


Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**

 [click to watch video](#)



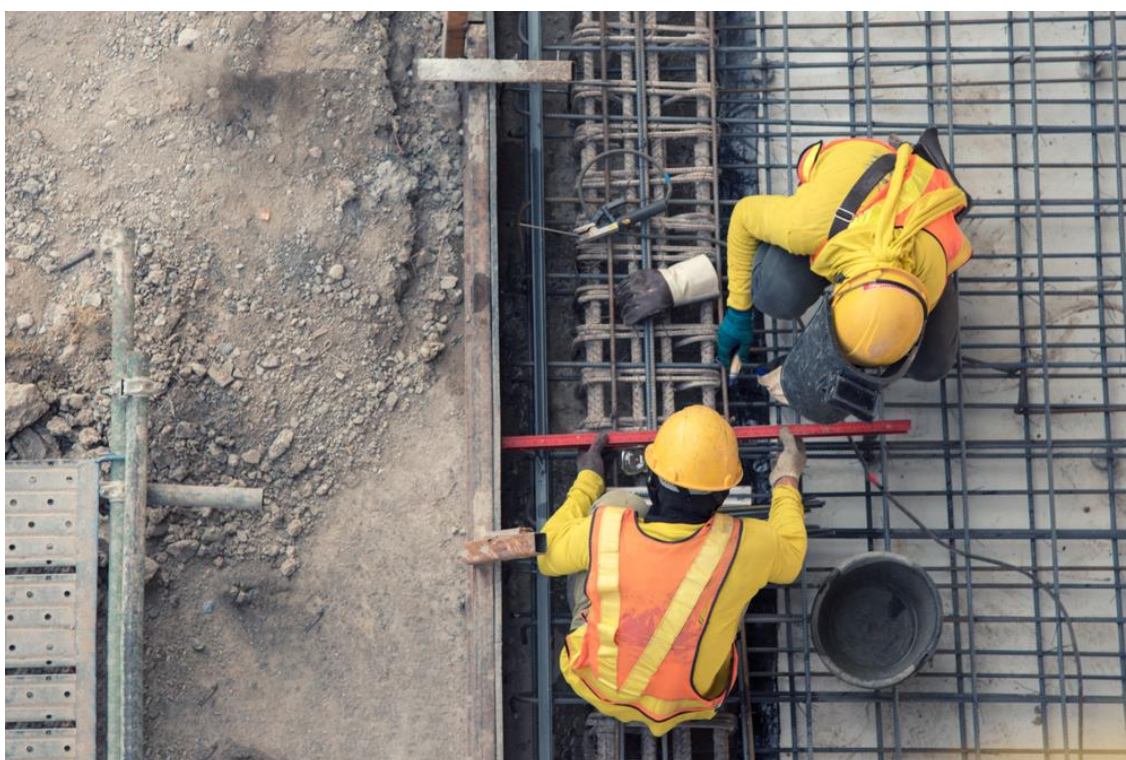
Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the countdown to Christmas and how it can be a really challenging time of year financially, especially following the government's Autumn Statement. He urges residents, if they or someone they know is struggling, to access the support available through our Cost of Living Alliance and our Homes and Money Hub.

The Leader also mentions our free programme of events over the holiday period, which includes our Holiday Activity and Food programme which is open to young people aged 5 to 16. There's lots to do from football and podcasting, to dance workshops, bowling, and basketball – free for young people eligible for

free school meals.

We want to make sure every child has a smile on their face this Christmas and that's why we're backing Time 107.5 FM's *Give a Child a Christmas* campaign which asks people to donate toys and presents for disadvantaged kids – children who might not otherwise get a present on Christmas Day. The Leader also reminds residents about our free Barking Mad About Christmas event on Saturday 3 December at Barking Town Centre.



Construction jobs available in Barking and Dagenham

Any resident interested in a career in construction is being urged to speak to the Council's Job Shops.

From brickies and scaffolders, to plumbers, plasterers and labourers, there is

something for everyone with work taking place across the borough at sites including Barking Riverside, Beam Park, and Eastbrook Film Studios.

