

**ROKHSANA FIAZ OBE**  
MAYOR OF NEWHAM



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has today published its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Newham Council. You can read the Commission's report at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/newham](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/newham)

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE said:

*Today we received the recommendations from the boundary commission for new electoral arrangements in Newham. I would like to thank the commission for their work on this review and respect that they have come to these recommendations with impartiality and good faith.*

*I am pleased that the commission has accepted the case for an increased number of councillors in Newham, to reflect the population of our growing borough. I also welcome the fact that most new wards will remain similar to current wards, so that where possible established ward communities remain intact.*

*However, I regret that the commission did not see the strength of the health and school links between the Olympic Park and Stratford New Town area, despite the Council's representations on the matter. This creates a community-unfriendly boundary in the area. It is also disappointing that the commission recommends three wards for the area, each with two councillors, rather than two wards with three councillors. We know from experience that the latter allows for the most effective ward councillor team, able to work together to represent their community.*

*I am particularly concerned by the naming of a new ward in the area as 'Maryland'. This name originates from a family of slave owners - the Lee family – who alongside ownership of the Maryland Point estate, ran a plantation in Virginia for five generations. Assigning a new ward this name is a disservice to the diversity of our borough, and I know will be the source of great disappointment to Afro-Caribbean residents in Newham. I ask that the boundary commission reconsider this decision, particularly given representations made to the commission that 'Newtown' would be a more historically accurate and appropriate name for the ward.*

*Labour councillors will continue to work together for Newham's residents, wherever ward boundaries are drawn. As Mayor, I am incredibly proud of our work to increase democratic participation in Newham, including by cleaning up the council, establishing a trial standing citizen's assembly and holding a governance*

*referendum on the Mayoral model in May 2021. These initiatives are part of my administration's mission to bring 'people power' to Newham.*

Ends