**Letter to your Councillor – template**

[*NB: this is very much a template. A Councillor in a deprived area might have very different concerns to one in a rich area, i.e. tailoring will be required for your own case*]

Dear [],

I am a member of the Labour Land Campaign, a cross-party group that advocates the introduction of a Land Value Tax (LVT) to replace economically inefficient taxes. While Council Tax is grossly unfair with a tenant in [*local town*] paying more than the owner of a multimillion pound flat in London, Business Rates are penalising local enterprise and investment, thereby eliminating jobs and cutting down productivity and competitiveness.

Almost all economists from across the political spectrum agree that only one form of taxation is economically neutral, namely an annual tax levied on the rental value of land, irrespective of any buildings or other improvements on it. Furthermore: LVT is fair (falling more heavily on the wealthy); it cannot be avoided or evaded (you cannot put your mansion in the Cayman Islands); and it would free up potentially useful but currently idle land and lower land prices, thereby helping productive business and solving the housing crisis. Across the world, especially in the United States, local authorities have introduced a local LVT with great success; some of these examples are described in the “Tax Trial: a Land Value Tax for London” report I am attaching [*attach this file or link: www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/final-draft-lvt-report\_2.pdf*]. This Report was published in February 2016 for the incoming Mayor of London and recommends—as well as laying out a concrete plan for—implementing a pilot local LVT in a specific part of the city with a view to roll-out across the capital in the future.

It would be exciting if this eminently sensible and fair solution to the country’s problems were to be pioneered in [*your* *local authority*], however politically tricky it might seem. As an article in the Economist said last year, “*Politically tricky problems are ten-a-penny but few offer those who solve them a trillion pound reward*.”

If you are not familiar with all the advantages of LVT over our current taxation system (only a few of which are mentioned here), please have a look at the Labour Land Campaign Web site [*http://www.labourland.org*] and I would welcome the chance to speak to you about it face to face.

Yours sincerely,