

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader talks about last Sunday's Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade and laser light show and reminds residents about the next event – Barking Mad About Christmas, which takes place on Saturday 3 December. He also thanks residents for getting in touch about last Sunday's floods and council staff who worked round the clock to clear flooded locations.

The Leader also reminds residents of this weekend's Remembrance Services and parades to mark Armistice Day to remember all those who died in the line of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.



## **Five more Community Hubs set to open**

Following the opening of Marks Gate, Thames and Heath Community Hubs earlier this year, five more Hubs will be opening this month, to provide more neighbourhoods with the local support that they need.

The launch events will be led by the Leader and Cllr Maureen Worby, Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care and Health Integration. Members and partners are invited to attend the launches which will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 15 November - Barking Learning Centre, 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 16 November - Dagenham Library, 10am to 12 noon

Saturday 19 November - Becontree Community Hub, Stevens Road, Dagenham RM8 2QR from 10am to 12 noon. (This will be a public launch and will include a family fun day, free activities and refreshments).

Saturday 19 November – Village Community Hub, 215 Wellington Road, Dagenham RM10 9XW from 10am to 12 noon. (This will be a public launch and will include a family fun day, free activities and refreshments).

Northbury Community Hub, Al Madina Mosque – Friday 25 November

More hubs will be opening in the coming months across the borough and will provide information, advice, and support with:

- Jobs, training, and courses
- Housing and homelessness
- Money and debt
- Health and wellbeing
- General council services
- Help to report a crime
- Help getting online

- Events and activities

Working with our partners from the community and voluntary sector, we are committed to building strong relationships with communities and residents to address the key issues and challenges the borough faces. The concept of our Community Hubs is to provide a 'one-stop shop' for residents to provide a local network of help and support.

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## **Local graduates invited to find out about a career with the council**

Residents and employees of the council who are graduates or due to graduate by July 2023 are being invited to apply for the National Management Trainee programme.

The council is offering residents and employees the opportunity to join its

graduate scheme to lead projects and services that make a real difference to the lives of our residents.

The National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) is a two-year fast-track programme for graduates who want to make a difference while launching their management career in the public sector. It includes a fully funded postgraduate qualification in leadership and management and a starting salary of £28,470 per annum.

This is the third year we have been able to create a specific route for our residents and employees to benefit from the programme. We welcome applications from people who are passionate about making our borough a better place via our local route:

[www.jobtrain.co.uk/lga/displayjob.aspx?jobid=1752](http://www.jobtrain.co.uk/lga/displayjob.aspx?jobid=1752)

Candidates from all backgrounds and disciplines are welcome to apply. They must have achieved a 2:2 or above by July 2023, have the right to work in the UK and be a local resident or employee for our local route.

Anyone interested is invited to an Information Day on Monday 21 November 2022 at 11am at Barking Learning Centre. To register for the open day, please email [Rabeya.Ali@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Rabeya.Ali@lbbd.gov.uk) by 16 November 2022, 5pm.

Information on NGDP at Barking and Dagenham and graduate testimonies are available at [www.lbbd.gov.uk/graduate-career-pathways](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/graduate-career-pathways)

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## Residents urged to Give a Child a Christmas

This year we're supporting local radio station Time FM's "Give a Child a Christmas" campaign, which asks people to donate money [online](#) or in person at their Romford studio.

Presents can also be dropped off at GBP Estates, 35 Victoria Road, Romford RM1 2LH, which will then be distributed to families in need.

Not everyone will be able to, but if you have any spare cash or unused toys or gifts sitting around that would make a great present, please consider donating to the campaign and help bring some festive magic to people in our borough. Residents can donate up until Thursday 15 December.

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## **New Workforce Racial Equalities standard introduced across Adults and Children's service**

The council has been selected as one of 18 local authorities in the UK to pilot the Workplace Racial Equalities Standards methodology, which ensures that employees from black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have equal access to career opportunities and receive fair treatment in the workplace.

