



# AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



**1** A national strategy for a national skills system that supports economic growth in every region of the country.

.....

**2** An apprenticeship system that delivers for businesses of all sizes by supporting learners of all ages and at all levels.

.....

**3** More vocational and technical learning opportunities for young people to help home grown talent to fill job vacancies in key sectors.

.....

**4** A lifelong learning guarantee to enable people to gain new skills throughout their working life.

.....

**5** A root and branch review of how English and maths is delivered and assessed throughout the education system.

.....

**6** A skills system that prioritises learners and employers, not the institution they study at.

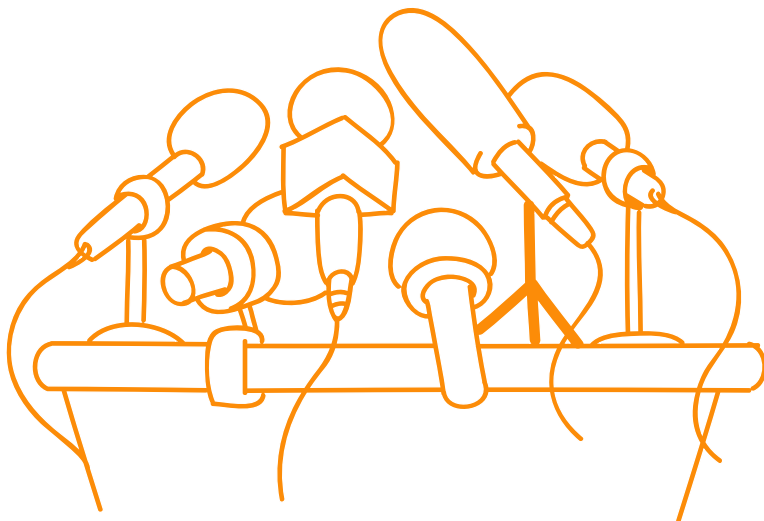
.....



# AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



**July's General Election is a golden opportunity to shape the future of the skills system.** The UK's economy has struggled in recent years, held back by a lack of productivity gains. However, sustainable economic growth will only come if employers are able to fill their skills gaps; as a result, AELP is calling for:



## 1 A national strategy for a national skills system that supports economic growth in every region of the country.

.....

We need an ambitious skills strategy for the next decade, giving learners, providers and employers clarity and confidence in the future direction of skills policy.

Giving employers and learners a clear understanding of the types of programmes available and how a learner progresses from one rung of the ladder to the next would give employers and providers the confidence to engage in the system. A national skills strategy would help aid economic growth by tying together local needs across the country, to ensure that national skills needs are being addressed alongside local needs. The skills strategy should bridge skills and employment and sit across relevant government departments, including the Department for Education, the Department for Work and Pensions and His Majesty's Treasury.



# AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



## 2 An apprenticeship system that delivers for businesses of all sizes by supporting learners of all ages and at all levels.

.....

Business is being short-changed on the Apprenticeship Levy - the Treasury top slices £700m a year, money that should be allocated to the apprenticeship budget. **AELP believes that every penny raised through the Apprenticeship Levy should be used to fund apprenticeships and skills**, with a ringfenced apprenticeship budget allocated to SMEs.

The current apprenticeship budget could also go much further with more **flexibility in apprenticeship programmes** to ensure they are better meet the needs of employers, including creating and integrating pre-apprenticeship programmes. AELP is also calling for more flexibility over the timings , shape and size of **end point assessment**, a more flexibility approach to apprenticeship content, including modularisation and what can be included within the **overall duration of an apprenticeship**.

**Apprenticeships for 16–19-year-olds should be funded separately through the core Department for Education 16 to 19 budget.** This would bring apprenticeships in line with other forms of 16 to 19 education, remove another barrier for employers and help reduce the decline in young apprenticeship uptake, while freeing up over £400m in the apprenticeship budget to properly fund apprenticeship standards.





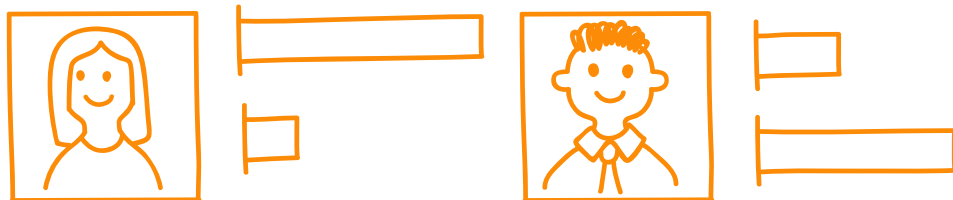
# AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



### 3 More vocational and technical learning opportunities for young people to help home grown talent to fill job vacancies in key sectors.

.....

There are currently 900,000 young people not in education, employment or training at a time when there are a similar number of job vacancies. Young people need more vocational and technical learning opportunities to help them into well-paid employment, apprenticeships or further learning. The revenue generated from the 230,000 Skilled Worker Visas should be reinvested to help train home grown talent get jobs in key sectors.



### 4 A lifelong learning guarantee to enable people to gain new skills throughout their working life.

.....

Changes in our economy driven by AI and digital innovations as well as the drive to net zero mean workers are more likely to need to upskill and change career throughout their life.

**A lifelong learning guarantee through the extension of the lifelong learning accounts** to below level 4 would put power in the hands of learners themselves, empowering them to access the provision they need. Lifelong learner accounts would allow each learner to access national entitlements, with the potential for government or employer top ups, and for local skills priorities to be topped up by devolved authorities.

Lifelong learning also means maintaining an all ages all levels apprenticeship system, to enable continuous upskilling and career switching, allowing learners to thrive and creating a dynamic labour market.



# AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



## 5 A root and branch review of how English and maths is delivered and assessed throughout the education system.

---

English and maths are important skills that will follow a learner throughout their life. However, apprentices are being forced to resit English and maths exams again and again, with little bearing on their apprenticeship occupation. **This experience is destroying the apprenticeship experience for tens of thousands of learners each year, pushing learners away from apprenticeships and incentivising providers and employers to not take on apprentices with English and maths needs.** All of this has next to no impact on whether an apprentice is work ready and drives down achievement rates.

Removing English and maths qualifications as an exit requirement for apprenticeships would immediately allow thousands of learners who are job ready to achieve their apprenticeship qualification. Changing this would bring apprenticeships into line with all other forms of education.

This stems from failures earlier on in a learner's journey, with 22% young people not achieving level 2 English and maths by 19 years old. AELP wants to see root and branch reform of how English and maths is delivered and assessed throughout the whole education system.

## 6 A skills system that prioritises learners and employers, not the institution they study at.

---

Independent training providers deliver 62% of apprenticeships and 89% of Skills Bootcamps, they also deliver Adult Education Budget and 16-19 Study Programmes to some of the most disconnected young people in England. In some rural areas independent training providers are the only choice for post 16 learners. Despite this, they are too often misunderstood or ignored by policy makers. AELP and its members want to see parity among providers types, with policy that prioritises learners and employers, not the institution they study at. This would recognise the strengths of all types of providers, whether independent training providers, colleges, universities or employer providers.