



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 October 1984

Dear Mr Ryan.

I was most grateful to have had the opportunity to visit the Grafton Housing Corporation and to meet some of the residents. I was impressed with the way they had responded to being involved in the planning, construction and management of their own houses. Projects such as these demonstrate that there are alternatives to large municipal estates in which the tenants have no involvement.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

M. Ryan, Esq.

LPO

JRP

Mr Ryan is Secretary
of the Grafton Crescent
Housing Cooperative.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 October 1984

Dear Ms Meredith,

I was most grateful to have had the opportunity to visit the Grafton Crescent Housing Corporation. I was impressed with the way the residents had responded to being involved in the planning and running of their own houses. Projects such as these demonstrate that there are alternatives to large-scale municipal estates in which the tenant has no involvement.

I hope that in the future it will be possible to build further houses of this kind.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Ms. Catherine Meredith.

sl

Ms Meredith is the
Director of Cooperative
Development Services Ltd,
the organisation which
sponsored Grafton Crescent.



File

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434
My ref:

Your ref:

4 October 1984

Dear Andrew

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LIVERPOOL ON
2 OCTOBER

I enclose a copy of a note from the Merseyside Task Force which is I think self-explanatory.

You will however wish to consider whether the letter at Annex A should be sent to Councillor Hamilton as the MTF suggest. If you judge that a letter would be appropriate I would advise the deletion of the last sentence of the draft.

I doubt whether the draft at Annex A is suitable for the names at Annex B (2). I would therefore suggest a further draft letter to Lord Aberconway, Donald Forster, Leonard Epple, Barry Marsh, and Basil Bean at Annex G and a separate letter to the two Bishops at Annex H.

Your sincerely

John Ballard

JOHN BALLARD
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq

2 of 11

cc Mr. Renshaw
Mr. Morrison

PS/Secretary of State

Prime Minister's Visit to Liverpool on 2/10/84

As requested by No. 10 I attach draft letters which the Prime Minister may wish to send to those to whom she was introduced during the course of her visit to Liverpool on 2 October.

The letter at Annex A has been drafted in general terms and could be sent to the majority of those concerned - names and addresses at Annex B. I have only included the main personalities who were introduced at each point during the course of the day eg Councillor John Hamilton, Leader of Liverpool City Council, and not all members of his delegation.

A separate letter is called for when writing to the individual exhibitors at the Wavertree Tech Shop Exhibition. It would seem appropriate for the Prime Minister to write to the Head of the Companies concerned rather than those running the stalls. A draft is at Annex C and a list of names and addresses at Annex D.

No doubt the Prime Minister will want to write in more specific terms to Sir John Clark and Sir Leslie Young in view of their special roles at Wavertree and the IGF/Albert Dock respectively. Draft letter to Sir John is at Annex E and to Sir Leslie at Annex F.

R. K. Madders

R. K. Madders
Merseyside Task Force
4 October 1984

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED
AT ANNEX B

I was pleased to meet you during the course of my visit to Liverpool on 2 October. It was useful to see, at first hand, some aspects of the City's life and meet with those directly involved. It was a stimulating and encouraging day.

Liverpool ECHO



Outlook: Rain, sunny spells.
Noon: 10.9C (51.6F)
Y'day: 11.6C (52.9F)



32,480

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1984

14p

The paper that speaks up for Merseyside

IT'S HOLIDAY WEEK IN YOUR ECHO!

HOLIDAYS IN NEW YORK & PARIS

TO BE WON—P.10



PAT PHOENIX Her new life —P.6

THE OLDER WOMAN and the YOUNGER MAN WOMAN Page 8

£100,000 ECHO LINE-UP

IS ON PAGE 19

14p Best value around

People * Politics * Television * News * Sports

Hush-hush city tour starts with surprise caller at breakfast

GIZZA HOUSE

MAGGIE!

Catherine, 62, gives the Premier taste of life in rundown tenement

A TEARFUL pensioner took the Prime Minister into her slum flat today and pleaded: "Please get me a house."

Mrs. Catherine Langton (62), took Mrs. Thatcher on a tour of her rotting Toxteth tenement. Then she said goodbye with a kiss on the Premier's cheek.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Langton came face-to-face as Mrs. Thatcher encountered one of the few demonstrators on her hush-hush tour of Liverpool.

