

Plan for a fairer society

Observer Letters

23rd January 2022

The Institute for Public Policy Research report highlighting the worsening north/south divide and the inequality of public investments in the two regions draws attention to how public investments affect land value and therefore land wealth, which is concentrated in the ownership of a few ([“Levelling up? No... figures show divide is widening”](#), News).

Economists and politicians have enough evidence to show how good public investment in transport, education, healthcare, green spaces etc makes areas more desirable for homes and businesses to locate, pushing up land values. Given that taxpayers from all over the UK pay for public investments, why don't taxpayers all over the UK share equally in the economic benefits such investments bring about?

If our distorted and unfair tax system were changed to one based on returning all land and other natural resource wealth to the public purse, then we could have equality and fairness in society and a sustainable source of funding for maintaining and developing our public services and an economy that makes us use our land and other natural resources sparingly helping provide a clean environment to all.

Heather Wetzel

Hanworth, London