



20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Mr 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**

Tabernacle of Praise Ministries and indeed the wider network of Churches and Faith Communities in Croydon that we are a part of, count ourselves as valued partners, who have worked closely with and have witnessed Croydon Council's ongoing commitment to community engagement, transparent operations, and continuous improvement. We have held regular meetings with our elected Mayor and his top Team (at least 4 times a year) where we have had opportunities to ask tough questions and request back-up information for some of the works they have undertaken. With confidence, we can say that that during this time, 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.

We are deeply concerned with the proposed appointment of government representatives to assume control of the Council's governance, recruitment, and decision-making functions. We can unequivocally report that through our partnership with the Council, they have demonstrated clear accountability and an openness to external review and support. The Council 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.



# ***Tabernacle of Praise***

What we would need from the Minister is support to continue building our Council with the team in place. 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.

Yours sincerely

**Damian Luke - Pastor**