and probation office buildings	HO	Some net reduction expected	Circular to be issued shortly announcing revised control procedures.