

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Acknowledgements | 4 |
| Introduction | 7 |
| <i>Part I: The framework of local government</i> | |
| I. The evolution of local government | 13 |
| II. Powers and controls | 33 |
| III. Local government expenditure and financing—past and present | 55 |
| IV. Rates | 105 |
| V. The radical alteration of local government finance | 139 |
| VI. Local government—independent or agent? | 156 |
| <i>Part II: The performance of local government</i> | |
| VII. Home Sweet Home | 178 |
| VIII. Plans, plans and politics | 221 |
| IX. Value for money and financial control | 260 |
| <i>Part III: What people want of local government</i> | |
| X. Local government and the people | 293 |
| XI. Politics and politicians | 315 |
| XII. Explaining performance | 343 |
| <i>Part IV: Solutions</i> | |
| XIII. What is to be done? | 387 |
| Index | 409 |