

**The Labour Land Campaign** encourages debate and investigation into economic policies that will bring about positive and more efficient land use and a sharing of land values, which we all create. We lobby, campaign, organise meetings and conferences, write articles, brief politicians, journalists, Trade Unions, academics and property professionals. We take part in discussions and join with other like-minded organisations with the aim of moving towards a more just society – a society that will make better use of our natural resources, help reduce pollution and offer a fairer, more efficient and logical tax system.

**The Labour Land Campaign** invites all in the Labour, Trade Union, Co-operative and Green Movements to join our meetings and to help us take forward our economic policies that are part of the solution to the inequalities in life arising from a fundamental flaw in our economy: a denial of the importance of land in the economy, the undeserved and unjust power in its 'ownership' and the acceptance of land wealth being given as unearned income to owners of land rather than being returned to those that create it – that is all of us!

**The Labour Land Campaign** welcomes people who want to find out more about who we are, what we have to say and who are willing to contribute to developing our knowledge and thinking on environmental and economic issues relating to land – its ownership and its importance and strategic role in the economy.

### **Do you want to know more about Land Value Tax, add to the debate or have a speaker to lead a discussion with your organisation?**

- If you are interested to find out more about Land Value Tax or about the Labour Land Campaign please visit our website [www.labourland.org](http://www.labourland.org)
- If you would like to attend one of our meetings or arrange for a speaker from the Labour Land Campaign to lead a discussion or seminar with your organisation, please email [carol.wilcox@labourland.org](mailto:carol.wilcox@labourland.org)

**Some of our publications:** *Manifesto of the Labour Land Campaign: Towards a Fairer Tax System and a more just society (£1); Land Value...for public benefit (£2); Welfare for the Rich: Who really receives the biggest subsidies in the UK? (£2).* All available at [www.labourland.org](http://www.labourland.org)

**Published by Labour Land Campaign, c/o 480 Lyminster Road, Highcliffe, Dorset, BH23 5HG**



## **Why Trade Unionists should support a shift in taxes off wages and production and onto Land**

The economic problems for workers, businesses and the wider population are worsening

- High rents, unfair taxes and the power of big business make life hard for workers and small/medium businesses.
- The UK tax system discriminates against workers and worthwhile business but favours owners of land and other natural resources.
- Taxpayers from all over the UK pay taxes for big inner city transport projects such as Crossrail that are adding to land value but most get no share of the economic benefit they help generate.
- New and improved infrastructure and public transport, in fact all public goods and services, create higher land values and therefore higher rents going to landowners from tenants.
- The Labour Land Campaign (LLC) says it is wrong that community created natural resource wealth goes to big landowners instead of being collected through a fairer and more efficient tax system to pay for maintaining and developing public services.
- We need a tax system that stimulates and supports positive production not one that distorts the economy or is avoidable (legally or illegally).



[www.labourland.org](http://www.labourland.org)

## Some of the problems workers and their families face

**High and rising rents** are causing more and more workers to struggle to survive. Land speculation is pushing up rents particularly making homes unaffordable to rent or buy all over the UK.

**Unfair competition from transnational corporations** that avoid paying their fair share of taxes means UK taxpayers are footing the bill for our public services that they too benefit from.

**Technical advances** that increase productivity have brought huge savings to businesses at the expense of skilled workers, keeping many underemployed or unemployed, instead of them sharing the economic benefits modern technology brings.

**Current taxes** discriminate against workers and productivity and distort the economy causing the North/South and rich/poor divide. VAT puts up the price of goods and services and acts as a drag anchor on the economy.

**Good public transport and roads** are essential for businesses to survive. Employees need it to get to work. It provides a wider catchment area for employers seeking staff and for clients to reach their premises. It is needed to transport goods to market. Business taxes pay towards public transport that increases land value which landowners take as rent from business tenants – meaning businesses pay twice for public services.

## The share of production which goes to workers is shrinking whilst the share going to the owners of capital and land are rising

### Who benefits from high land values?

Land (or location) value is generated by all of us as taxpayers and consumers but it is landowners who receive the economic benefits of land. Owners of farms, business premises and homes including second homes, holiday lets and rented homes all take land value that is generated by the whole of society. Tenants and those adults who are forced to live with their family or friends are subsidising landowners and that is not fair or just.

### Who is excluded from this natural resource wealth?

All people who do not own land are contributing to higher land values through their employment, purchases and everyday activities but are excluded from enjoying the economic benefit that land wealth brings.

### Who would benefit from an annual Land Value Tax?

**Everyone** would benefit from a shift in taxation off earned incomes and trade onto the unearned income that goes to owners of land. Land price inflation would be naturally moderated making homes and business premises more affordable for all; investment in sterile land speculation would be diverted to new and existing business which would become economically sound creating jobs and stimulating the local economy and there would be a sustainable source of income to invest in maintaining and developing local services that are much needed in rural areas.

**Introducing Land Value Tax** Land Value Tax is an annual charge payable by landowners not tenants against the value of a site – which is determined by the popularity of a location and its permitted use decided by planning authorities – disregarding any buildings on the site.

- The major economic benefit of **Land Value Tax** – which would cover all land – is that it would make our economy work more efficiently and rid us of the North/South and Rich/Poor divides that blights our nation's prosperity.
- **Land Value Tax** encourages worthwhile investment and supports businesses and industries through fairer and more efficient taxation.
- **Land Value Tax** would bring empty buildings and idle land with planning consent into use and thus help avoid unnecessary urban sprawl into our countryside and green belts.
- **Land Value Tax** would reduce land prices, so that more money could be spent on investment in housing, public services and business activities. Cheaper land prices would make housing more affordable.
- **Land Value Tax** would not be an additional tax, but its income used to reduce or abolish other taxes that are harmful to the economy.
- **Land Value Tax** has many other important benefits covered in more detail in our other publications – see below.
- **Land Value Tax** cannot be evaded or avoided by wealthy landowners using expensive lawyers and accountants because you can't hide land in a tax haven.