Mrs. Veronica Hoase, of Langley Way, Toxteth, shouted at the Premier to inspect the appalling housing conditions in the area.

Then Mrs. Langton stepped in. She told the unruffled Premier: "I'll stand by you. No one will touch you while I'm here."

Mrs. Langton, who has been on the housing waiting list for years, took Mrs. Thatcher into her Prince William Street flat.

She was spared no detail — and even shown the blocked toilet.

Echo reporting team: Peter Phelps, Tim Rogers and Andrew Edwards.

Echo photographic team: John Davidson, Derek Wright, Richard Williams.

A word in your ear . . . Mrs. Catherine Langton leads the Prime Minister into her home to show her the "appalling living conditions." She asked Mrs. Thatcher to help find her another home.

One man shouted to her from a first floor window: "Go inside the blocks — see the rats." She shouted back: "I've been inside".

Derelict

As the motorcade passed Joliffe Street, the Toxteth Wimpey "dream home" development taken over by the council, Mrs. Thatcher stopped to see the property which has already burned out.

Then it was on for a glimpse of the Anglican Cathedral precinct scheme from the top of the site office before calling in at the Barratt Minster Court development, where derelict flats have been turned into luxury homes.

There she found resigned. Continued on Page 3



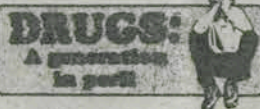
Face-to-face with the heroin evil

A SHOCKED Mrs. Thatcher came face-to-face with Liverpool's drug problem today.

The Prime Minister paid a surprise visit to a Toxteth youth centre as part of her hush-hush city housing trip.

And there, against a background of blaring pop music, five unemployed youngsters told her they were converting the building to provide a refuge for drug addicts.

"So many people we know are on heroin," 26-years-old David Osu told her. "On heroin?" a



- Echo takes drugs campaign to Labour conference — Page Two.
- Drugs in jail — Page Three.

shaken Mrs. Thatcher said in almost a whisper. Then she declared: "It's terrible. If we can find the people who are peddling it, they should have really stiff penalties."



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Kinnock speaks up on violence

LABOUR leader Neil Kinnock this afternoon attacked picket line violence by both police and miners. His speech to the Party conference in Blackpool brought him into direct confrontation with miners' leader Arthur Scargill.

Conference Report—Page 2

Wearisome Willy and dozy Harry!

PRINCE Harry is a sound sleeper and never disturbs his parents at night, Prince Charles said today.

The Prince, on his first engagement since his second son was born a fortnight ago, was bombarded with questions about the baby, but he also had a word about two-year-old Prince William.

He told a nursery nurse: "I'd give you an hour with my child and you'd be worn out."

Full Story—Page 5

My way right for city

Maggie

A REVIVAL in Liverpool's fortunes depends on "painful adjustment", Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said in the city today.

'Clanger' angers docks bosses

MRS. THATCHER dropped a clanger in Liverpool today — and infuriated Mersey docks bosses.

The Prime Minister had said she was "deeply disappointed" to hear Liverpool dockers were the first out and the last back in the latest docks strike.

But today Docks Company bosses said she was wrong and that Hull was the first out and Liverpool was among the first back.

Mrs. Thatcher was speaking in the city about Liverpool making a recovery when she referred to the strike and said she had hoped the Liverpool dockers would seize the opportunity to continue the recovery and resist the action.

"I was deeply disappointed that they were the first out and the last back to work," she said.

'Gizza house'

From Page One

dents David Connolly, conductor of the Birkenhead Operatic Society, hard at work completing a musical score for tonight's dress rehearsal of a show song reviews.

She was clearly impressed by his diligence and told him: "You are a rare person".

Earlier the Prime Minister was a surprise breakfast-time visitor at the Toxteth home of Joe and Rose Murphy.

Mr. Murphy said: "She took us by surprise. We had no idea she would want to have a look round our home."

"She asked us how long we had lived here and she seemed very impressed by it all."

An R.A.F. Andover of the Queen's Flight flew the Prime Minister and Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin into Liverpool Airport just after 9.30 amid security reminiscent of a Royal visit.

