

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH  
CALL-IN NOTICE**

DECISION TAKER:

Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>

DATE OF DECISION: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

ITEM NO AND REPORT TITLE: **7. Transforming Youth Play – Adventure Play Centres**

DECISION TO BE CALLED IN: 1.1 to 1.3

REASON FOR CALL-IN:

We are calling in this Cabinet decision which is entitled ‘*Transforming Youth Play – Adventure Play Centres*’, which proposes ending the staffed, supervised Play Centre service at Coldharbour, in Glyndon and in Woolwich as part of wider changes to the service, for the following reasons:

- 1) An insufficient consultation, the results of which were then ignored** – the Council ran only a perfunctory, short-turnaround consultation on its proposals for the Adventure Play Centres. And in pressing ahead with these plans, Cabinet has ignored the overwhelming opposition demonstrated through the consultation from the community, parents and children who use our Play Centres. These actions directly contradict the council’s commitments made in the Community Engagement Pledge.
- 2) Consistent underestimation of the value of our Play Centres throughout the process** – for example, with the Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council repeatedly, despite challenge on this point, referring to Play Centres as ‘Adventure Playgrounds’ which undervalues the contribution that Play Centre staff make to transforming the lives of young people through the 1:1 engagement work they carry out with individual children
- 3) Unequitable treatment of different sites** – the administration effectively protected Plumstead Adventure Play Centre in these proposals by pre-announcing that no changes would be made at that site, without giving any public justification for that decision. Further unequitable treatment can be seen in the fact that the consultation included visits to engage young people at Woolwich and Glyndon but NOT at Coldharbour or Meridian – which also goes directly against Overview & Scrutiny’s recommendation that the views of young people be fully taken into account.
- 4) Lack of a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)** – which has not been published, and appears not to have been carried out before the decision was published, despite the impact this will have on children in the borough
- 5) Misrepresentation by the Council in how this decision has been communicated** – with RBG communications repeatedly referring to “investment” when describing a decision that

amounts to a significant cut in provision at Coldharbour, Glyndon and Woolwich – in a manner which amounts to misleading residents about the impact of the decision.

**6) Inconsistencies in how the Council is describing what it is proposing for the future of the Coldharbour Adventure Play Centre site, which potentially misleads residents.** For example,

- At 3.4 and 5.23 the decision report describes the proposal as the Coldharbour APC becoming a new Community Hub, “with a youth offer as part of the scheme”
- At 4.14 it describes “a new Community Hub at Coldharbour...including youth provision”

However elsewhere:

- In 5.7 it says “The POSSIBILITY of continuing Youth Provision at the site will be EXPLORED” – a far weaker statement
- At 6.1 (recommended option) – the actual decision that Cabinet are asked to vote on – it states Coldharbour APC “will become PART OF THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT in relation to a Community Hub in the Coldharbour area” – again offering a much weaker statement as to the site’s future
- In the Equality Impact Assessment on page 2 it states “It is proposed that Coldharbour APC is to become a new Community Hub, with a POSSIBLE youth offer as part of the scheme”
- And on page 6 the EIA again describes the proposal as the Coldharbour site “to become a new Community Hub, with a POSSIBLE youth offer as part of the scheme”
- And RBG’s communications around the decision, including the Leader’s social media posts, refers to “a new Community Hub at Coldharbour that COULD include youth services”

**ALTERNATIVE DECISION SOUGHT:**

- 1.1. To go back to the drawing board and develop a range of different options for transforming the Play Centre service - which should include an option based on continuing the provision of a staffed, supervised Play Centre service in each of Coldharbour, Glyndon, Woolwich, Meridian and Plumstead.
- 1.2. To seek the views, in developing these revised proposals, of London Play and Play England, and to seek the views of Lewisham Council who are instead of cutting Play Centres investing in them currently, in line with the national policy direction
- 1.3. To re-run a genuine consultation on these redeveloped options, which meaningfully seeks the views of residents, parents, childrens and staff members views on each option
- 1.4. To run in-depth workshops with the young people that use ALL affected centres – including Coldharbour and Meridian the users of which were not afforded an official visit as part of the first consultation – as part of the consultation, living up to Overview & Scrutiny’s recommendation that young people be fully engaged in proposals for the future of the service.

1.5. To carry out a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on the new proposals brought forward, alongside a new Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

As part of this call-in process, and in order to facilitate a full and fair consideration of the issues at the call-in hearing we would request that the following be provided as part of the

- **all consultation responses** (with appropriate redactions to anonymise where necessary)
- as well as a **summary table** providing the total of responses that support/oppose/gave no view on the proposals for each of the sites

Thank you for your consideration.

Please indicate how you wish the decision to be considered:

Referred to -

Decision Maker

Overview & Scrutiny Call-In Sub-Committee

X

Name: (please print) Councillor Matt Hartley

Signature: *Matt Hartley*

Seconder: (please print) Councillor Roger Tester

Signature: *Roger Tester*

28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

This form must be returned by post, email or hand delivery or fax to the Corporate Governance Manager (on behalf of the Chief Executive) **(020 8921 5134) by 5 pm on the day prior to the fifth working day after publication of the Record of Decisions.**