

Fagun, Yemi

Subject: FW: LB Newham review: submission on council size.

From [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 April 2019 12:14

To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>

Subject: LB Newham review: submission on council size.

Newham currently has 60 cllrs.

The number *needed* is pretty arbitrary - some residents claim that only one of the three cllrs in their ward seems to do much work, so fewer are actually *needed*. Alternatively, given the number of things residents need help with, in their experiences with the council, suggests *more* are needed.

The warding patterns later will probably be easier to work out if they are reckoned on the the same sort of electorate basis as they currently are, i.e. around 10000 voters being equivalent to three cllrs.

In particular, the boundary of the current Royal Docks ward are excellent boundaries, so is convenient to have that area deemed to require a particular number of cllrs, to determine the ratio from which to calculate the total for the borough. Currently it is three cllrs, and it seems it is only now catching up with the over-optimistic expectations of growth back in 1999. But rapid growth is going on there now, so maybe it is more appropriate to deem it equivalent to four cllrs for the future projection.

Given the huge amount of high-density development going on in several parts of the borough, it would seem perverse if there was a reduction, and on that basis, 'needs' rather more.

I certainly oppose any reduction, not least as this would make it easier for the current administration to maintain the ongoing exclusion of any other parties being represented on the council. I'm aware you can't take party-political considerations into account, but perhaps it could be considered that the existence of "one-party state" councils is inherently unhealthy for democracy on a more fundamental level.

[REDACTED] [personal submission]