

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the festive season and reminds residents to look out for a special cost of living booklet that will be coming through their doors over the next few days. The booklet includes lots of information about how to get help if they need it – whether it's from the council or from one of its partners in the community – and information about bin collections and recycling services over the festive period.



Northbury Community Hub now open

Last Friday, 25 November, we officially opened Northbury Community Hub at Al Madina Mosque in Barking, where in partnership with the mosque we are now delivering a range of services and activities anyone in the local area can access.

At Northbury Community Hub local residents will be able to access the council's Community Advisory Service, providing information around areas such as housing and homelessness, money, debt, health and well-being, help getting online, where to find warm spaces, general events and activities, as well as the Al Madina food bank and a range of services and activities provided by the mosque for the whole community.

Al Madina Mosque is a prominent source of support in the local community. By joining forces with the council, it now offers a 'one stop shop' for the wider community across the whole of Northbury ward.

The new Community Hub is being run by volunteers, trained by council staff, who will be able to connect residents with services provided by the council and

its partners in the voluntary sector which is especially important during the current cost of living crisis.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 Days of Activism

Last Friday, 25 November, we marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism by raising the White Ribbon flag at Barking Town Hall – kickstarting events and activities to highlight our continued commitment to tackling domestic violence.

We are working really hard to tackle domestic abuse in the borough and we have invested our resources into this, starting with the [independent Domestic Abuse Commission](#) launched in 2019 and the team in place today delivering our domestic abuse improvement programme.

One of the recommendations from our Domestic Violence Commission was to enable survivors of domestic abuse to set up their own support groups and create safe spaces. In response to this the council gave a community space to

'We Rise' – a survivors' group in the borough. Working together we helped to create the 'Domestic Abuse Hub' which provides a safe space for survivors to meet and get support and share experiences with other survivors.

It's been a year since the Domestic Abuse Hub formed and following last Friday's white ribbon flag raising ceremony, 'We Rise' held an event at the Barking Learning Centre to celebrate its first anniversary. They showcased the amazing work they do and the range of clubs, activities, and support services on offer at the Hub, designed by survivors, for survivors. You can watch some of the highlights [here](#).

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please contact Refuge, our specialist domestic abuse support service on 0300 456 0174 or at www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please contact the police on 999.



Supporting residents through tough times

As the festive season approaches, we know this Winter will be tough for many people.

Many people will be looking forward to spending time with family, friends and loved ones. But it can also be a difficult time of year for some – if residents are on their own or struggling to get by.

Over the next few days we're sending out a special [Cost of Living Support booklet](#) to homes in the borough which includes lots of information about how residents can get help if they need it – whether it's from the council or from one of our partners in the community.

Our message to residents is if they're worried about how to make ends meet, or

know someone who is, the most important thing is to reach out for help.

The booklet provides information about lots of easy ways they can get help if they need it - from accessing benefits, emergency cash and low-cost loans, through to signposting residents to food banks, warm spaces, and support with mental health – to help them get through.

The booklet also provides information about bin collections and recycling services over the festive period.

Residents can get lots more cost of living support and advice [here](#).



Top achieving GCSE students rewarded by the Colin Pond Trust

The sixth edition of the Colin Pond Scholarship Awards saw 64 young people from 13 local schools awarded a £300 grant each to spend during their A-level studies. The pupils who achieved the highest marks on their GCSE exams and continued their studies in the borough after finishing Year 11 attended a glamorous event with their families at The Broadway Theatre in Barking.

Colin Pond was a Councillor in Barking and Dagenham between 1998 and 2001. Before his death, he left money in a trust to help the borough's young people continue their studies. The annual awards are a motivation for young people to work harder and achieve their potential and one of the many reasons why Barking and Dagenham is a great place to study. You can watch the highlights of the event [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



Deputy Leader scoops ‘Upstander’ Award for hate crime work

Barking and Dagenham Council’s Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Leadership & Engagement, Cllr Saima Ashraf has won the Local Authority Upstander Award at the [NO2H8 Awards 2022](#) Ceremony.

The awards evening, which took place last month, saw Cllr Ashraf win the

award for the fantastic work she has done to lead the council in tackling hate crimes in the borough.

In the first ceremony since the Covid-19 pandemic, the No2H8 Crime Awards honour those individuals and organisations who stand against hatred, prejudice and intolerance. These are annual awards that go through a public nomination process and through two national judging panels.

Last month, the council marked National Hate Crime Awareness Week where we held a number of online training and discussion events as well as an information day with partners at Barking Town Hall.

The awards ceremony took place in London on Thursday 17 November.



Al Madina Mosque scoops Most Innovative Service Award

Al Madina Mosque has won a national award in the category of 'Most

Innovative Service' at the Annual British Beacon Mosque Awards 2022.

The award was given for their fantastic bespoke sensory room created for children and adults with special needs, with the addition of an educational plan to support carers. Al Madina Mosque was also recognised for their intervention programmes and for working in collaboration with the council to support children and adults with special educational needs in the local community.

This award comes off the back of a Queen's Award for outstanding voluntary services.



Council marks 110 years of Albanian Independence

Last Monday, Albania marked 110 years of Independence with a flag raising event led by the local Albanian community outside Barking Town Hall.

The council and community came together for speeches and performances and were joined by representatives from the Albanian and Kosovan Embassies.

To celebrate the diversity of our local communities, we support regular flag raising events throughout the year. If residents are interested in organising a flag raising event to mark a day or month of significance for nations, communities and groups represented within our borough, more information can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/flag-flying



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



Wall of Shame World Cup kicks off

As you might have noticed, there's a World Cup on. And not just in Qatar – welcome to the [Wall of Shame's very own World Cup](#). We may not have Gary Lineker in our coverage, but we definitely do have some of the worst fly-tippers in the world – take that BBC! And we want to tell these fly-tippers to 4-4-do one.