They were met by a five-car motorcade, with a strong police escort, and whisked away ignoring red traffic lights for a drive through the depressed inner-urban areas of Speke and Dingle.

Compliment

The first top was the new Grafton Crescent housing cooperative where Mrs Thatcher stepped out of her black Daimler and immediately met startled eight-year-old Jenny Ryan. "You are a tall girl for your age," she told the speechless youngster.

Residents, rehoused in February from Caryl Street tenements to the scheme they pioneered themselves knew a VIP was coming but were not told it would be Mrs Thatcher until early today.

Mrs. Thatcher, wearing a grey winter coat, matching shoes, a pearl necklace and earrings, talked to a group of residents who had come out

to watch her arrival.

Mrs. Patty Pritchard said: "She thought the houses were lovely, and complimented us on their design and condition."

"She seemed to be very nice, and wanted to know everything about the estate that we could tell her. I'm not saying if I support her or not, but you have to be hospitable, don't you."

Security

Mrs. May Foster (71), was anxious to show the Prime Minister around her home.

"I don't bother much with politics in fact I don't vote at all, but it was nice to see her here and I'm very pleased she came to look at my home. She was very polite and I was impressed by her," said Mrs. Foster.

Mrs Thatcher's verdict on the house: "It just shows what can be done with a certain amount of money."

The Premier's visit—her first to the city since the aftermath of the Toxteth riots—was planned at the last minute to coincide with Mr. Jenkin's pre-arranged tour.

This afternoon the Prime Minister was visiting the new Albert Dock development, accompanied by Mr. Jenkin, before moving on to Huyton for a Conservative party engagement.

Speaking at the launching of Wavertree Technology Park, Mrs. Thatcher admitted Liverpool's problems were acute.

But she insisted her Government's spending policies, particularly concerning local government expenditure, would, in the long run, serve to make life better on Merseyside.

She said the key to Liverpool's revitalisation was a working partnership between private enterprise and the public sector. And, she maintained, her way was the right way to achieve that goal.

"High Government spending and ambitious public sector programmes lead inevitably to high taxes, high inflation and high interest rates, all of which will destroy jobs," she said.

Painful

Mrs. Thatcher said Liverpool had to make painful adjustments for the future.

But she said the Government was committed to helping Liverpool. The resources available to Merseyside were substantial, she said.

"They are not merely financial, nor are they the monopoly of the public sector," she said.

The Government had done its part, investing over £120,000,000 in the inner-city partnership programme.

It had also established the Merseyside Development Corporation, an enterprise zone at Speke, a freeport and 17,000 places in Merseyside under the Youth Training Scheme.

She admitted Liverpool faced grave housing problems, but said the emphasis needed to be more on maintaining and overhauling existing buildings, rather than demolishing, then building new homes.

On the Wavertree Technology Park, she said the development, built from private and public money, was a perfect example of what can be done on Merseyside.



A cheery Mrs. Thatcher makes a point during her speech today.



Mrs. Thatcher and Christine Oruche share a laugh at Minster Court.



Pointing the way... Mrs. Thatcher sees the funny side while chatting to residents of Grafton Walk, Toxteth.

Garden site
may go up for grabs

LIVERPOOL'S International Garden Festival site is likely to become a leisure park run by private enterprise.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said it was one of the options. He ruled out the Government aid sought by Liverpool City Council to help maintain the festival hall, other buildings and parkland.

Speaking before visiting the festival today, he said the site owners, Merseyside Development Corporation, would need to look to private enterprise if the council decided to go back on their agreement to take over the area when the festival closes later this month.

Problem

"The problem is that if the M.D.C. had to run it, it would be at the expense of other projects," he said. "There is no way I can conjure money out of the air in order to meet any costs."

"Liverpool has got its park, festival hall, theatre, pub, asplanade, all sorts of things. All they are being asked to do now is to run it."

"The idea that the taxpayer should help still further is one which would be extremely difficult to sell elsewhere."

Mr. Jenkin said it would be ironic if a decision by a council of the political complexion of Liverpool produced a privatised leisure area operating at a profit.

But, he added, the Labour council still had two months or so to pick up the undertaking by the previous Liberal administration in the knowledge that there could not be any specific Government finance.