The council's task was to look at workforce racial equality in Adults and Children's services against a set of nine nationally determined measures - including leadership representation and recruitment – before working with staff to codesign an action plan to improve performance against these metrics.

In January 2022, a group of frontline practitioners and managers from across Adults and Children's services took part in a series of workshops to review the data, share their lived experience and to suggest actions that will make a real difference to race equality in the council.

The workshops were designed to build on the ideas that had already been developed within Care & Support services throughout 2021, including the development of an anti-racism framework for social care.

The ideas that came out of these workshops were taken through a rigorous development process, involving directors along with experts in this area, to explore viability, feasibility, and connection to other areas of council work. This process led to the development of a detailed action plan focusing on activities and deliverables.

The term **Global Majority** is used throughout the action plan. This reflects feedback from the workshop participants, who preferred this term to BAME.

More information, including the metrics that were prioritised in the action plan, are available at: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/node/231](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/node/231)

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## 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.

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## Borough News

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**Inter Faith  
Week**  
**13-20 November**  
[www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)



## Borough celebrates Inter Faith Week

To mark Inter Faith Week and to celebrate the diversity of our borough's communities, the council will hold a flag raising event outside Barking Town Hall on Monday 14 November at 2pm, with faith leaders, local school children and residents to mark this special occasion.

Inter Faith Week, which runs from Sunday 13 until Sunday 20 November, was established in 2009 to help strengthen good inter faith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

For more information about Inter Faith week, visit [www.interfaithweek.org/about](http://www.interfaithweek.org/about)



**LIVE**  
**with the Leader**  
Cost of living special  
Join us Tuesday 15th  
of November, from 5pm  
Email your questions in:  
[socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto: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.



## **MOMENT'S NOTICE AT THE WILDS**

**The Wilds, Barking Riverside  
Sunday 13 November**

EFGLONDONJAZZFESTIVAL.ORG.UK #WEAREJAZZ

### **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

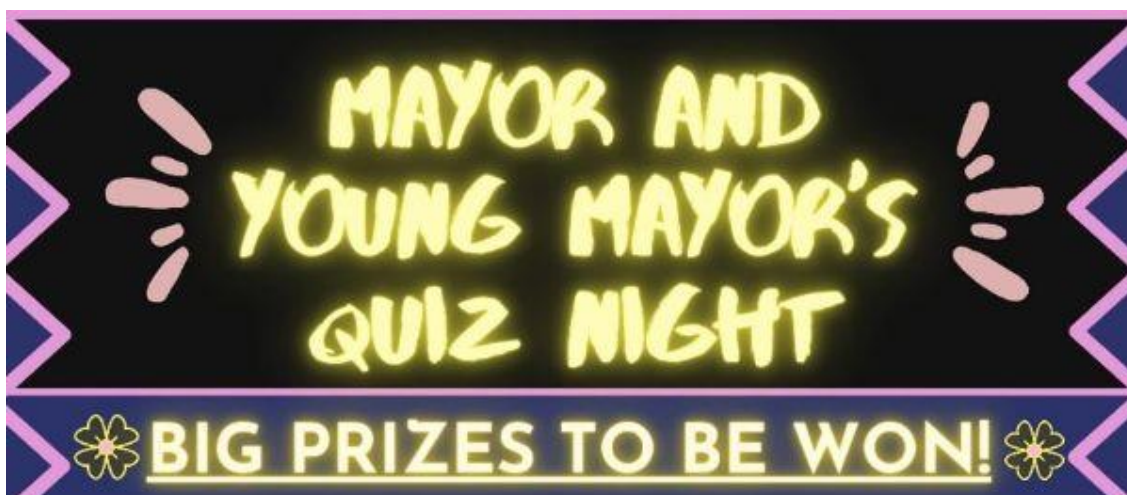
workshops with local schools and colleges.

This Sunday 13 November, Moment's Notice, which is a showcase of five leading musicians in the art of spontaneous composition, 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. **Tickets are already sold out.**

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](http://efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk/barking-dagenham).



