# Press Release

**IN PLACE OF AUSTERITY**:  **Reconstructing the economy, state and public services**

Dexter Whitfield

*In Place of Austerity* uncovers the realities of commissioning, localism, ‘big society’ empowerment fraud, and the systematic undermining of public services and the welfare state. It exposes the scale of disempowerment, dispossession and disinvestment, and analyses the dominant rationale, which continues to underpin the financialisation and personalisation of public services, accelerating marketisation and privatisation on an unprecedented scale.

It describes how **privatisation has mutated** into a variety of forms, each with mechanisms that lead to the marketisation and transfer of services to private provision (Chapter 2). A typology illustrates the effect on publicly-owned assets and services, governance and democracy, the public domain and global public goods (pages 41-49).

More equitable taxation and reduction of the tax gap could reduce deficits and debt levels and the need for public spending cuts. But increased revenue alone will not fundamentally change the implementation of neoliberal policies for health, education and other public services that **commodify children and the elderly, fragment public provision and deconstruct democracy**.

*In Place of Austerity* sets out a framework for policies that **reconstruct the economy, invest in local economies, create jobs and rebuild public infrastructure**. In doing so, it charts a new role for the state and offers a radical new public service management strategy (Chapters 4, 5 and 6).

It draws on the lessons learnt in opposing marketisation and privatisation over the last three decades. More systematic intervention in transformation and procurement is required with **new organising strategies, forging strong alliances, taking industrial and community action, and advancing alternative policies** (Chapter 7).

Whitfield is **highly critical of the planned role for social enterprises in public services**, because they operate in markets and reinforce the commissioning model and contract culture (Chapter 9).

*In Place of Austerity* demonstrates the effects and cost of imposing competition and outsourcing in public services and the welfare state. It explains why markets fail resulting in inefficiencies, risks and secrecy (Chapter 10).

Finally, **prioritizing the welfare of corporations over public welfare** (so-called “corporate welfare”) reached a new zenith during the financial crisis, and ensured the socialisation of losses, financed by public money, government guarantees, and the privatisation of profits. *In Place of Austerity* shows how continued growth of contracts and services markets will further consolidate the power of transnational corporations (Chapter 3), to the detriment of collective provision***.***

Also summary at http://www.european-services-strategy.org.uk/in-place-of-austerity/

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Dexter Whitfield is Director of the European Services Strategy Unit and Adjunct Associate Professor, Australian Institute for Social Research, University of Adelaide. He has an extensive and unique track record of research, policy analysis and strategic advice to public bodies, trade unions and community organisations. His recent book, *Global Auction of Public Assets*, has proved highly influential in providing a definitive analysis of Public Private Partnerships and the burgeoning global infrastructure market.

**For further information please contact**

Dexter Whitfield - Mobile +44 (0) 777 6370884  Tel +353 (0) 66 7130225

Email: [dexter.whitfield@gmail.com](mailto:dexter.whitfield@gmail.com)