

Alison Evison
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

alison.evison@lgbce.org.uk
REF: CE1412341
16th April 2019

Dear Alison,

I write further to our previous correspondence and meeting on 4 March 2019. By letter dated 6 March 2019, you confirmed that the Commission was willing to consider further views from the Council on the issue of council size.


The Council's Boundary Commission Committee met today and has reconsidered its response and after debate reached the following view on behalf of the Council. First, it confirms its primary submission that the total size of the Council should increase based on the evidence presented to support our first submission. Second, however, and taking into account the views expressed by the Commission in response to the Council's original submission, the Council's view is that the increase should be to 66 councillors or such similar figure as the Commission considers appropriate. It accepts that an increase to 72 councillors is not justified on the evidence but still firmly believes that a significant increase is required to reflect the unique scale of change and challenge facing Newham compared to other boroughs, including its statistical neighbours.

The Council's submission is based on the evidence previously submitted and which, for brevity is not resubmitted.

Finally, given the now certain likelihood that we will have to administer European elections on 23 May and are currently making those preparations, the Council asks that the second phase of the Review is delayed to allow recovery time for our key staff, who have had to cancel leave until after the election etc. Our understanding was that the consultation was due to commence on 24th May and we would ask for a delay until 1 June or later if possible. We consider this still leaves considerable time for any changes to be considered and implemented.

I hope you have all the information you require but please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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London Borough of Newham
Newham Dockside
1000 Dockside Road
London E16 2QU

T +44 (0) 20 8430 2000
W www.newham.gov.uk

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Daniel Fenwick,
Director, Legal & Governance

cc Mayor Fiaz
Althea Loderick, Chief Executive
Yasmin Khanum, Acting Head of Elections
Adrian May, Corporate Governance Manager
Catriona Coull, Policy & Performance

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