Drugs the key to prisoners' power in jail

TRADING power by prisoners now centres around possession of drugs, it was claimed today.

Traditional "tobacco barons" are turning to drug peddling, says a national report by the Prison Officers' Association.

Liverpool's Walton Jail is high on the list of drug discoveries—including heroin, LSD and morphine.

Searches

Prison officers are now pressing the Home Office for better drug search training to help combat the increase in trafficking inside jails.

The report says there was almost one

drug seizure a week at Walton during 1982 and 1983.

The problem has escalated so much that prison visitors are sometimes searched before meeting inmates. Visiting is the main method of smuggling drugs inside.

Mr. John McDonnell, secretary of the Liverpool branch of the P.O.A., said: "It is an increasing problem. Traditionally tobacco has always been the main form of trade inside jails, but now it is fair to say that drugs are running alongside that as buying power".

Mr. John Richardson, prison governor at Walton, was not available for comment.

Stock Market

ANOTHER slide on Wall Street overnight and the Bank of England's gloomy economic forecast yesterday made for a drab opening on Northern Markets.

Top industrials were widely lower with losses stretching into the twenties. British Funds, however had so far managed to hold reasonably steady as the pound strengthened slightly against the dollar.

The F.T. Index at 1 p.m. was 851.3, down 5.6.

Television * News * Sports

2 of 2.

and sit-in rebels

QUAD T TO ORM S RIG

staging an occupation at Cammell were arrested today as police 13-week sit-in. special police squad was planning an gas rig.

By Alan Quantrough

moment is that there is an enormous police presence," said boilermakers' union leader Barry Williams.

"We think a move by the police is now imminent."

The move followed the expiry of a court deadline at midnight, ordering the men to abandon their action or face a month in jail for contempt of court.

The men were trapped in a well-planned police manoeuvre as they fled the navy vessel Edinburg and tried to dash

to the gas accommodation rig.

Six men were cornered near the main gates of the yard. As they waited three police vans led by Chief Superintendent Richard Adams drove from behind sheds to make the arrests.

As police approached some of the men fell and refused to move but were quickly bundled away.

All the men were taken to Mortimer Street police station, less than half a mile from the yard.

Continued on Page 3

Maggie for Merseyside

Parliamentary

Ballard N 16/05

Rk



Margaret Thatcher

By Peter Fledge Local Government correspondent

THE Prime Minister is planning a surprise visit to Liverpool tomorrow.

Speculation was mounting today that Mrs Thatcher would accompany her Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin on a trip to the Albert Dock Village complex and, possibly, to the garden festival.

But any appearance by Mrs Thatcher in Liverpool is bound to be shrouded in secrecy.

No official sources would confirm or deny the report.

The Central Office of Information which handles ministerial visits referred inquiries to the No 10 Downing Street Press office, where a spokesman said: "We never disclose Mrs Thatcher's diary in advance. It's a matter of strict policy."

Criticised

But Mr Jenkin's movements are usually revealed in advance and the C.O.I. was maintaining a curious silence about tomorrow's visit.

A visit by Mrs Thatcher would be bound to cause controversy in Labour-dominated Merseyside.

But it was said that the Prime Minister would attend the International Garden Festival at some stage and the week of the Labour Party conference in Blackpool, when most Labour leaders are away, would seem an opportune time.

Mrs Thatcher has not been to Liverpool since the Toxteth riots in 1981

Labour's away at the seaside as the contest is clear for Premier

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

ANDY GRICE

Scargill wins ovation

THE Labour Party Conference today gave a standing ovation to the miner's leader Arthur Scargill after he claimed his union was challenging "the whole basic concept of the Tory Government's philosophy."

Mr Scargill said: "There are no uneconomic pits. There are only pits which have been deliberately starved of investment."

Conference report - Page 2

OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

To give the Prime Minister the opportunity to see at first hand

i) the problems of run down housing, poor environment and the effects of a declining economy in inner Liverpool;

ii) some of the initiatives being implemented under the Urban, Housing and Derelict Land Programmes - many in collaboration with the private sector - to tackle these problems; and

iii) to fulfill her promise? that she would visit the International Garden Festival before it closes and see some of the other projects being sponsored by the Merseyside Development Corporation /especially the Albert Dock refurbishment7.

