

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the start of Baby Loss Awareness Week which raises awareness of pregnancy and baby loss and highlights the local support available to parents and families affected. He also mentions the rising pressures of the cost-of-living crisis and the help and support available from the council and its partners, including our partnership with Leeds Credit Union which brings low interest loans to residents.



Borough says NO to youth violence

The council launched a new phase of its Lost Hours campaign as part of its commitment to tackling youth violence on Thursday 29 September.

The event was hosted at Dagenham Park CofE School, where students and their parents found out more about the campaign and had the opportunity to talk to local organisations and providers about all the great stuff that's available.

Over the next couple of months, we'll be working with schools and asking parents to take responsibility for their children and get them into something positive.

We want parents to be asking their children and young people:

- Who are they hanging around with?
- Who they are speaking to on the phone?
- Where do they go with their friends?

Our online mapping tool helps parents and young people to locate their nearest group or activity [here](#).

You can join us in putting a stop to youth violence. Look out for the #LostHours social media posts and share them with your friends and networks.

You can find out more information on the Lost Hours website:

www.losthours.org



Residents invited to have their say in the CPZ consultation

Residents living in Parsloes, Mayesbrook, Whalebone and Heath wards are being urged to get involved in a consultation as their roads are likely to be one where the council is looking to install a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) to make it easier for them to park where they live.

Residents who live on one of the affected roads should have received a letter through their door, but they can also find out if their road is included by visiting our [website](#).

The letter invites residents to take part in a consultation, so we can hear their thoughts. They can access the consultation online by visiting:

- [Parsloes](#)
- [Mayesbrook](#)
- [Whalebone](#)
- [Heath](#)

Residents who may have difficulties accessing the internet can also call 020 8187 5055 or visit one of our libraries to give their feedback.

CPZs have lots of benefits for our communities. Apart from making it easier for people to park outside their own houses, they also:

1. Improve road safety
2. Reduce traffic congestion
3. Improve safe access for pedestrians
4. Protect parking for residents, visitors and Blue Badge holders

The closing date for the consultation is Wednesday 26 October.



Borough marks Ugandan Independence Day for the first time

The national colours of the Republic of Uganda were flown outside Barking

Town Hall on Friday 7 October to mark 60-years since the country's independence from the British Empire.

Residents were joined by councillors for the flag-raising ceremony, which took place at 12.30pm, to mark the occasion for the first time in the borough.

The black, yellow and red flag was flown ahead of the official Ugandan Independence Day, which takes place on Sunday 9 October.

The country gained independence from the British Empire in 1962.

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of several LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Celebrating Black History Month 2022

October is Black History Month – the annual celebration of the culture, history, and achievements of Black, African, and Caribbean people.

As part of the festivities, a packed programme of events will be held across the borough for everyone to get involved in.

A host of events are planned throughout the month, including a music history quiz, workshops, talks, and exhibitions.

You can find out more on what is happening in the borough during Black History Month at lbbd.gov.uk/black-history-month.



Local groups invited to apply for a share of £10,000 for equality and diversity projects

Local community groups are being encouraged to help spend a £10,000 pot of money to help promote social inclusion, celebrate diversity, and support equality across the borough.

The Equality and Diversity Community Fund offers charities and groups the chance to apply for up to £500 for initiatives that provide opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

The next round of funding will be open to any equalities event. In this window of funding, we're particularly encouraging applications for any Independence Day celebrations or flag raisings, as well as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), Christmas (December), LGBT+ History Month (February), Race Equality Week (February), or Women's Empowerment Month (March).

There are three application windows throughout the year for the fund. The second opportunity for groups opened on 1 October and will close on Monday 31 October.

Groups can find more information or apply [here](#).



Goodnight to borough's bed fly-tippers in the latest Wall of Shame

The Wall of Shame is back, the show where we try to catch the people who think their rubbish, trash, junk, clutter, waste, garbage, debris, detritus and/or dross belongs on our streets – well, we've got news for them – we are on the lookout for them.

We need your help to catch the numpties we feature on the show – if you recognise anyone featured, then please email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now.

You can head to our [Wall of Shame page](#) for more information and to catch up with the show so far.

