

Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y

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13 April 2026

Steve Goodman OBE

Chairman, Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee

City of London Corporation, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ

By email: steve.goodman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Helen Fentimen OBE JP, Chair, C&CS Committee

cc: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community & Children's Services

cc: Kate Doidge, Clerk, Housing Management Sub-Committee

cc: Rachel Blake MP, Cities of London and Westminster

RE: Building Condition of Golden Lane Leisure Centre — Accountability of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee

Dear Councillor Goodman,

We write to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, which has oversight responsibility for the Golden Lane Estate, including its buildings, maintenance, and condition.

The City of London Corporation has cited the condition of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre building as a central justification for its decision to close the facility immediately rather than pursue an interim operating arrangement. Specifically, the City has stated that the building's condition, combined with the short time before planned refurbishment, made any bridge operation unviable.

The condition of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre does not exist in isolation. It is the product of years of decisions — and non-decisions — about maintenance, investment, and repair across the estate. Those decisions fall within the governance framework of the sub-committee you chair.

The Questions We Require You to Answer

1. What does the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee know about the specific condition issues at Golden Lane Leisure Centre that were cited as making interim operation unviable? Were these issues reported to the Sub-Committee, and if so, when?
2. When were the building condition issues that are now being used to justify immediate closure first identified? Were they assessed as urgent, and what remedial action was recommended?
3. The Regulator for Social Housing found serious failings in the City Corporation's management of its housing estates in February 2026, specifically noting that the pace of planned maintenance improvements was too slow. In your view, does the condition of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre reflect those same failings?
4. Was the Sub-Committee given any opportunity to scrutinise the building condition assessment that underpinned the closure decision? If not, do you consider that appropriate, given that the Sub-Committee has direct oversight of the estate?
5. Did the Sub-Committee's oversight of the estate include regular inspection and reporting on the condition of the leisure centre? If so, what did those reports show?

The Wider Context

We note that the Regulator for Social Housing's February 2026 judgment found that the City Corporation is not anticipating that all of its properties will meet the Decent Homes Standard until 2035, and identified this as a serious failing. The condition of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre — and the fact that it is now being used as justification for closing a community facility — is a direct consequence of the pattern of deferred maintenance that the Regulator criticised.

Residents do not accept that the City Corporation can cite building condition as a reason to deny them their only public leisure facility, while simultaneously escaping accountability for allowing that condition to develop over years of inadequate maintenance.

Our Requests

- Provide a written response to the questions above within 10 working days
- Ensure that the next meeting of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee includes a formal agenda item on the condition of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre and the maintenance decisions that led to it
- Publish the building condition assessment(s) cited in the closure decision
- Attend the public meeting on Friday 17 April 2026 at 7:45pm at the Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Yours sincerely,

Rajesh Thind, Dominique Tipper and Paul Drinkwater

Campaign Co-Coodinators - Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre

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