### Mayor's Charity Quiz Night

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Faruk Choudhury, and the Young Mayor will be hosting a Charity Quiz Night on Friday 25 November, from 7.30pm to 10.30pm,

at Heath Park Community Centre, Rusholme Avenue, Dagenham, RM10 7PR.

Money raised from the night will support the chosen charities of both Mayors – DABD, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Ben Kinsella Trust.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for under 18s. Teams of up to six people are allowed per table and there's the chance to take part in a raffle with great prizes up for grabs.

There will also be a licensed bar on the night, or you can bring your own food and drink along instead.

If you want to go head-to-head with the borough's brainiest, get your winning team together and contact the Mayor's Office by email at: [mayor@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@lbbd.gov.uk) to book your place.

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## **Around the council**

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**Interest paid  
on a £500 loan  
over 39 weeks**

**Family  
Loan**

**£493.78**



Pay Day Lender

**£424.50**



Doorstop Lender

**£72.50**



Leeds Credit Union  
Family Loan

For more information, please visit  
[BDmoney.co.uk/affordable-loans](http://BDmoney.co.uk/affordable-loans)



## **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 hundreds of 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)



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

Did you know that 1.4 million wearable school uniforms end up in landfill every year in the UK?

We're encouraging parents and schools in the borough to work together to set up pre-loved school uniform shops, as part of a project to save families money and benefit the environment.

The project, funded by East London Waste Authority (ELWA), is building a network of schools across Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge to set up pre-loved school uniform shops and stalls.

It will play an important role in supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis and creating a cleaner, greener place for people to live and work in.

You can find out more about the School Uniform Bank Project [here](#).

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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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### Climate Change

As the UN Climate Change Conference [COP 27](#) was underway in Egypt last week with a focus on delivering the full aims of the Paris Agreement, London boroughs are continuing to make progress on the seven cross-borough programmes put in place following the joint statement of climate change from London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) in 2019. The seven work programmes are:

- Retrofit London
- Low Carbon Development
- Low Carbon Transport
- Renewable Power for London
- One World Living
- Building the Green Economy
- Creating a Resilient and Green London

[You can keep up to date with each of the seven programmes of work on London Councils website here.](#)

## **Baroness O'Neill OBE**

Following the announcement that London Councils Vice Chair Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE has been nominated for a Life Peerage, London Councils can confirm that she will sit in the Lords as [Baroness O'Neil of Bexley OBE](#). She is expected to be introduced to the House this week.

Cllr Baroness O'Neill OBE has been the Leader of Bexley Council since May 2008 and she is currently the longest serving Council Leader in London. London Councils would like to congratulate Baroness O'Neill on her peerage.

## **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, 11 November** – [Dagenham: Burglar who grabbed keys through cat flap jailed for three years.](#)

**WoodZog, 10 November** – [Everyone on board! Live jazz boat trip on the Thames this weekend.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

**FE News, 10 November** – [First class celebration for local graduates.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham College.

**Evening Standard, 9 November** – [More than 500 illegal vapes aimed at children seized from shops in Barking.](#)

**News Explorer, 9 November** – [New London Overground station in Barking with links to Central London.](#)

**Evening Standard, 8 November** – [Watch as underground explosion rocks Barking.](#)

**Metro, 8 November** – [Teen who spent up to 10,000 hours gaming warns of 'generation isolation'.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 6 November** – [London suffers flooding as Met Office issues weather warning.](#) Mentions Dagenham Heathway Station.

**News AKMI, 6 November** – [Council in talks with developers over economic impact on major housing schemes.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**India Education Diary, 6 November** – [Creative businesses across the UK receive funding boost and government backing to spur future growth.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**CU Today, 5 November** – [East London council partnering with CU.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 4 November - [OPINION – Sir Nicholas Serota: We are spreading Arts Council funding across the country](#).** Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

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## **Media Releases**

[Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade and laser displays dazzle crowds.](#)  
[Hundreds of illegal vapes seized by council Trading Standards Officers.](#)  
[Nominations open for Women’s Empowerment Awards 2023.](#)  
[Barking and Dagenham Remembrance Day events.](#)

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## **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 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.