

THE MUNICIPAL DEMAND FOR LAND VALUE RATING

In our January issue we listed 60 Local Authorities which since July last year had by resolution declared in favour of the Rating of Land Values. As the result of communications received from the respective Town Offices we are now able to supplement that list with the addition of 18 other places, namely: Burnley, Dunstable, Ealing, Fulham, Greenwich, Hendon, Jarrow, Kettering, Kidderminster, Hull, Loughborough, Luton, Southall, Tottenham, Tyldesley, Walsall, Wood Green, Woolwich.

BURNLEY. Resolution on September 4, 1946, in favour of legislation being passed the effect of which will be to impose a rate on site values on a compulsory and national basis.

DUNSTABLE. Resolved on December 23, 1946: "That this Council is in favour of the introduction of legislation which would enable Local Authorities to place a rate on site values and directs that copies be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Health".

EALING. Resolved on December 17, 1946: "That this Council approve in principle of the Rating of Land Values and instruct the Town Clerk to communicate with other Local Authorities in Middlesex with a view to obtaining concerted action for the acquisition of necessary powers to obtain a revision of the present methods of rating by the inclusion of land values for rating purposes". The resolution was moved by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Councillor Gooderham. To date, seven Middlesex local authorities have replied that they supported the resolution; and report is to be given later, after the matter has been further considered by the Ealing Council at its meeting on May 20.

FULHAM. Resolved on March 26, 1947: "(a) That the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee be informed that this Council is strongly of the opinion that legislation should be introduced as soon as possible to enable all local authorities to impose a rate on site values; (b) That the Standing Joint Committee be asked to urge the Association of Municipal Corporations to press for the introduction of such legislation and to suggest to the Association that they seek the support of the Urban District Councils' Association".

GREENWICH. Resolved on July 10, 1946: "That the Clerk of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee be informed that this Council is in favour of the introduction of legislation to enable local authorities to place a rate on site values and that the Committee be asked to consider as to the desirability of making representations to the appropriate Government Departments with a view to securing the promotion of the necessary legislation for such purpose on behalf of the constituent Councils".

HENDON. Resolved on January 27, 1947: "That the Associations of Local Authorities be requested to consider the whole question of Taxation of Land Values with a view to a general policy being defined".

HULL. Resolution by the Parliamentary and General Purposes Committee on December 6, 1946 and confirmed by the Council on January 2, 1947—similar in terms to the Kettering resolution.

JARROW. Letter from Town Clerk, February 8, 1947: "Re legislation for the Rating of Land Values . . . the Council did express an opinion in favour in July last and I made representations in accordance with that opinion in October last to the Treasury and the Minister of Health".

KETTERING. Resolved by the Finance Committee on September 25, 1946: "That the Council be recommended to support the introduction of legislation enabling the rating of Site Values and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Health (and the Member of Parliament for the Kettering Division)". The Member is Mr. G. R. Mitchison.

KIDDERMINSTER. At the February meeting of the Town Council (Kidderminster Shuttle, February 28) Councillor W. Davies submitted a recommendation from the Rating Committee, of which he is chairman, that a resolution be passed that the Council supported the principle of the rating of land values. He instanced the successful operation of that policy in various parts of the world. Councillor Mrs. F. Broadbent seconded and the resolution was carried. At the March meeting, the rating question was again discussed on correspondence received making vigorous protest against the alarming increase in local taxation. Councillor Davies again stressed the urgency of the necessary reform. The burden he said was wrongly applied; rates should be removed entirely from house property, and the rating of land values should be instituted instead.

LOUGHBOROUGH. Resolution by the Rating Committee on October 7, 1946 that while agreeing with the principle of Land Value Rating no official action be taken.

LUTON. Letter from the Town Clerk, February 10, 1947: "I can say that my Council is in favour of legislation being introduced so as to enable Local Authorities to place a rate on site values. At a meeting held in October last, the Council passed a resolution that as it was satisfied that the present law of rating was being considered by the Government no further action on its part was necessary".

SOUTHALL. Resolution on January 28, 1947 that the Council approve in principle the rating of site values and that the Ealing Corporation be informed of the above decision.

TOTTENHAM. Resolution on January 20, 1947 agreeing in principle with the rating of land values but at the same time expressing the opinion that the matter should be of national and not local application.

TYLDESLEY. Resolution on December 13, 1946 instructing the Town Clerk to communicate with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Health urging the introduction of legislation providing a system for the introduction of land values.

WALSALL. Resolution by the Finance Committee and confirmed by the Council in October last—in similar terms to the Kettering resolution.

WOOD GREEN. In July 1946, the Council expressed the view that Local Authorities should be empowered by legislation to levy a rate on site values within their respective areas and their decision was brought to the notice of the Association of Municipal Corporations.

WOOLWICH. Letter from the Town Clerk, February 11, 1947 that the Council had recently considered a comprehensive report upon the Rating System and among the conclusions arrived at were that before the relationship between national and local finance was finally settled, the valuation for rating must be made uniform throughout the country; also favouring a broadening of the basis of local taxation by the abolition of 'Derating' by the rating of site values.

AIREBOROUGH. Letter from the Clerk, February 14, 1947 that the matter had not been considered since July 1946 but that in March 1943 the Council had unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Government to institute a proper land valuation and enact legislation for the imposition of rates and taxation upon all land and site valuation.

BIRMINGHAM. Letter from the Town Clerk, February 7, 1947 recalling the resolution which was passed by the Council in October 1945 favouring the rating of site values and which was subsequently represented to the Association of Municipal Corporations. (The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee of the Council were fully reported in *Land & Liberty* of November 1945.)

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