People with all levels of experience are being sought, from apprenticeships through to experienced, full and part-qualified construction professionals.

For those with no experience, the council's Jobshop brokers can help arrange site visits and work experience, as well as offer training packages to help kickstart a career in construction. Applicants will receive full application support and an introduction directly with their prospective employer.

To discuss the opportunities available, residents should email a CV to construction@lbbd.gov.uk or drop-in to the Job Shop at Dagenham Library or Barking Learning Centre and speak to an advisor.



First anniversary of the 'We Rise' Domestic Abuse Hub

Next Friday 25 November is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and marks the beginning of 16 days of activism which aims to galvanise action to end gender-based violence around the world.

Coinciding with this we will be celebrating the first anniversary of the 'We Rise' Domestic Abuse Hub.

Following the Domestic Abuse Commission launched in 2019, one of the recommendations was to enable survivors to set up their own support groups

and create safe spaces.

In response, the Council gave a community space to 'We Rise' – a survivors' group. Working together, we transformed the space into the Domestic Abuse Hub – a unique offer in the country, which provides a place for survivors to go to meet others with similar experiences, get support in their journey as a survivor and help to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

To celebrate the fantastic work of 'We Rise' and mark International Day for Violence Against Women, Members, staff and residents are invited to a white ribbon flag raising ceremony outside Barking Town Hall on Friday 25 November at 10am.

This will be followed by a very special event taking place in the main conference room in Barking Learning Centre to celebrate the first anniversary of the Domestic Hub and to hear all about the amazing work of the 'We Rise' survivors panel. There will be speeches and a cake cutting from 10.40 to 11.10am, followed by celebrations and activities until 2pm. We hope you will join us.



More Community Hubs set to open

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

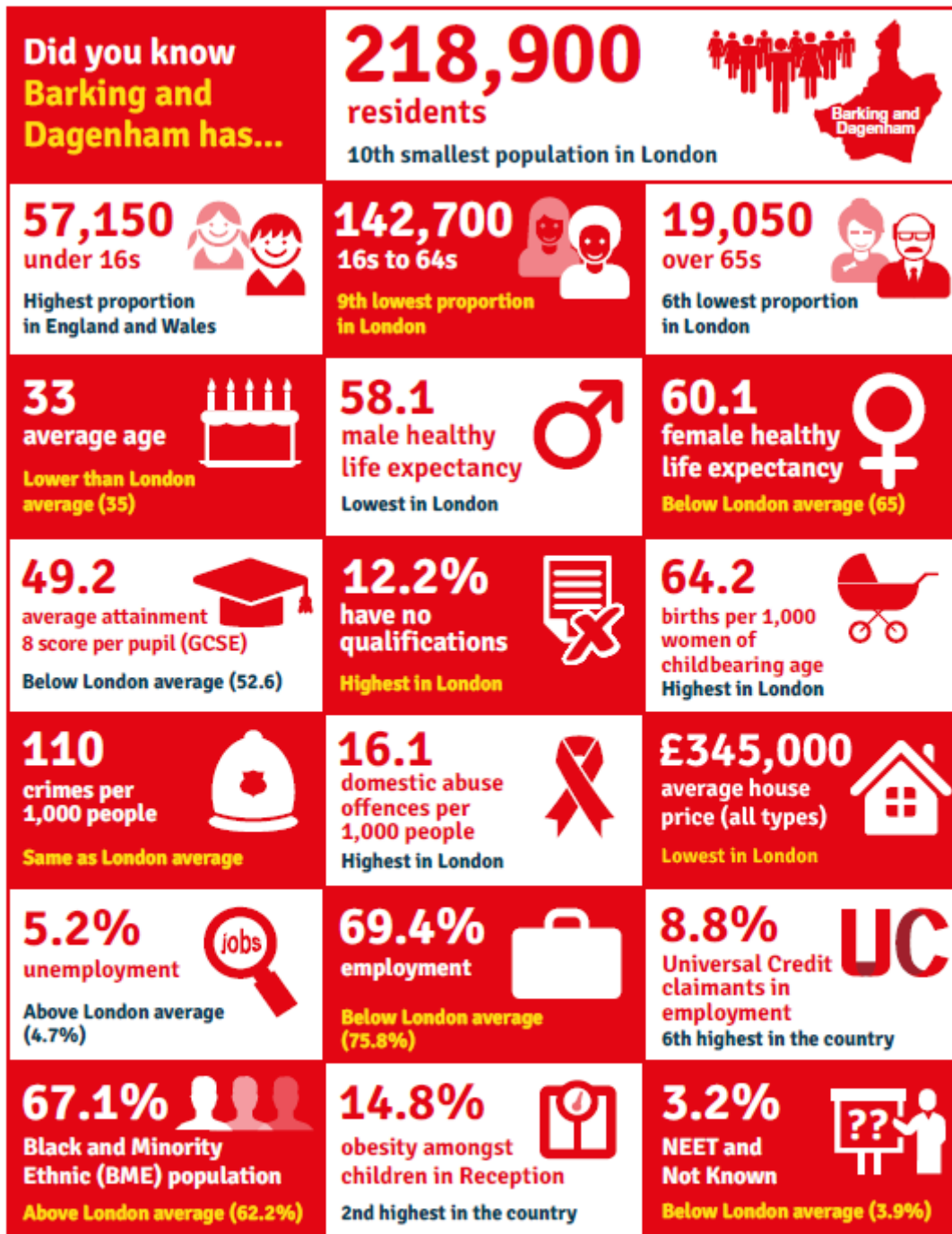
Two hubs opened this week at the Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library. Three remaining hubs due to open are:

