

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the Chancellor's autumn statement which is forcing councils to raise Council Tax with no extra funding to help support the most vulnerable through the cost-of-living crisis. He adds that this will end up hitting hard-stretched residents and encourages them to get in touch to see what help and support is available from the council.

He also mentions the opening of four more community hubs and the planned launch of the Northbury Community Hub at Al Madina Mosque all of which provide information, advice, and support with everything from jobs and training advice, housing and homelessness, money and debt to health and wellbeing

and food banks.

And there is a reminder for residents to put Saturday 3 December in their diary for the Barking Mad About Christmas free event coming to Barking Town Centre.



## **State of the Borough conference returns for its fifth year**

This year marks five years since the launch of our Borough Manifesto, shaped with residents, to set out our 20-year long-term vision for Barking and Dagenham.

At the State of the Borough Conference held last week, we were joined by lots of local partners to explore the progress made so far and map out how we can

continue to collaborate and create fair opportunities, while striving for the best outcomes for residents.

Lots of really interesting, challenging and thought-provoking conversations were had – all of which centred around making improvements to benefit everyone in the borough and more importantly, to ensure no-one is left behind. You can take a look at the borough manifesto at [www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/plans-and-priorities/borough-manifesto](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/plans-and-priorities/borough-manifesto)

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## **Council commits to improving the future for children and young people**

Plans outlining how to help the borough's babies, children and young people to have the best chance in life and reach their full potential were given the go ahead by councillors at last Wednesday's Assembly.

The new strategy, jointly developed under the new Integrated Care duties, details how the Best Chance 0-25 Partnership will establish common goals and take a more joined-up approach to health, care and community integration,

including education, special needs and early years provision over the next three years.

This system-wide partnership has been jointly developed to support youngsters aged 0 to 25 and their families under the new Integrated Care duties of the local authority. It includes the Council, partners from the health sector, local schools, and voluntary and community groups.

The partnership will work together to deliver placed-based care to reduce health inequalities and improve life chances through partnership working with an emphasis on early intervention. It is hoped that the strategy will lead to improvements in safeguarding, such as protecting children in care and reducing the risk of young people exposed to domestic abuse.

Other elements of the plan, called the Babies, Children, Young People and Families (0-25) Partnership - Best Chance Strategy, include giving babies the best start in life through a network of family help, and helping youngsters to thrive in inclusive schools and grow to be successful young adults taking advantage of the inclusive growth opportunities within the borough, including the film studios and markets.

The strategy has been produced in response to a growing number of challenges faced by children and young people in the borough, including having the highest proportion of children (0 –17) in the UK and the highest level of obesity in children in Year 6. The report also outlines how 46 per cent of children live in households on the poverty line – one of the highest in the country.

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## **Council marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

We are marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism and raised the White Ribbon flag at Barking Town Hall last Friday – to kickstart events and activities to highlight our continued commitment to tackling domestic violence.

Our borough has been on a journey to transform the experiences of those affected by domestic abuse – survivors and their families. The human costs of domestic abuse are too high for individuals, families, the community and for public services.

In response to the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse, we launched an independent Domestic Abuse Commission in February 2020 – the first council in the country to do so. Chaired by Polly Neate CBE, the Commission brought together 12 national experts to look at the experiences of survivors, community attitudes to domestic abuse, the council and partner responses. The Commission undertook significant engagement work with residents and



stakeholders and presented its [findings](#) in February 2021.

One of the recommendations of the Commission was to enable survivors to set up their own support groups and create safe spaces. In direct response, the Council donated a community space to 'We Rise' – a domestic abuse survivors' group in the borough. Working together, the Domestic Abuse Hub was created – a unique offer across the country. The Hub provides a place for survivors to go to meet those with similar experiences, get support in their journey as survivors and help to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Throughout the 16 days of activism, we will be delivering an exciting programme of events, sessions, and new projects and interventions, along with information about the work we and their partners do to tackle violence against women and girls.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please contact Refuge, our specialist domestic abuse support service provider via [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/) or 0300 456 0174.

If you are in immediate danger, please contact the police on 999

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**Council's Trading Standards Hajj project scoops industry award**

The Council's Trading Standards team has won the Overall Hero Award in the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's (CTSI) annual Hero Awards ceremony for their Hajj Enforcement and Awareness Project.

Hajj is the religious pilgrimage to Mecca and is one of the five pillars of Islam, which every adult Muslim must undertake at least once in their lifetime if they can afford it and are physically able.

The Hajj project adopted a two-pronged approach to tackle Hajj-related scams - siting a 'consultation bus' outside selected mosques in the borough during Friday (Jummah) prayers over a five-week period to provide trading standards and health and safety information to mosque-goers; and visiting premises known or registered to provide Hajj travel packages with a checklist to ensure compliance with package travel regulations.

The awards took place on Wednesday 23 November at the House of Lords.

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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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## **Partners and Councillor visit 100% Sports & Education Centre**

100% Sports & Education Centre, based at Barking Rugby Club, is a specialist sports and education provision designed to instil positive social, academic and sporting impact for all students.

They seek to empower students and develop well-rounded leaders through unique and applied programmes. 100% SEC provides opportunities to study towards a GSCE/BTEC Sports qualification, while taking part in practical, sport-related activities and learning.

The 100% SEC programme provides students real life experiences of working within the sport sector with clear and direct post-16 routes and Academy programmes, coaching or employment.

The curriculum offers both non-formal theory and practical activities aimed at helping students re-engage in learning and develop the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for employment in the sports sector as well as provision designed to help students develop their English, Maths and ICT skills.

