

MIDDLESEX OPPOSES PLAN FOR LONDON

Middlesex County Council in a statement issued yesterday described the proposals for the reorganization of local government in Greater London as not in the best interests of the people and asked the Government to think again.

The statement said that all the indications were that, for many years to come, the effects of the upheaval caused by the proposed changes would be so vast that services to the citizen would suffer, with no guarantee that they would be any better in the future and without the slightest indication of what they would cost.

"Nor will the citizen be in the same close contact as now with those who direct and provide the services", said the statement.

"For many, the local town hall is likely to be further removed from him than it is at present and, for all, a remote, impersonal Greater London council will be the authority he has to approach for certain matters.

"The Government say that they want to make local government more local. Does it make local government more local to reduce the number of town halls from 95 to 34?"

CONCERTED ACTION.

The county council accepts the desirability of enabling local councils to deal with certain functions which can properly and conveniently be dealt with in the town hall. It also accepts the need for concerted action to deal with wider problems, and supports the formation of a joint planning board.

The Government proposes that London and Middlesex County Councils shall cease to exist, that Surrey, Essex and Kent shall lose much of their areas and that borough and district councils shall be merged with their neighbours to form larger units. There would be a Greater London council responsible for overall planning, the main roads, traffic management and some housing.