Around the council



Parents are being reminded to apply for their child's secondary school place

Parents whose children are in Year 6 are being reminded to submit their secondary school application. They have until Monday 31 October to get their applications in to give their child the best chance of being accepted into their first-choice school.

Before applying, parents should read our useful [e-booklet](#) which gives them all the information they need to know about their application.

Parents can find out more information and follow the applications procedure on [our website](#).

They can then find out if their child has been accepted to their chosen school on 1 March 2023.



Residents invited to open a savings account with Barking and Dagenham Money

We know the situation is tough right now for our residents, and that's why we're collaborating with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loan options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD

Money).

We aim to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is also not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



Help and support available for residents through the Household Support Scheme

Residents who may be struggling with their finances or to make ends meet are being encouraged to get in touch.

Funding is available to vulnerable residents to support them with essentials over the coming months.

Residents can [apply online](#) or email benefits@lbbd.gov.uk.

There are also [a number of other support services](#) including:

- Our Community Food Clubs which are free of charge and can provide £20 worth of food per week for a period of either three or six months at www.lbbd.gov.uk/community-food-clubs
- Our money and debt webpages provide an income and expenditure calculator and budgeting tools that will help people understand how much money they have coming in and how much is going out, helping them look at areas where they can make savings at www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt
- Residents who are worried about their finances and need help to tackle debt can now get advice and support from our local Barking and Dagenham Money website at: www.bdmoney.co.uk
- People struggling with increasing energy costs should contact their energy supplier about possible funds they may be entitled to, to help them through difficult periods. They can also access the Warm Homes Grant at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
- People with disabilities who aren't claiming specific disability benefits may be able to take advantage of a number of benefits available, including Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance (for children), and Universal Credit. For those caring for someone with disabilities they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance although this is means tested, at www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits
- People with a water meter who are experiencing financial difficulties may want to look into the Watersure scheme at www.ofwat.gov.uk/households/customer-assistance. Most water companies also have a fund to help those who are struggling, and it might be worth contacting their water provider.

- People who are out of work and looking to get into employment can get help and support from our Job Shops at www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work
- Anyone worried about a lack of skills can find courses and support on the Adult College website at <https://adultcollege.lbbd.gov.uk/>
- Residents who need help with emergency living expenses for food, fuel (gas and electric for customers who pay via a key meter), travel expenses and household appliances and/or clothing in exceptional circumstances can apply for help from our Hardship Fund (Individual Assistance Payment) at www.lbbd.gov.uk/hardship-and-covid-support-schemes.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email at: homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk.



Jobs and training opportunities available from our Job Shops

Residents who need help and support to get into work can visit our Job Shops.

Jobs and training opportunities are advertised on the website every Monday, and residents can register with the service by completing the [online form](#). They will then be contacted by a member of staff.

Alternatively, residents can contact the shops by telephone: Dagenham Job Shop – 020 8724 8877; Barking Job Shop – 020 8724 8870.

For details of jobs available every week, residents can visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work.

For more information about help and support, residents can visit the Barking and Dagenham Working Together campaign page at www.lbbd.gov.uk/working-together.

Local Government News

Opportunity London

[Opportunity London](#), a major new partnership between London Councils, the City of London and the Mayor of London to promote sustainable investment in real estate, regeneration and green infrastructure across the capital, has had a busy few weeks both at the party conferences and at their own investment summit as part of the London Real Estate Forum (LREF), where the group hosted the Opportunity London Investment Summit.

Regional London partnerships were represented at the summit, as well as panel discussions focused on activating Central London, London's Towns, delivering housing in London, and innovation in London real estate. The group also hosted dinners at both the Labour and Conservative party conferences.

In an article published by New London Architecture (NLA), Greg Clark of UK3Ci, sets out the challenges facing London and the city's next development cycle. [You can read his article in full here.](#)

Cost of living webinar

The London Child Poverty Alliance, with support from London Councils, will host a webinar to help councillors and local authority officials explore ways that they can mitigate the cost-of-living crisis for those on lowest incomes in their communities. The session will look specifically at how Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Local Welfare Assistance programmes can be designed so that they can reach those most in need.

