

Thurrock

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

I'd like to begin by saying I do not think your website is particularly user friendly for this consultation, and I think most will be put off if they even know about the consultation and attempt to take part.

On the initial page there is the interactive map, and it takes a while to figure out what is being shown, particularly as this consultation is in preparation for potential boundary changes as initially you can think that what is being shown on the map is what is being proposed, but after digging deeper you realise it is just showing you the current boundaries.

The relevant documents are relatively well hidden and tucked away towards the bottom of the page, and to be honest don't even really appear to be associated to the consultation, they read more like general website updates. So again digging and curiosity to click is needed.

When you click to 'Have your say' it appears at first that the same page has loaded, it takes a moment to realise there is now a form after you scroll down the page on the right.

The form doesn't even ask any questions, just asks for views, but bearing in mind the above it really isn't clear what you want views on. It is only when I went back to read the original email that the local community forum kindly sent out that there was any suggestion of what I was supposed to be commenting on. Most consultations would include more details and full questions in the response form.

It is also not helpful that the interactive map is quite limiting since it is not full page and bound by the limited viewable area of the map. So when you zoom in you can only see relatively small areas, if scrolled in enough to see details on all wards, so harder to compare across the borough.

Regarding the distribution of members across the boroughs it certainly doesn't appear to be a roughly equal balance. Then again it is hard to fully understand what the figures on the map mean. Some areas seem to be negative percentages and some positive, what's that all about?

The electorate figures spreadsheet is also confusing and doesn't really explain what is being shown. It also doesn't appear to reflect what we know is being proposed and in the evolving Local Plan in regard to development and therefore increases in population and potential workload for members, such as large

development that could cause issues for residents that they would approach member for help with etc.

It would also be helpful to know MP boundaries as it may be that members have extra workload if they also have a ward that is split for MPs as they have two different MPs to deal with if relevant to their work.

Presumably the need for whatever amount of councillors needs to take more into account than just population, but also the standards of living, what percentage of the ward population on average might be more in need of member assistance, as well as other potential impacts such as large businesses/developments, and impacts like traffic etc. There is nowhere near enough info provided for any member of the public to really be able to assess this kind of thing in a meaningful way and comment.

I'm really at a loss as to what anyone is being asked to contribute in this consultation.

Attached Documents:

None attached