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Hackney

PRIME MINISTER

PACT 10

The Metropolitan Police report on Hackney below is a terrifying description of urban deprivation. It speaks for itself. But I draw your attention to the statement at "X" in the third paragraph:

"The Dockland development is within a few miles, but there has been very little, if any, knock-on effect within the Borough [of Hackney]."

It seems to me that one of the objectives of our inner cities policy is to ensure that the benefits of future Dockland-type developments do have knock-on effects. As the Hackney experience demonstrates, that just won't happen: it needs to be made to happen. In the Hackney case, the housing estate residents were so sunk in gloom and despondency, insulated in their own limited world, that they apparently made no effort to go after the jobs in Docklands; and there are unskilled jobs there - cleaners, canteen workers, etc.

What is needed is some active marketing of the jobs on the housing estates - e.g. a leaflet drop by the Department of Employment advertising jobs, an interview caravan going round the estates, a shuttle bus service, contacts with local schools and so on. It is easy enough to think out possibilities, much harder to put them into practice. But the interesting point is that, so far as I know, there is no agency, in central or local government, which is capable of doing this sort of job.



N.L.W.

For Inner Cities meeting
N.L.W.

N. L. Wicks

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