- Becontree Community Hub – Stevens Road, Dagenham, RM8 2QR on Saturday 19 November
- Village Road Hub, 215 Wellington Road, Dagenham, RM10 9XW on Saturday 19 November
- Northbury Community Hub at Al Madina Mosque, 2 Victoria Road, Barking, IG11 8PY on 25 November

To celebrate the opening of the Becontree and the Village Community hubs, there will be free family fun days at both venues this Saturday 19 November between 10am and 2pm.

There will be loads of activities and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy, including a 'Little Monkeys' family entertainer, face painting and balloon modelling. There will also be free refreshments on offer.

More Hubs will be opening in the coming months. Residents can find out more about the services and support provided at each Hub, which includes help with finding and applying for jobs and training courses, as well as housing, money, and debt advice [here](#).



Barking & Dagenham

About the Borough stats updated

Did you know that Barking and Dagenham now has a population of 218,900, making it the 10th smallest population in London?

You can now find out details about the borough's population and age, GCSE attainment and adult qualifications, birth and crime rates, house prices and much more [here](#).

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



Santa is coming to Barking – join us for our Christmas event

Barking Mad about Christmas is back on Saturday 3 December and there will be loads to do and see at this festive favourite.

There'll be a host of fun, free activities for all the family as we bring you all things Christmassy, including Christmas carols and songs, live entertainment from local performers, a meet and greet with Shrek, the big Christmas lights switch on and -Santa will be back in his grotto.

A trip to Santa's Grotto can sometimes be an overwhelming experience for some children if they have additional needs, so this year we will be having a Quiet Hour between 11am and 12pm where we will be turning down the music and lights to make Santa's Grotto more enjoyable for children with additional needs. There are limited spaces for this, and booking is essential – residents can book [online here](#).

