

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about 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 a [booklet](#) being distributed to homes across the borough which outlines the help and support available from the council and its partners, to help residents cope with the cost of living crisis. The Leader ends with a reminder on the programme of events for Black History Month.



Council launches landmark Inclusive Growth Strategy consultation

The Council is keen to hear residents' views and opinions on its draft Inclusive Growth Strategy – our plan for people and places as the borough continues to grow.

The draft strategy sets out the council's vision for growth in the short and medium term and how it will support residents throughout.

Residents are being invited to attend [a virtual event on Monday 24 October](#) between 12.30 to 1.30pm which will give them an overview of the draft strategy and include a Q&A session. [A survey asking for residents' views on the strategy](#) has also been released and will close on 7 November.

Ahead of major developments taking place in the borough, including the relocation of London's iconic three food markets and the Eastbrook Film Studios, the council has set forward its proposed strategy to ensure that all its residents and businesses benefit from the growth and investment being put into the borough.

Residents are at the heart of the new strategy, and we want to hear their concerns and suggestions about all of the current and upcoming developments.

The Inclusive Growth strategy sets out four key themes that will be focused on, to ensure the borough's development will work for all. The four themes are:

Theme 1: A thriving and inclusive economy

Theme 2: Creating places we are proud of

Theme 3: Homes for everyone

Theme 4: A Net Zero cleaner greener borough

Within each theme are key council targets such as: tackling climate change, improving local business space and support, improving housing for vulnerable people, lowering anti-social behaviour and much more.

Residents are encouraged to look out for further events in the coming months where they will be able to give further input into the shape of the borough's development.



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](#).

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

Training updates for councillors

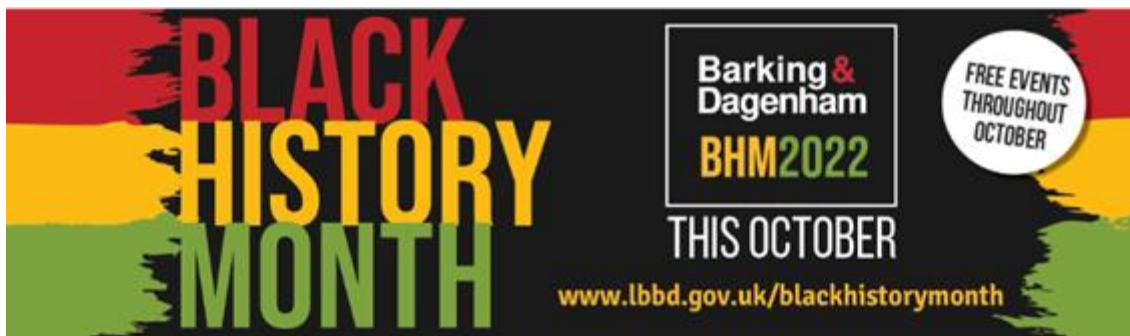
This week we have included details of several LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Council marks Baby Loss Awareness Week

Last Sunday, 9 October, marked the start of Baby Loss Awareness Week. Now in its 20th year, it raises awareness of the issue and the support available for parents and families. It also provided an opportunity to bring the community together and give families who have been touched by pregnancy and baby loss a safe and supportive space to share their experiences and to know they are not alone.



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](#).

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

London boroughs launch new HIV prevention campaign

Do it London have launched their latest HIV prevention campaign on behalf of all London boroughs.

The 'Be Sure. Know the Four' campaign launched last Monday 10 October and will run through the autumn period, including World Aids Day (1 December), ending on 12 December.

London has demonstrated encouraging progress in reducing new HIV diagnosis in recent years. In 2021, new HIV diagnoses fell by 7%. Looking further back, between 2015 and 2021 new diagnoses fell by 66%. However, HIV remains an important public health challenge in London and the danger of complacency could threaten to reverse this trend.

Cllr Nesir Caliskan, London Councils' Executive Member for Health and Care, said: "When boroughs come together and collaborate to tackle key public health challenges, we have been able to see real change across our city. HIV is no exception, which is why we continue to champion HIV prevention through this targeted joint campaign."

You can read more [here](#).

Celebrating Black History Month

October is Black History Month, and London Boroughs are celebrating with a variety of events, all with different themes and content.

As part of our commitment in supporting and amplifying the boroughs work on race equality, London Councils are highlighting the events taking place across London. You can [see the list here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Today's Conveyancer, 13 October – [Lenders fuelled 7 of 10 of property purchases in last year, research shows](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 12 October – [London MPs attack Sadiq Khan's plans for extended Ulez](#). Mentions Jon Cruddas MP.

Big Issue, 12 October – [How one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK is tackling the cost of living crisis](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Capacity Magazine, 11 October – [Community Fibre raises funding to £1.3 billion with new loans](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

ARGS, 11 October – [London City Airport Community Fund awards £41.5k funding to local groups to support East London's recovery](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Political Quarterly, 10 October – [Local Government and the Everyday Economy](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

Aberdeen Business News, 10 October – [City of Aberdeen is the worst area](#)

[to invest in property in the UK](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

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

News Explorer, 7 October – [Cost of living: Sadiq Khan warns there could be a spike in violent crimes this winter as families struggle to pay bills](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Co-operative News, 7 October – [Leeds Credit Union partners with east London council on cost-of-living support](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Today, 7 October – [Lord Kerlake appointed chair of local authority-owned regen company](#). Mentions Be First.

WoodZog, 7 October – [East London council's anti-knife crime calls on parents to take more responsibility for their children](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[East London council's anti-knife crime campaign calls on parents to take more responsibility for their kids](#).

[Uganda Independence Day marked for the first time on country's 60th anniversary of becoming a republic](#).

[Council launches landmark Inclusive Growth Strategy consultation](#).

[Delicious! Manor Junior School hosts scrumptious Taste Festival](#).

[Council Leader visits charity group tackling depression, dementia, and loneliness through the power of sport](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

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The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[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

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.