

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader talks about our Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade which will take place on 6 November, featuring the award-winning Laser Light City and is being organised in partnership with Creative Barking and Dagenham. He also asks residents to enjoy fireworks but to do so safely and with consideration for others.

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### **Leisure centre set to get £400,000 facelift**

Becontree Heath Leisure Centre is set to benefit from a newly refurbished gym which is set to reopen on Friday 25 November.

When completed the new gym will include brand new state-of-the-art fitness equipment including 15 treadmills, nine cross trainers, a variety of bikes including 3 Watt bikes.

During the refurbishment, the gym will be closed from 14 – 24 November. During this time, members will be able to use the Abbey Leisure Centre or other Everyone Active sites.

Everyone Active is also investing, in partnership with the council, in a Ladies Only gym at Abbey Leisure Centre, which will be open in late November.



## **Enforcement officers and Police carry out joint patrol**

Earlier this month, our Community Safety Enforcement Team joined the Police on an operation in the Heathway and surrounding areas. In groups, officers patrolled the areas from 3pm to 7pm, while a number of police officers were based at Dagenham Heathway station with a sniffer dog.

Some of the places covered as part of the patrols included Broad Street, Millard Terrace and Dagenham Park School. The operation resulted in 21 Stop and Searches, one arrest, three community resolutions for cannabis and three antisocial behaviour warnings issued. The high presence was appreciated by residents, and we'll continue to work closely with the police to combat any issues in the borough.

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The logo for CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) is displayed in white text on a solid purple rectangular background. The letters 'CIPFA' are in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a diagonal slash mark.

## **Residents interested in a finance career with the Council invited to get in touch**

Residents and employees of the Council interested in a career in finance are being urged to find out about a career opportunity in finance.

The council is looking for an ambitious and dedicated person to join its Finance team, where they will develop a wide range of skills and experience, leading to the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) professional accountancy qualification.

The role provides an opportunity for someone to acquire a range of finance skills while being supported and funded for the CIPFA qualification. It will put them in an excellent position to progress their career and develop into a senior leader of the future.

The four-year training programme is designed for graduates or part-qualified accountants who want to launch their career. They will be a vital part of the Finance team and will make a difference to our local communities.

The starting salary will be £27k per annum with salary progression on passing successive stages of the CIPFA qualification, to £36k on becoming fully qualified.

Candidates from all backgrounds are welcome, however they must have achieved a 2:2 or above at university or have part-qualification from a recognised accountancy body. They must have the right to work in the UK and be a local resident or an existing council employee to qualify for this local route.

Interested residents and Council employees will have the opportunity to find out more at an information session scheduled for 10 November.

They can find out more information by email: [wai.lok@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:wai.lok@lbbd.gov.uk) and to register for the information session, interested applicants should email: [Rabeya.ali@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Rabeya.ali@lbbd.gov.uk). Full joining instructions will be sent prior to the session.

To apply, residents can visit [www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-jobs/details.html?jobId=2826&jobTitle=CIPFA%20TRAINEE](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-jobs/details.html?jobId=2826&jobTitle=CIPFA%20TRAINEE)

Closing date for applications is 18 November.

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## **Views of residents sought on landmark Inclusive Growth Strategy**

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.

[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.

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## **Advice for Members on Penalty Charge Notices**

Staff in the Parking team are often approached by Members regarding the issuing of or requesting cancellation of a PCN after a constituent has approached them. We have provided the brief guide below to help you in instance such as these:

### **Can my Constituent contact anyone about their PCN?**

*Yes, to seek further information or make a payment, not to overturn a decision*

The Parking Customer Services Team was launched in September to address calls from residents about concerns or questions they may have about their PCNs, permits and CPZs. This was partly in response to the volume of complaints received from residents who were unable to speak to someone in the council's main contact centre, and our desire to provide better customer



service.

The Team can now provide updates on the status of PCNs, and take payments for these. However they are not able to make decisions on whether a PCN has been issued correctly or not. The Appeals Process must be used if residents feel a PCN has been issued incorrectly.

The Parking Customer Service Team are contactable on 0208 215 3000 by choosing the Parking option on the IVR line. Lines are currently open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 6:00pm

### **Who should I contact about my constituents' concerns?**

Motorists should use the appeal process in place to contest the PCN if they feel it should not have been issued. However, should you contact Parking Services to ask for a decision to be reviewed, you would be required to use the Members Casework and log your enquiry with [Complaints@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Complaints@lbbd.gov.uk) and [Members.Feedback@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Members.Feedback@lbbd.gov.uk) who will assign it to the appropriate officer for investigation.