The PM will wish to publicly reiterate the Government's commitment to tackle the problems of the older urban areas and emphasise the central importance of working in collaboration with the private sector.

LIVERPOOL

INTRODUCTORY BRIEF

In the past 25 years Liverpool has lost about 30% of its population. Unemployment has risen from 3% to almost 19% over the same period. This despite extensive Government support over a number of years (£1 billion in each of the past 3 years has been spent on Merseyside as a whole - Annex A).

HOUSING

Considerable parts of the city display poor housing conditions, high level of social stress and poor living environment. A separate housing brief is at Flag 3.

ECONOMY

The local economy has been relatively weak for decades. During most of the post-war period local unemployment rates have been twice the national average. The main reasons are:-

- run-down of the port and port-related activities.
- Over representation of low value added businesses (e.g. food processing) operating in highly competitive markets and under-representation of new technology industries.
- High proportion of manufacturing employment in large branch plants particularly vulnerable to rationalisation (e.g. British Leyland) and retrenchment during the recession.
- Manchester is the regional centre and provides strong competition for development of white collar service employment.
- Poor industrial relations image.

The economic prospects for the area remain very difficult. Many successful companies remain however, new investment is going ahead and there are examples of good co-operation between management and trade unions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The proposed abolition of Merseyside Metropolitan County Council and the activities of the politically extreme Liverpool City Council are major issues. Both the County and City Councils are refusing to co-operate over abolition arrangements.

Following the making of a balanced budget in July, the City Council has continued its campaign to elicit more Government resources. There is no sign of any real attempt being made to reduce expenditure. Indeed initial bids for capital and revenue expenditure in 1985/86 are expected to be well in excess of provisional allocations and targets. Merseyside County Council is also a high spender. It is to be "rate capped" in 1985/86.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

The thrust has been to create the right climate for investment and to improve living conditions, tackle physical dereliction and upgrade the environment. The principal measures taken by Government are:-

- Designation of Merseyside Special Development Area - considerable aid to industry over many years
- Support for local authority programmes through Rate Support Grant and other subsidies with specific grants to tackle derelict land and the Urban Programme.
- Creation of the Merseyside Development Corporation to be responsible for regenerating the derelict docklands.
- Designation of Enterprise Zone and Freeport.
- Manpower Services Commission activity aimed at improving skill levels and enhancing employment opportunities.
- Creation of the Merseyside Task Force to co-ordinate activity of Government Departments and carry through new initiatives.

The main examples of Government financial assistance to Liverpool are at Annex A and B.



LIVERPOOL HOUSING TOUR

The Prime Minister will see examples of the problems and potential which exist in the City Council's housing stock. Examples of pre and post-war housing will be covered. The tour will cover also private sector initiatives and older private housing in housing action areas. The route passes a number of schemes funded through the Urban Programme including sports and health and community provision and landscaping works. Security considerations prevent a close look at some of the more run-down areas, particularly high-density modern estates which are poorly designed, badly managed, particularly unpopular with tenants.

9.50am Grafton Crescent Housing Cooperative

An example of a housing cooperative scheme funded by the City Council. The scheme provided an opportunity for local residents to remain together as a community following demolition of the poor quality 1930's Council tenement in which they lived.

There will be an opportunity here for the Prime Minister to walk through the completed scheme and to call on residents.

10.00am Hill Street/Prince William Street

An area of run-down and neglected public housing, which demonstrates the effects of poor housing management and maintenance.

There will be an opportunity here to leave the car for a short walk

10.20am Dickens Street Housing Action Area

Drive through an area of older 2 storey terraced properties improved following declaration of a Housing Action Area in 1979.

10.25am Joliffe Street, Toxteth

A private sector development by Wimpey which was a response to Government efforts to introduce new private sector housing into inner Liverpool. In a controversial move, the estate was municipalised by the incoming Labour Council in June 1983.

10.30am Princes Boulevard

Principal Victorian thoroughfare; part of built heritage of Liverpool. Problems of large houses where private sector will not act. Local protests after environmental improvements led to Michael Heseltine promising that housing would be improved. Action mainly through Housing Associations.



