

Resolution for Annual Conference

Restoration of the education function of local authorities

Conference notes:

It has now become obvious that Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and even stand-alone academies are a charter for profiteering and even at times outright corruption, with lucrative contracts handed to family and friends. It is also true that too many private companies are providing services to schools that could better be provided in house. The result is public money meant for front line educational services finding its way into the pockets of private individuals.

Conference welcomes:

1. The commitment announced at the last conference, to consult on and establish a new regulatory framework for schools, to ensure that all schools follow the same rules, with schools being regulated by statute, rather than thousands of individual contracts.
2. The paper "Academies, autonomy, equality and democratic accountability: Reforming the fragmented publicly funded school system in England" (Wolfe and West) and the document "Restoring a democratically accountable school system" from the SEA setting out a coherent plan for implementing this pledge.
3. The commitment made by John McDonnell in February 2018 when he declared Labour's intention to "properly fund local authorities", "bring services back in house" and "strengthen local democracy".

Conference believes the Labour party should now commit to ensuring:

1. Local Authorities establish reformed, democratically accountable local education committees with stakeholder representation.
2. That all publicly funded schools be brought back under the control of these new local education committees.
3. The newly empowered local education committees will be the default providers of school services and will be appropriately funded.