From:

Anthony Durham

Sent:

12 April 2013 11:33

To:

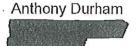
Thermore

Subject: Local newspapers consultation

I live in Greenwich, where we have a particularly outrageous example of a local "newspaper" being used for party political purposes. It is a weekly sick joke, full of sycophantic references to the local council leadership, and empty of serious criticism.

This "newspaper" is routinely justified with an argument that the council has a genuine need to advertise houses for rent, and certain other statutory obligations. That argument is invalid for two main reasons. First, our area of south-east London was served for many decades by a conventional (paid-for) local newspaper, which would be happy to print several pages-worth of adverts for the council, at what must infallibly be a lower cost than the council's own effort. Second, public information nowadays is mostly presented on the Internet, and the council's resources would be far better spent improving their data, and its availability to people without the skills or money to use the Internet easily.

I have seen council offerings from other parts of the country, which are monthly and genuinely politically neutral. By comparison, our council's efforts look downright offensive.



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