### **Can I appeal a PCN on my constituents' behalf?**

No, and for good reason. Legislation dictates that the Registered Keeper of the vehicle is *legally* responsible for the fine incurred and must appeal the PCN themselves.

### **Can I write in to get details of the PCN for my constituent?**

Due to the Data Protection Act we can only release details to a Third Party with the written authorisation of the Registered Keeper of the vehicle. Councillors and MPs are not exempt from this legislation and therefore your constituent would have to notify us that they have requested your intervention and authorise us to disclose information to you.

### **I haven't got authorisation from my constituent, is there anything I can do for them?**

We can offer you general advice based on the type of contravention, but this will not stop the PCN progressing. The best thing your constituent can do is follow the appeals process which is clearly advised on the PCN.

**My constituent has contacted me as they do not agree with the decision made by the Parking Appeals team, can I ask you to review the decision?**

No, the decision made by an Appeals Officer is part of the legal process a PCN follows. If an appeal made by your constituent is rejected, they will be sent a letter explaining why the PCN has not been overturned and provided with the information they will need if they wish to further their appeal.

To do so, they must follow the legislative process clearly set out in the return correspondence.

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### **Training updates for councillors**

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

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### **Borough News**

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## **Calling on community groups to join the Cost of Living Alliance**

Times are really tough right now not least because everyday essentials such as heating, food and petrol have never been more expensive, but also because people's wages simply can't keep up.

We've seen that together we can make a much greater impact to support those in our community who need it the most. Partners in the voluntary sector, local charities, faith groups, the council and our local community themselves. We worked together when the pandemic first hit, and we were able to get vital supplies and medicines to our most vulnerable residents who were shielding at the time.

That's why we're coming together again. We're calling on community and faith groups across the borough to pledge their support to residents at this difficult time and join the Cost of living Alliance, so that together we can all make an even bigger difference.

You can help share the pledge with local community organisations and help spread the word.

More information can be found at <https://bdmoney.co.uk/cola-sign-up/>



## **Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money**

The Council has partnered with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

The aim is 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 not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

Since its launch earlier this month we've racked up over 200 new members. 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](http://www.BDMoney.co.uk)

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A vertical poster for the Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade. The background is a dark blue and purple gradient with two bright blue laser beams forming a large 'V' shape. At the top, the text 'GUY FAWKES' is in large, glowing white letters, with 'Lantern Parade' in a red cursive font below it. Underneath, it says 'In partnership with Creative Barking and Dagenham' in red. The date 'SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER' is in large white block letters, followed by '4PM TO 8PM' and 'EASTBURY MANOR HOUSE TO ABBEY GREEN, BARKING' in white. Below that, it says 'Featuring Laser Light City by Seb Lee-Delisle' in red. The website 'www.lbbd.gov.uk/lanternparade' is in white. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a parade with people carrying lanterns and a building on the right. Three logos are at the bottom: 'BD CREATIVE BARKING AND DAGENHAM', 'Summer of festivals one borough; one community', and 'Barking & Dagenham'.

## Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade is back

This Sunday 6 November, the Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade returns. We're teaming up with [Creative Barking and Dagenham](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk) to bring it back again for this

year and we hope residents will join us. This year it features the award-winning Laser Light City by Seb Lee-Delisle and creative workshops.

The parade begins at Eastbury Manor House and ends up at the Abbey Ruins, where there will be a FREE entry family event starting at 4pm with amazing stage acts, live music and street theatre.

There will be lantern making workshops organised by Creative Barking and Dagenham around the area and the parade will include a Guy Fawkes and magical lanterns created by local artists – but residents can also join us by bringing their own handmade lanterns if they so wish.

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## Around the council

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## Parents urged to get their child's school to sign up to the School Uniform project

About 1.4 million wearable school uniforms are thrown away every year –

reusing these uniforms would save families money and benefit the environment, which is exactly what The School Uniform Bank Project is all about.

Parents are being urged to check with their child's school to see if they can help them join the network of school uniform shops as part of the School Uniform Bank Project.

They will be playing an important part in supporting their community through the cost of living crisis and creating a cleaner, greener borough.

