

Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre Campaign

Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y

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13 April 2026

Chris Hayward, Deputy Chair, Policy and Resources Committee
City of London Corporation, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ

By email: chris.hayward@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Helen Fentimen OBE JP, Chair, C&CS Committee
cc: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community & Children's Services
cc: Rachel Blake MP, Cities of London and Westminster
cc: Liz King, Alderman, Cripplegate Ward
cc: Kate Doidge, Clerk, C&CS Committee

RE: Formal Request for Attendance at Public Town Hall Meeting — Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Dear Councillor Hayward,

We write to you in your capacity as Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation to formally request your attendance at the public meeting being convened by residents of the Golden Lane Estate regarding the closure of Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre.

The meeting is confirmed for Friday 17 April 2026, 7:45pm, at Golden Lane Community Centre. We are writing to request your attendance as a matter of democratic accountability.

Why Your Presence Is Required

In December 2024, you stated publicly that the Golden Lane Leisure Centre refurbishment was “another example of putting the Resident Reset into action” - describing the City Corporation's commitment to improving its relationship with its resident population.

Four months later, Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre - the only publicly-funded leisure facility in the Square Mile - has been closed with 29 days' notice. Staff were informed they would lose their jobs with thirty minutes' notice, with City of London Corporation officials present in that meeting. Residents received no prior warning and no consultation. Golden Lane is the only site in Fusion Lifestyle's entire national portfolio confirmed to permanently close.

As Policy Chairman, you are the de facto political leader of the City of London Corporation. The Policy and Resources Committee, which you chair, carries responsibility for corporate risk — and the reputational, legal, and equality risks arising from this closure fall squarely within that remit.

This decision was made within the governance framework over which you have ultimate political oversight.

What We Are Asking

We are asking you to attend the public meeting and to be prepared to answer the following questions in public:

1. The City Corporation's stated justification for closure is that the building's condition and the proximity of the planned renovation made a bridge arrangement financially unviable. The City was conducting Pre-Market Engagement with potential new operators as recently as 4 March 2026. Why were those organisations not approached about an emergency interim arrangement when Fusion entered administration on 1 April?
2. Was an Equality Impact Assessment conducted before the closure decision was made? If not, why not, given that the closure eliminates the only SEND-dedicated sports provision within the City of London?
3. You have committed the City Corporation to a Resident Reset. How is the closure of the only publicly-funded leisure facility in the Square Mile, without consultation, without an equality impact assessment, and as the only such closure in England, consistent with that commitment?

Democratic Accountability

The residents of Golden Lane Estate are your constituents as an elected member of the City of London Corporation. The Resident Reset you have championed publicly is meaningless if the Corporation's most senior elected figure declines to account for decisions that directly contradict it.

A public meeting without the presence of those who hold ultimate political responsibility is not meaningful accountability.

We look forward to your confirmation of attendance. Please respond by Wednesday 15 April.

Yours sincerely,

Rajesh Thind, Dominique Tipper and Paul Drinkwater
Campaign Co-coordinators — Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre Campaign
Golden Lane Estate, EC1

This letter is a matter of public record and will be shared with ward councillors, our MP, and published on campaign channels.