

**Jim McMahon**

Minister for Local Government and Devolution  
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham St,  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Play Place Innov8 CIC  
21 Wayside  
Fieldway  
New Addington  
Croydon

18<sup>TH</sup> June 2025

Dear Mr McMahon,

I am writing on behalf of Play Place Innov8 CIC, a long-standing community partner of Croydon Council since 2006. We deliver vital services to young people and families, particularly on disadvantaged estates across the borough.

We are deeply concerned about the proposal to appoint government commissioners to take control of the Council's governance. We urge you to reconsider this course of action. Over the past two years, the Mayor and his team have worked constructively with residents, voluntary sector organisations, and businesses to rebuild trust, strengthen governance, and address significant financial challenges. While difficult decisions have been necessary, which have widespread effects on our residents, we have seen progress and a commitment to inclusive, community-led decision-making.

Introducing external commissioners at this stage would:

- Undermine the voice and will of residents
- Disrupt trusted partnerships built over many years
- Set a troubling precedent for democratic local government across the country.

We strongly believe that local issues are best resolved through local, elected leadership. We ask the government to support Croydon's ongoing recovery plan and to uphold the principles of democratic accountability and community collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hennis  
Business Director  
Play Place Innov8 CIC