10.35am Anglican Cathedral Precinct

Development of a prominent site in front of the Anglican Cathedral by Crudens Ltd. The site had lain derelict for over 20 years until the then Secretary of State for The Environment took the initiative and proposed a developer/architect competition which was sponsored by the Housing Corporation. The development, which is now under way, is mainly private housing with some commercial facilities and high quality landscaped areas.

10.55am Minster Court, Toxteth

Refurbishment for sale of a derelict and partially demolished local authority tenement block. The flagship of Barratt Urban Renewal Ltd. There will be an opportunity for the Prime Minister to see some of the development and residents.

11.10am Depart for Wavertree Technology Park.



HOUSING TOUR

The people who will meet the Prime Minister during the course of the Housing Tour are:

i) Grafton Crescent Housing Co-op.

Sophie Krajewska, Area Manager for Cooperative Development Services (CDS), the Housing Association which assisted the Co-op with its plans.

Mick Ryan Secretary to the Co-op and Jimmy Pettit Treasurer to the Co-op. Both are residents.

Paul Lusk CDS Development Officer.

ii) Minster Court.

James Keery, Managing Director Barratt Urban Renewals (Northern) Ltd.



LIVERPOOL HOUSING TOUR

- ① GRAFTON CRESCENT HOUSING CO-OP
- ② HILL ST / PRINCE WILIAM'S
- ③ DICKENS ST HOUSING ACTION AREA
- ④ PRINCES BOULEVARD
- ⑤ JOLIFFE ST
- ⑥ ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL PRECINCT
- ⑦ MINSTER COURT
- ⑧ EVERTON Programme will now stop
- ⑨ GREAT HOMER ST at Minster Court.

Programme will now stop at Minster Court.

LIVERPOOL HOUSING

Characteristics

- Current housing stock in Liverpool : 190,000 dwellings
- 69,000 are in Council ownership (36%), 15,000 are owned by Housing Associations
- Housing conditions on many council estates are appalling. 25,000 dwellings (36%) of the City's stock are unsatisfactory
- No overall shortage of dwellings
- Major social/housing problems on post-war estates particularly in unpopular and unsatisfactory flats and maisonettes
- A high level of dissatisfaction amongst tenants
- Weak, centralised and inefficient management and maintenance of the Council stock
- A lack of effective demand in the private sector
- A relatively successful programme of improvement of older private housing, mainly through Housing Association activity funded by the Housing Corporation

The City Council's approach

The City argues that poor housing conditions reflect inadequate capital housing allocations over many years.

The City Council has produced a 5 year Urban Regeneration Strategy. The aim is to bring together capital resources of the Housing and Urban Programmes to tackle housing and living conditions in 17 Priority Areas and covering 14,000 dwellings.

The strategy envisages demolition of 5,000 dwellings and a loss of a further 1,000 through conversions of flats to 2 storey houses. Families displaced would be rehoused through a programme to build 4,000 new council houses. Other dwellings would be improved.

Government response

Ministers have taken the view that housing problems in Liverpool merit attention and action. The issues confronted are not unique, it is the scale which sets the City apart.

Whatever the reasons for the present housing conditions, the fact is that much public money will need to be spent to give large numbers of Liverpool people the opportunity of decent housing. There are no cheap solutions: the objective must be to get the best value for every pound spent.

The response should not be rooted in the replacement of unpopular

municipal stock; the aim should be the most cost-effective approach which provides housing choice and uses all available resources, including the private sector and the resourcefulness of local communities.

The City's reliance on a physical solution underplays the social problems on estates and the extremely poor record on management and maintenance. The municipal solution is very expensive and rides roughshod over people's aspirations to own a home of their choice or to be involved in the management of their own housing.

Ministers have set out these views consistently. The Secretary of State has made clear that Government support will need to take account of the nature of the programmes put forward. Our current assessment is that the City Council is unlikely to modify its approach. Bad housing conditions would be allowed to remain with the Council blaming Government for the frustration of local expectations.