The centre's first intake will began their courses in September 2022 and will

cater for between eight and twelve Key Stage 4 students in the first instance, you can check out their [website here](#) and watch a video and hear from the man who runs it all, Eugene Dwaah, students, Councillor Elizabeth Kangethe and other partners. Watch the [video here](#).

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

Barking Mad about Christmas is back this 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](http://lbbd.gov.uk/christmas)

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**TIME 107.5 fm**

**ROMFORD BID**  
Business Improvement District

**GIVE A CHILD A XMAS**

Bring some joy to underprivileged children in your area by helping us get gifts for them to open on Christmas Day.

**GBP**  
ESTATES

**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 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, 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](mailto:mayor@lbbd.gov.uk)

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## Around the council

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### **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 construction 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](mailto:construction@lbbd.gov.uk) or drop-in to the Job Shop at Dagenham Library or Barking Learning Centre and speak to an advisor.

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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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### Autumn Statement

Responding to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement, which included plans to allow local authorities to increase council tax by up to 5 per cent a year from April 2023 without a referendum, [London Councils Chair Cllr Georgia Gould](#) said: "Borough finances remain in critical condition. Before the Chancellor's statement we estimated a £700 million shortfall next year for councils in the capital, which means a bleak future for many of the local services our communities rely on.

"Council tax is not the answer to the inadequate funding we're grappling with. Council tax rises during a cost-of-living crisis are extremely difficult for the struggling households we're determined to support. But even if council tax goes up, it could never plug that £700 million funding gap.

"Boroughs need proper investment from the government. Just as ministers worked in partnership with councils during the Covid-19 pandemic, we now require similar support in the face of the current economic emergency. We stand ready to work together in finding a sustainable solution that protects local

services, helps Londoners through cost-of-living pressures, and secures the economic growth we all want to see.”

London Councils Strategy Director: Local Government Finance and Improvement, Paul Honeyben, sent members a briefing providing an overview of the Autumn Statement, the government’s funding announcements and London Councils’ initial response to them. [You can read the member briefing here.](#)

### **Business Survey highlights drop in confidence**

The sixth annual survey of London businesses by London Councils and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) shows a dramatic deterioration in business confidence, with three-quarters of London businesses (75%) feeling less confident about the UK economy over the next 12 months than they were about the previous 12 months.

Polling for the survey was conducted by YouGov in summer 2022 at a time of growing economic uncertainty and against a backdrop of significant global events and national political upheaval.

[Deputy Chair of London Councils, Cllr Darren Rodwell](#), said: “Businesses faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic and now the increasing cost of doing business, driven by rising energy costs and inflation, is putting businesses under further strain.

“Access to skills is a major concern for employers and business’ needs would be better supported by greater devolution of powers and funding to all UK regions. We also continue to work with Government to reform the Apprenticeship Levy as employers find the apprenticeship system does not sufficiently work for them currently.

“Meanwhile, London boroughs stand ready to work alongside Government to safeguard the future of our businesses, as we did during the pandemic when we distributed over 575,000 grants worth £3.4bn to London businesses.

“Boroughs will continue to champion businesses across the capital that make London such a vibrant and unique city to live in.”

[You can read the results of the 2022 Business 1000 survey in full here.](#)

### **Boroughs recognised among world’s leaders on climate change**

Three London boroughs – Enfield, Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth have been recognised among the world’s city regions that are providing leadership on climate change in the latest ‘Cities A list’ compiled by global non-profit charity CDP.

CDP runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. Their measurement is considered to be the gold standard of environmental reporting with the richest and most comprehensive dataset on corporate and city action.

Enfield, Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth, along with the other 120 cities and boroughs on this year’s A List, are all recognised for demonstrating climate leadership through concerted and effective action.

[You can read the 2022 list in full here.](#)





## **City appoints new Chief Officer**

The City of London Corporation has appointed current Kingston upon Thames Chief Executive Ian Thomas CBE as its new Chief Officer.

He will take up his new role in February and will succeed current incumbent John Barradell who is stepping down on 31 December after 10 years in the role.

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

**Lincolnia News, 25 November** – [Volker Fitzpatrick to build London's largest film studios](#). Mentions Eastbrook Studios in Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 25 November** – [Woman killed after car being pursued by police crashes into her in east London](#). Mentions Goresbrook Interchange and Lodge Avenue Flyover.

**BBC, 24 November** – [London probation services shockingly bad – inspectorate](#). Mentions Barking, Dagenham and Havering.

**On London, 23 November** – [City Corporation approves updated plans for new Museum of London](#). Mentions Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 22 November** – [Smithfield and Billingsgate markets are leaving central London for Dagenham](#).

**Time Out Magazine, 21 November** – [Smithfield Market and Billingsgate are leaving London](#). Mentions Dagenham.

**The Mirror, 21 November** – [Mum spends £170 boiling kettles to wash her 4 kids after having no hot water for 12 days](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**The Guardian, 18 November** – [Man, 29, pleads guilty to murder of Zara](#)

[Aleena](#). Mentions Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 18 November** – [Redesigned London Underground map shows the cheapest pints of beer near Tube stations](#). Mentions Chadwell Heath's The Eva Hart.

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## Media Releases

[Fags your lot! Cigarette litterer caught red handed by council officers.](#)

[You're snapped! Council CCTV catches van driver littering.](#)

[Fly-tipping business from Dagenham is caught by eagle eyed council officer.](#)

[Money down the drain as plumbing company fined over £1.8k.](#)

[Everything you need to know about Barking Mad About Christmas 2022.](#)

[Council Leader welcomes wholesale markets relocation bringing thousands of jobs to Barking and Dagenham..](#)

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## Members' Training

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

The LGiU are offering the following session:

[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. They will be providing a summary of how to use the tool and updates to it.

Alongside this, they 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](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.

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