

**Representation Review - Manningham City Council - Preliminary Submission
Dot Haynes - Doncaster Heights - 26 Jun 2019**

I have lived in Doncaster for over 25 years. I have also lived in country Illinois USA and here in Country Victoria. As a youngest child of 10 children raised by a dad, no mum and loving relatives and friends we were encouraged to connect with all people around us. No matter of language, culture or beliefs. People that are different are needed to have "Community" and "connections". With that short preamble of where I am coming from I have also attended council meetings overseas and engaged here in Manningham for the whole 25 years. As an observer of monthly council meetings for 8 years I decided to run for council and became a councillor here in Manningham. Between 2012 and 2016 I was in a ward with two people I had never communicated with before. They were both there for different reasons, one was a very intimidating man who I had to sit with weekly and the other was a very political advancing individual that used council and councillors to benefit her personal career desires. This is a mirror of what community is like and I am grateful that I had those difficult situations at the table as I represented the community. The Local govt act and Code of conduct kept people more respectful and are good tools to ensure that democracy and difference is achieved. The same diversities are also there now as I work as a councillor elected back in, in 2016 and still in a privileged position to be a public servant for our community.

Multi-member wards reflect the streets that they represent. Individual wards have so many more negatives. I though, would personally benefit as I am a very good communicator and relate to all people. The other people that are not within the individual wards that have more close minded or career political members will be represented by people who are busy doing deals that don't benefit the wider community. I even support one council no wards. I also have concerns that this is very politically led for benefiting controlling people in positions of power. I implore you to ensure that the main and only real concerns are for democracy and opportunity for all people to underpin the results of this review.

I would like to come a present my case and say more if given the opportunity. Please feel free to call me anytime. Dot Haynes [REDACTED]