

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about his selection as the Labour Party candidate for Barking and what it means going forward. He also mentions the cost of living crisis, what the council and its partners are doing to help, urging residents who are struggling to reach out for help and support.

LIVE 
with the Leader
Cost of living special
Join us Tuesday 15th
of November, from 5pm
Email your questions in:
socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk
#BDLeaderLive **Barking &
Dagenham**

Residents can tune in to a LIVE with the Leader cost of living special

Everyone has been affected by the cost of living crisis in some way. Our residents are all paying more for things, whether that's gas and electricity, food, fuel or even clothing. For residents on low incomes, budgets are being stretched to breaking point and lots of residents are really worried about how to make ends meet this winter.

We're hosting a special cost of living Facebook 'LIVE with the Leader' Q&A session, featuring Cllr Darren Rodwell, Leader of the Council, and Pip Salvador-Jones, Chief Officer at Citizens Advice Barking and Dagenham.

During the session, residents will be able to get more information about how the council and its partners can jointly help people with energy, money, food, or their wellbeing during these tough times.

Residents are invited to join in on Tuesday 15 November from 5pm on the Leader's [Facebook page](#). For those who can't make it, the Q&A session will be available on the Leader's Facebook page after the live stream has taken place.

Darren and Pip will be on hand to answer any questions, and people are welcome to send in their questions to socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk by midday Wednesday 9 November.



Join us to mark Remembrance Day

The Borough will remember those who died in the line of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms, with a series of remembrance events taking place from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November. This will include a service at the Job Drain Memorial in Barking on Friday from 10.45am.

We hope you will join us by attending one of the memorial services or holding your own two-minute silence at 11am on both Armistice Day (11 November) and Remembrance Sunday (13 November).

You can find more information [here](#).



Grime & Punishment is BACK - puppy farm owners found guilty

After a two-year break, [our series](#) returns to shine the light on everything from dodgy landlords, rogue traders and scammers through to people who mistakenly think its okay to disrespect our borough by fly-tipping, having eyesore gardens or dumping vehicles.

[Grime & Punishment](#) is here to tell you about all the work our Enforcement Teams do to make our borough a better place to live, as well as letting residents know how they get the results we all want against these people.

In this episode, we update residents on what has happened to the people who were running an illegal puppy farm in Sterry Road, Dagenham, and we take a look at what our Enforcement Teams have been up to over the last two years during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

You can watch it [here](#).



Dagenham Green given green light for first phase

Peabody has been granted permission for the first phase of Dagenham Green, with plans to build 935 homes on the site of the old Ford stamping plant, subject to agreement from the Environment Agency.

The first phase of the development will be in the south-west corner of the site, next to Dagenham Dock railway station, and will serve as the gateway to the wider masterplan area which secured Outline Planning approval in March 2022.

Award winning housebuilder The Hill Group has entered a joint venture partnership with Peabody to deliver the project and will start work on the first phase early next year.

Delivered across multiple phases, the development will deliver more than 3,500 homes, 1,640 of which will be affordable tenures for local people to rent and buy. Phase one will bring forward just over a quarter of the total new homes, and of these 935 homes, 35 per cent of which will be affordable.

Parks and play areas are a key feature in phase one, contributing to 10 acres of public realm and landscaping with 15,000 sqm of play space in the wider masterplan. This will include a heritage trail throughout the public realm and design representation in the buildings to honour the legacy of the Dagenham women who led the fight for equal pay through strikes in 1968 and 1984.

Homes will be centred around green open spaces, including a new urban park which will include a large pond to reflect the area's waterside heritage with a boardwalk, framed by terraces, and open space. There will also be children's play space inspired by the water and natural landscape, and a market square to connect Dagenham Green to the nearby Dagenham Dock railway station.

There will also be more than 1,600sqm of non-residential space, with things to do and places for people to meet and spend quality time as well as new cycle and pedestrian routes to improve connectivity.

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



EFG London Jazz Festival is coming to Barking and Dagenham

The EFG London Jazz Festival is coming back to the borough, with an offer of fantastic gigs, events and workshops as part of the main festival programme.

Alongside that, there will be pop-up performances and a programme of workshops with local schools and colleges.

On Sunday 13 November, Moment's Notice, which is a showcase of five leading musicians in the art of spontaneous composition, who will be

performing at [The Wilds](#) in Barking Riverside.

On Saturday 19 November, Los Angeles-based Lady Blackbird, who embodies inspirations such as Billie Holiday, Gladys Knight, Tina Turner and Chaka Khan, will be coming to [The Broadway](#) in Barking.