They will find out more [here](#).

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## **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.

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## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/working-together).

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## **Local Government News**

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### **New Prime Minister**

The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP was elected as the new Leader of the Conservative Party last Monday and was on Tuesday 25 October, invited by the King to form a new government.

London Councils will be writing to Prime Minister Sunak on behalf of London local government to congratulate him and set out the key challenges for boroughs as they look to work with government to deliver their shared ambitions for London, address cost of living pressures and support their communities.

### **Councils support will be crucial through cost of living pressures**

At a time when Londoners are facing increasing cost of living pressures, London boroughs are a source of vital support for their communities, just as they were during the Covid-19 pandemic, London Councils Chair Cllr Georgia Gould says in last week's MJ.

Analysis by London Councils, however, shows that surging inflation and demand for services means boroughs in the capital need to make more than £400 million of savings this year, rising to £700 million next year.

"It will be impossible to achieve these levels of savings without cutting the very services that our communities are reliant on", says Cllr Gould.

"Ministers know the pivotal role we play in supporting our communities through tough times. The prognosis might be grim, but it is not incurable. Now more than ever, we need to work together to securing the funding that will make the most difference on the ground, delivering lifelines to those who are struggling."

[You can read the full article here.](#)

### **Adult Social Care concerns ahead of a 'challenging winter'**

Boroughs in the capital have warned of worsening pressures on adult social care resources, with concerns about the potential impact on London's health and care system this winter and beyond.

London Councils' Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care Cllr Nesil Caliskan, said: "This is set to be a very challenging winter for health and care services across the capital.

"We're deeply concerned about the impact of worsening financial pressures on London's adult social care sector. Adult social care plays a vital role in supporting older and disabled Londoners, but also in ensuring the smooth-running of London's NHS. This was particularly pronounced at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, and boroughs remain committed to working in partnership with the NHS to serve London's communities as best we can.

“We were pleased to see the government announce the £500m adult social care discharge fund, but we need urgent clarity on what extra resources are coming to councils to bolster services this winter.

“Looking to next year and beyond, the current timetable for reforming adult social care funding looks increasingly unrealistic and risks destabilising services already under immense pressure. We hope ministers will listen to councils’ concerns and work with us to find a better way forward, including the long-term funding solution the sector still desperately needs.”

### **Supporting hybrid dementia care**

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) and the Helix Centre have developed [an easy-to-use toolkit](#) for organisations looking to develop new hybrid approaches for supporting people living with dementia in the community and helping them live safely in their own homes.

The toolkit is an output from the Digital Inclusion Innovation Programme (DIIP). Led by the GLA and LOTI working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, the programme looks to use innovation methods to discover, design, develop and scale initiatives that support digitally excluded Londoners who are particularly vulnerable since the Covid-19 pandemic.

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### **This week’s coverage in the national and regional media**

**Buzz News Post, 28 October** – [Croydon has one of London’s lowest maths and English pass rates, ‘poverty profile’ reveals](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**BBC News, 27 October** – [Family welcome report after girl fatally choked by hijab on go-kart](#). Mentions Barking.

**LBC News, 27 October** – [‘Sweet, compassionate’ teenage girl strangled to](#)

[death after hijab got caught in go-kart](#). Mentions Barking.

**GOV.UK, 27 October** – [Care experienced lives can be changed by just one person](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**UK Construction Online, 26 October** – [Red10 starts on £60m of government construction work](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

**New Steel Construction, 26 October** – [Barking's innovative industrial development tops out](#).

**With Guitars, 25 October** – [EFG London Jazz Festival share details of their Barking and Dagenham programme](#).

**London Loves Property, 25 October** – [The decade's house price winners and losers](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**FE Week, 24 October** – [Police and FE partnerships: A model for impactful engagement](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham College.

**RIBA Journal, 20 October** – [Sarah Allan: from CABE enabler to architecture's leveller up](#). Mentions Be First and Barking and Dagenham.

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## Media Releases

[East London Council warns about housing scams and 'right to buy'](#).

[Freeholder fined for "flagrant disregard" of residents' health and safety](#).

[The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham opens its doors for a unique collaboration of culture, creativity and community as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival](#).

[Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade returns to illuminate borough's streets](#).

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## Members' Training

### Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[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

**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](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk)

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

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

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### **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.