Action elsewhere on Merseyside

There are many examples of improved Council estates in other Merseyside authorities which have not relied on municipal action. Through the Merseyside Task Force initiatives have been set in hand covering more than 10,000 dwellings. Housing choice has been widened through the privatisation of the 3,000 dwelling Stockbridge Village estate in Knowsley and smaller estates in Wirral and Sefton.

Through a package of Urban Programme and MSC funds improvements to run-down estates are being secured by tenants themselves on Community Refurbishment Schemes. 12 schemes are now underway covering 6,500 dwellings.

Private builders are taking part in an initiative to develop sites which would not normally have attracted private funds, over 800 new homes are being provided.

None of the major initiatives are in Liverpool. The previous Liberal Council ran a successful build for sales programme and sought opportunities to involve the private sector in the refurbishment of problem housing. Barratts successful renovation for sale of a derelict 1930's tenement block: Minster Court, is a fine example. There was also active support for housing co-operatives to be formed. The present Council has municipalised those co-op schemes in the pipeline and has adopted a much less encouraging stance on joint initiatives with the private sector.

HOUSING TOUR

The people who will meet the Prime Minister during the course of the Housing Tour are:

i) Grafton Crescent Housing Co-op.

Sophie Krajewska, Area Manager for Cooperative Development Services (CDS), the Housing Association which assisted the Co-op with its plans.

Mick Ryan Secretary to the Co-op and Jimmy Pettit Treasurer to the Co-op. Both are residents.

Paul Lusk CDS Development Officer.

ii) Minster Court.

James Keery, Managing Director Barratt Urban Renewals (Northern) Ltd.



Merseyside Task Force

Graeme House, Derby Square

Liverpool L2 7SU

Telephone 051-227 4111 Ext. 587

Your Reference

Our Reference

Date 29 August 1984

David Barclay Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

BB 8/1

Dear David,

VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1984. I have been considering the possible content of a housing element to the visit. I am sorry that I have not got my proposals to you earlier.

I have had regard to your advice not to try and pack too much into the time available. I suggest therefore that we should concentrate on the Liverpool 8 area, which is on the route between the Garden Festival site and the City centre. A tour of this area could include

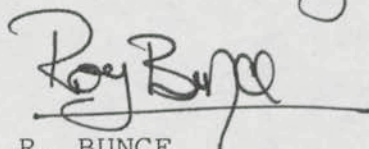
- a "Priority Area" declared by the City Council which, although not the worst housing in Liverpool contains typical examples of tenement blocks, unpopular walk-up flats and maisonettes and high-rise blocks.
- New housing development by housing co-operatives. Where people unable to own their own home have come together as a group and, with help from a sponsoring housing association have been involved in the design and now the running of their own small housing estate.
- A Housing Action area which demonstrates the impact of improvement grants and housing association ^{activity} on older privately owned housing.
- Minster Court: a good example of refurbishment by the private sector of a large tenement block previously owned by the City Council and scheduled for demolition. The work was undertaken by Barratts (Urban Renewal) Limited. Almost next door is another block, Myrtle House, which is in a similar state of dilapidation to Minster Court before Barratts started work. Barratts are interested in Myrtle House, but have been unable to negotiate a deal with the City Council.
- Areas of large Victorian and Edwardian houses, which are an important part of Liverpool's heritage but which are difficult to rescue for present day housing uses at an economic cost.

CONFIDENTIAL

This might look like a formidable list, but little travelling would be involved as the examples are all relatively closely grouped. If time permitted we could arrange a short journey to the north of the City centre where some of the very worst examples of bad design, neglect of maintenance and repair, and generally poor management are to be found. These areas, however, have been visited recently by the Secretary of State and the Minister for Housing and Construction.

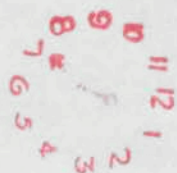
Your suggestions for the other elements of the visit seem quite practicable. My DTI colleague has not, however, been able to make contact with Sir John Clarke, Chairman of Plessey, so for the moment there has to remain a slight question mark over the exact format of the visit to the Wavertree Technology Park. We hope to finalise those details as soon as Sir John returns from holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Roy Bunce', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

R. BUNCE

PM: PM's visit to Liverpool Sept '81



30 AUG 1984

Handwritten signature and address, possibly including 'Liverpool'.