For all things Barking Mad about Christmas, visit lbbd.gov.uk/christmas

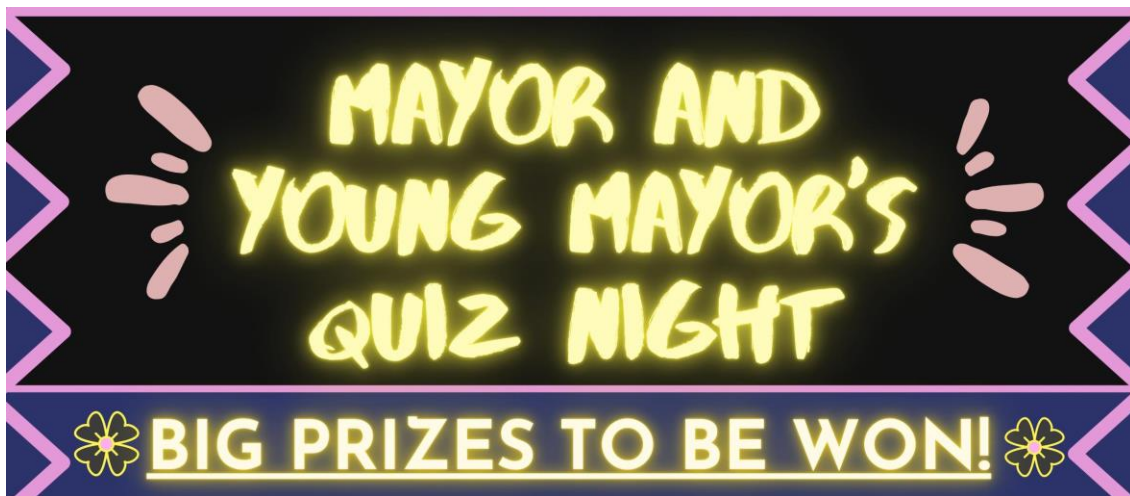


Residents urged to Give a Child a Christmas

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.



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 to book your place.



Mayor's Winter Wonderland Christmas Fundraiser

His Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Faruk Choudhury, is inviting you to his Winter Wonderland themed Fundraiser on Friday 9 December from 7.30pm to 11.30pm at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club.

Tickets are £25, which includes a festive two-course meal, a welcome drink on arrival and live entertainment.

Sponsored by Be First, CPM and Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club, and the event will raise some much-needed funds for the Mayor's chosen charities, DABD and Macmillan Cancer Support.

For more information and tickets please contact mayor@lbbd.gov.uk



Turn the heating off! Man fly-tips radiator in Wall of Shame

The [Wall of Shame](#) is back on the case of the borough's fly-tippers, and with our cameras positioned around the borough, we're hoping residents can help us catch them.

We've got everything from radiators, fans and carpets to drums being dumped in this episode, and we want to catch the people tossing them.

If you recognise anyone featured, please email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now. For more about the Wall of Shame visit lbbd.gov.uk/wall-shame.

Around the council

**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



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



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](#).



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

Climate Change and cost of living

Three quarters of Londoners (75%) say the cost-of-living crisis has made it more difficult for them to take action to help prevent climate change, new polling commissioned by London Councils has revealed.

In the third year of polling by London Councils to gauge Londoners' understanding of climate change and the effect it has on their lives, results showed the vast majority of Londoners (84%) are concerned about climate change. In addition to this, people are also becoming more worried about climate change with 72% of Londoners saying their level of concern has increased over the past 12 months.

However, those surveyed believe the cost-of-living crisis is having an impact on their ability to take action to prevent climate change. 40% of Londoners think the cost-of-living crisis has definitely made it more difficult for them to take action to help prevent climate change, with 36% saying it has made it slightly more difficult. Positively however, 57% of Londoners say the cost-of-living crisis motivates them to do more on climate change if it also helps to reduce their

costs.

The Big Listen

Local Authorities across London have supported research, led by [London Innovation and Improvement Alliance \(LIIA\)](#), to improve their understanding of how they can better support children's social workers working in the region.

As part of this work, the LIIA recently launched the **#BigListen** as an opportunity for all children's social workers in London to be heard in helping London's regional response to improving the working environment.

Each of the #BigListen online focus will include up to 45 children's social workers practicing in London and will run from 24 November to 1 December. If you would like to participate [you can find out more and register to attend here](#).

Information from the focus groups will be used by the 33 London Local Authorities and the 19 Authorities in the South East in partnership to develop a deeper understanding of how they can improve the workplace for children's social workers.

The LIIA is the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) sector-led improvement partnership and is hosted by London Councils.

Data ethics in London

The data boroughs collect and/or hold can be one of their most valuable assets – used intelligently, it can help them make better decisions, drive service improvements and better serve their residents. However, boroughs are acutely aware of the need to use data not just legally but also ethically, transparently and in a way that is worthy of their residents' trust.