The webinar will be chaired by London Councils Executive Member for Communities (Welfare, Empowerment and Inclusion), Cllr Claire Holland, and speakers will include Child Poverty Action's Head of Policy, Hannah Aldridge, and Director of Policy and Campaigns at Z2K, Marc Francis.

The webinar will take place on Tuesday 18 October between 5.30 and 6.30pm. [You can register for the online event here](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

TrainersAdda, 7 October – [College-employer partnership secures investment to boost green and digital skills across capital](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham College.

Evening Standard, 6 October – [Number of children seeing NHS dentist in London every year falls 15% in four years](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Heromag, 6 October – [Dave Hill: What next for the legacy of London 2012?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

What House, 5 October – [Moving costs contribution in London development](#).
Mentions Weston Homes Barking.

The Intermediary, 5 October – [Worst areas for reduced market availability revealed](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 4 October – [How pound slump could spark £3bn film and TV investment boom](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Affordable loan options as east London council partners with Credit Union amidst cost-of-living crisis](#).

[Celebrating Black History Month 2022 in Barking and Dagenham](#).

[Nigerian Independence Day 2022 kickstarts Black History Month](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Effective interpersonal skills: the persuasive councillor](#) – 11 October, 10am to 12pm

You'll use these skills every day: negotiating techniques, developing a win-win outcome, and the 4P's of Persuasion, plus more.

[Effective interpersonal skills: conflict resolution and mediation](#) – 18 October, 10am to 12pm

Master difficult situations with skills like homing in on the conflict, distraction techniques, mediation methods, and more.

[Effective social media: \(lunch and learn session\)](#) – 4 November, 12.30 to 1.45pm

Explore social media channels and how they can be used to listen to and communicate with communities and stakeholders.

[Equality and inclusive leadership in local government: stepping up](#) – 1 & 15 November, 10am to 1pm

Two workshops that will help you develop inclusive leadership practices on equalities, and help you re-examine equality and diversity policies within and outside your council.

[Local government finance: understanding your council's budget and more](#) – 17 November, 12.15 to 1.45pm

Understand financial planning processes and formulate questions on key local issues through your review of key council documents.

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions

Making a success of governance, accountability, and scrutiny - 17 October, 10.30am to 12pm

This webinar, which is funded by Government, will look at the different governance models available within the devolution framework in the Levelling Up White Paper, including County Combined Authorities (CCAs), what powers are likely to be available to areas with each type of deal, and how to negotiate relationships between potential constituent and non-constituent members.

Parking and high streets - 20 October, 10.30am to 12pm

This webinar, aimed at council officers and councillors, will share good practice

from the experts at the British Parking Association and councils who are trying something different.

Handling online abuse and intimidation - Thursday 27 October, 10.30am to 12noon

This webinar will provide attendees with an awareness of the steps that can be taken to manage trolls and cyber-bullies, including a gentle introduction to the legal framework around social media posts. There will be guidance on how to be safe online generally, as well as tips on how to create a positive online presence.

Finance without numbers – an introduction to local government finance for newly elected members - Monday 31 October, 6 to 7.30pm

This webinar will provide an overview of local government finance without any numbers - focussing instead on roles and responsibilities, key terminology, and processes. It will give you an understanding of both what you need to be aware of in your role and what you need to understand about your authority's role. This webinar, which is funded by Government, is for newly elected members or those just looking for a refresh.

Youth services – sharing practice among local authorities - Wednesday 9 November, 3.30 – 5pm

The LGA has explored partnership working in different forms, particularly in exploring the key enablers of effective partnership-based early help and developing an effective youth offer. For youth work week, we want to revisit this research and explore how local authorities and partners are approaching youth service models in their local authorities.

One to One Development Sessions

The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three

months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from the LGA's Leadership Academy programme who a number of councillors might have met from participation on the programmes. They will be focussed on helping councillors adapt their personal leadership style through three structured coaching calls. For more information, please contact Leanna McPherson at: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk

If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk or lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

The LGA also offers help for new Councillors via the New Councillor Hub, which can be found [here](#).

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, in the borough and in the world of local government. Please let us have your suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.