

Jim McMahon

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

Dear Mr McMahon

Re: Support for Opposition to Government Intervention

We, the undersigned, write to express our strong support for Croydon Council and our deep concern regarding the proposed appointment of government representatives to assume control of the Council's governance, recruitment, and decision-making functions.

As a valued partner, we have witnessed the Council's ongoing commitment to community engagement, transparent operations, and continuous improvement. Over the past few years, Croydon Council has taken significant steps to address past challenges and implement a comprehensive programme of reform and renewal. These efforts include the adoption of a new governance model, strengthened financial controls, improved scrutiny functions, and an unwavering focus on delivering better outcomes for residents.

The Council has demonstrated clear accountability and an openness to external review and support. They has worked closely with partners and the local community to rebuild trust, promote inclusive decision-making, and invest in long-term solutions. While there is still work to be done, the Council's trajectory is one of meaningful and measurable progress.

We firmly believe that local issues are best addressed through local, democratically elected leadership. The proposed intervention risks undermining the voice of the community and the integrity of local democracy. It also threatens the collaborative relationships that exist between the Council and its partners—relationships built on trust, shared values, and a mutual dedication to serving the people of Croydon.

We urge the government to reconsider this course of action and instead work constructively with Croydon Council to support good governance. Local government should reflect the will and interests of the community it serves. Disempowering that structure would set a concerning precedent and weaken the very foundation of local representation.

We ask the government to uphold the principles of democratic governance and community-led decision-making.

Please note that this letter is signed by four independent and individual Charity organisations and Community Leaders.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bola Thomas', followed by a period.

Pastor Bola Thomas - Senior Reverend of His Grace Evangelical Outreach Church

Reverend Les Isaac OBE - Founder of Ascension Trust and Street Pastors

Dr Joan Myers OBE - Joan Myers Consultancy

Tinu Kehinde - CEO Optimism Housing Support