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Pmi Minute

PRIME MINISTER

Content?

Yes not

By

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PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER: LOCAL AUTHORITIES

At Cabinet on 27 November (5th item, 42nd meeting) I undertook to consider, with the Ministers who have local authority responsibilities, whether the next public expenditure White Paper should continue the practice of showing a service analysis of local authority expenditure (at least for the first future year). The alternative would be to give only aggregates of local authority current and capital expenditure.

I have consulted those of our colleagues mainly concerned, and the consensus is that the present style of presentation of this feature of the White Paper should continue, although we shall need to reconsider the drafting of the relevant general passages rather carefully. I therefore see no reason for us to have a further discussion on this point, until we have a White Paper text available. I am asking my officials to prepare this part of the White Paper quickly, consulting others in Whitehall about the exact terms of the presentation, so that we may decide then whether we need to discuss the matter further.

I am sending copies of this minute to the other members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

W J B

JOHN BIFFEN
18 December 1980