To help develop these tools and processes in local government, the London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) – a coalition of the GLA, London Councils and boroughs who want to work together to bring the best of digital, data and innovation to improve public services for Londoners – have created a hands-on London Data Ethics Service. [Boroughs can learn more about the](#)

[Data Ethics Service on the LOTI website here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

City of London, 17 November – [City Corporation wholesale markets relocation to bring thousands of jobs to Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Directions Magazine, 17 November – [Research reveals how trees cover London's most desirable areas.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

UK Authority, 16 November – [Havering Council backs new anti-crime app.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 15 November – [Crossrail guide to Chadwell Heath: house prices, new homes and Elizabeth Line journey times to central London.](#)

Building Better Healthcare, 15 November – [Charting the past and the future of urgent care.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Metro, 15 November – [Be flexible on your home location and grab a bargain in London.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

City Monitor, 15 November – [London's population has changed more than you think in the past decade.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

FE News, 15 November – [Student artwork sells for charity, alongside famous artists' works.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham College.

Industrial News, 15 November – [UK Power Networks kicks off greener travel.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 14 November – [Secret courts: apology over 1,000 cases](#)

[held behind closed doors. Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

IanVisits, 14 November – [TfL planning a new London Overground station in Barking.](#)

WoodZog, 14 November – [The benefits of high energy prices vary between London authorities.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Headteacher Update, 14 November – [Supporting pupils through yet another wellbeing crisis.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Nursery World, 11 November – [LEYF achieves £1.5m target to grow the business.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

With Guitars, 11 November – [EFG London Jazz Festival launches today with Jazz Voice at the Royal Festival Hall.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

Media Releases

[Construction jobs available in Barking and Dagenham.](#)

[Transgender flag flown above Town Hall for Transgender Awareness Week.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham celebrates Inter Faith Week.](#)

[Local graduates invited to find out about a career with the council.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Local government finance: Financial Planning and budgeting](#) – 24 November, 12.15 to 1.45pm.

Examine the immediate and potentially ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis on your council's finances. Evaluate how councillors can most effectively influence budget and spending decisions.

[Local government finance: Understanding your Council's Annual Financial Statements](#) – 7 December, 12.15 to 1.45pm

Understand your council's Annual Financial Statements and similar documents with clarity and efficiency.

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Personal safety for councillors - Wednesday 7 December, 1.30 to 3pm

This webinar, which is Government funded has been specially devised for councillors who are keen to improve their awareness of personal safety. Built around the role of the elected member, the session is full of practical advice and guidance. Included within the webinar, are references to surgeries, canvassing, home visits and managing unexpected doorstep visitors.

National Community Safety Partnership Conference - Wednesday 14 December, 10.00 to 11.30am and 2 to 3.30pm

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) are jointly hosting a national Community Safety Partnership (CSP) conference. These virtual webinars will bring together local authorities, the police, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and wider community safety partners to discuss best practice in tackling community safety issues.

The morning session will focus on CSP roles and responsibilities/governance and landscape. The afternoon session will focus on community safety policy themes for example, the Serious Violence Duty.

Greenhouse gas accounting including a focus on waste - Tuesday 17 January, 10.00 to 11.30am

The LGA and Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool has been developed to provide a straightforward and consistent approach for councils seeking to calculate their own carbon baseline. The tool produces summary tables and charts to help local authorities to understand their most significant sources of emissions, which can then be used to prioritise actions to reduce carbon emissions. We will be providing a summary of how to use the tool and updates to it.

Alongside this, we are really pleased to launch a carbon calculator for waste emissions. Whilst on the LGA and University College London (UCL) Net Zero Innovation Programme, Cambridgeshire County Council and UCL have created a carbon calculator to improve accounting and reporting of a Waste Disposal and/or Waste Collection Authority's scope 3 emissions from the management and treatment of waste. This will aid councils in reducing scope 3 emissions, provide transparency of council expectations of suppliers, and enable council staff to understand and reduce environmental implications of their procurements and services.

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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