On the same day, Perhaps Contraption, a multi-award-winning progressive brass band from London, will be popping up in Barking Town Centre in several locations – Barking Market at 1pm, Vicarage Fields Shopping Centre at 2pm, and Barking Station at 3pm.

So, there's loads of great jazz for residents to enjoy. For more information and tickets, residents can visit: efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk/barking-dagenham.



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



Hung out to dry – shock as clothes horse fly-tipped on Wall of Shame

The show dedicated to identifying and fining the borough's notorious fly-tippers is back.

The [Wall of Shame](#) is here to let residents know how to responsibly get rid of their junk, and at the same time catch those who break the law and selfishly treat the borough's streets like their own personal dump.

You can watch more episodes of the show by visiting [lbbd.gov.uk/wall shame](http://lbbd.gov.uk/wall_shame).

Around the council



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 can find out more [here](#).



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

Boroughs urge government to address growing funding gap

As the new government prepares to unveil its plans for public finances, London Councils analysis reveals that boroughs in the capital need to make £700 million of savings next year unless the government boosts funding for local services.

Boroughs' overall resources are 22 per cent lower in real terms compared to 2010, even though London's population has grown by almost 800,000 (a 10 per cent increase).

[London Councils Chair Cllr Georgia Gould](#) said: "The funding outlook for boroughs is beyond bleak. The scale of the savings required is colossal and will inevitably mean cuts to the vital frontline services that so many Londoners rely on.

"Boroughs will do everything we can to protect our communities, but a £700 million funding gap next year will force us into toughest of tough decisions unless the government offers new support.

"Just as ministers worked effectively with councils at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, we need a similar spirit of partnership in the face of the cost-of-living

emergency. Properly funding local services is essential for supporting struggling households and building economic growth in our communities.

“We’re urging the government to listen to councils’ concerns and take swift action to avoid a bad situation becoming even worse.”

E-scooter rental trial extended

London Councils and Transport for London (TfL) are extending the capital’s trial of rental e-scooters in response to recently updated Department for Transport (DfT) guidance that allows local authority trials to continue until 31 May 2024.

This extension follows the recent government announcement of plans to create a new vehicle category in legislation, in which e-scooters would be included. Continuing the trial of rental services will ensure that London can continue to learn about e-scooters and the role that they can play in London’s transport offer.

Mayor Phil Glanville, London Councils’ Climate Change, Transport and Environment Lead, said: “I am pleased that London’s rental e-scooter trial is being extended to allow more people across our capital to take advantage of this sustainable mode of transport. Thanks to the boroughs taking part in the trial, London continues to be at the forefront of innovation when it comes to micro-mobility, transport and the journey to net zero.

“We look forward to working with TfL and stakeholders to make the next phase of the trial a success and we are confident that rental e-scooters will continue to provide an alternative to car-based travel in the capital. Safety remains our top priority and we will continue to look closely at data and insights to see how e-scooters can play a part in a more sustainable future for London.”

London in Brief online events

London Councils is running a series of online lunchtime events exclusively for councillors, keeping you up-to-date and informed on a broad range of issues that affect Londoners. [You can find out more and register here.](#)

Upcoming London in Brief online events include:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
 - London: Responding to the Climate Emergency
 - An introduction to Local Government Finance
 - Responding to refugee arrivals and asylum seekers and the London Asylum Dispersal Plan
 - An introduction to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - The opportunities afforded by film and TV for London boroughs
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This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 3 November – [One in four London children in the final year of primary school obese – higher than UK average](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Asian Trader, 3 November – [Barking store faces prosecution after selling fireworks to 14-year-old](#).

Housing Today, 2 November – [Peabody and Hill win permission for 935-home east London regeneration project](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

ITV News, 1 November – ['Carbon negative' eco homes where you won't get energy bill for five years on sale for £1m](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

RIBA Journal, 1 November – [Rising Stars 2022: entrepreneurial spirit](#). Mentions Betty Owoo, Be First.

BBC News, 31 October – [Woman dead and another injured in Dagenham double stabbing](#).

News Explorer, 29 October – [East London landlord who forced tenants to live](#)

[with leaking roof, mould and pigeon infestation slapped with £22k fine.](#)

Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 28 October – [Cost of living crisis pushing London children into criminal exploitation – full breakdown by borough.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Red faces for blue badge abusers.](#)

[Interested in a career in finance with the council? Get in touch.](#)

[Local group launches Poppy Appeal campaign.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Equality and inclusive leadership in local government: stepping up](#) – 15

November, 10am to 1pm

A workshop 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

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.

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