As ever, if you know any of the plonkers we feature on the show, then help us show them the red card by emailing grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk today.

And you can catch all of the latest available episodes of the show on our website [here](#).

Around the council



Mayor of London's cost of living Debt Free Advice bus comes to the borough

Many residents are experiencing the stress of money problems and now with the rise in living costs, it has made people's circumstances so much more difficult.

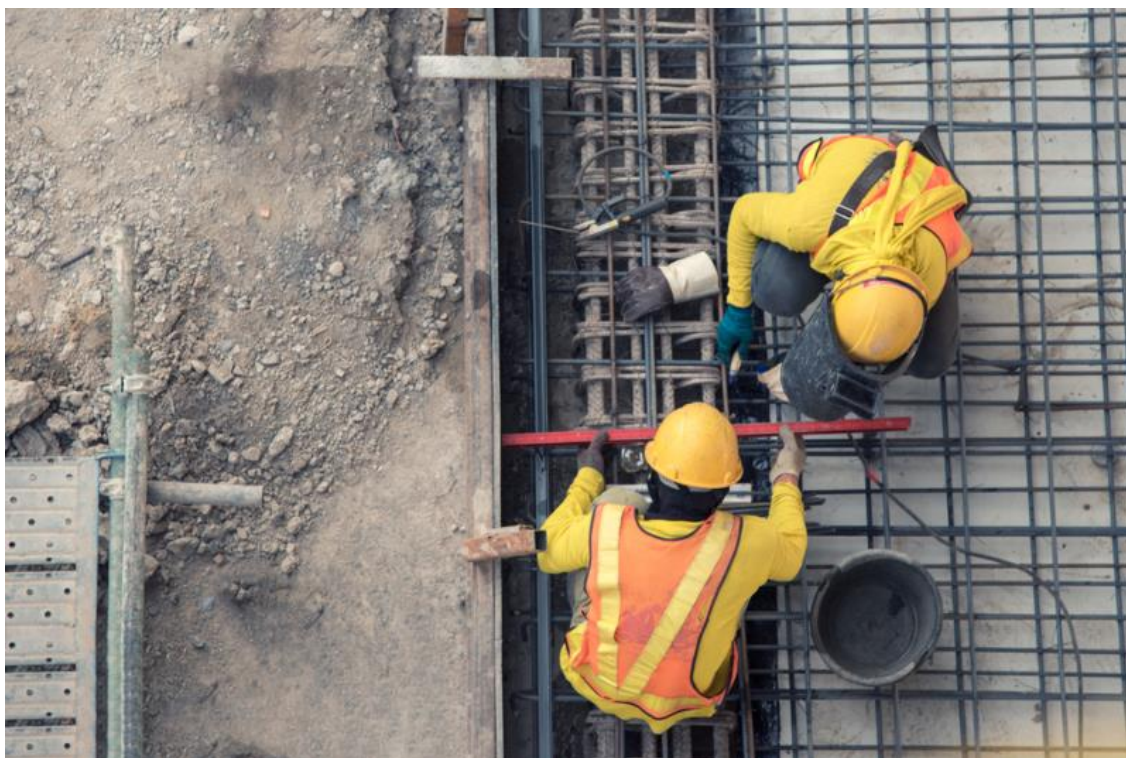
Debt Free Advice, in partnership with the Mayor of London, has created a mobile advice centre in the form of a touring bus to reach and support Londoners in need of debt and money advice.

The bus will be coming to Barking Market, stationed next to McDonalds, on Thursday 8 November, from 9am to 5pm.

Residents who need help sorting their finances, will have the opportunity to speak to expert advisors who'll be on-hand to give free and confidential advice on debt, benefits, and welfare.

Residents will also get to learn more about the Council's partnership with Leeds Credit Union, bringing trusted, low-cost loans and savings accounts to the borough.

Residents are encouraged to pop in for a cuppa and free money advice to help get back on track.



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 or drop-in to the Job Shop at Dagenham Library or Barking Learning Centre and speak to an advisor.



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

The Mayor's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) for London

The Mayor has announced that the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be expanded across all London boroughs from 29 August 2023.

The ULEZ in [central](#) and [inner](#) London has been very effective in rapidly reducing air pollution in those areas. The Mayor now wants to extend those benefits to outer Londoners, and set the whole of London on a path towards becoming a zero pollution city.

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

Cheap and green public transport essential for future of the capital

Transport for London (TfL) last week published a summary of its Central London Bus Review, a public consultation on proposed changes to a number of bus routes across the capital. [You can read the TfL decision summary and next steps report here](#).

Responding to the consultation report, [London Councils' Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Mayor Phillip Glanville](#), said: "London's buses are a hugely important and affordable way to get around our capital, and more people use them than any other form of public transport.

"In our submission to the TfL bus consultation, we emphasised the changes put forward this summer would have made buses a far less attractive option and disproportionately affected lower income, older and disabled Londoners. It is right that the Mayor and TfL listened to us, boroughs and residents and scrapped most of these proposals. Going forward, it is crucial that TfL continue to work with boroughs and other stakeholders to ensure the new proposals don't negatively impact lower income and more vulnerable Londoners.

“It is positive the Mayor has committed funding for buses as part of this review. Boroughs will continue to listen to our communities and work with TfL to bring more buses to the whole of London, improve bus prioritisation and achieve a zero-emission bus fleet. It is essential to our capital’s future that all Londoners can benefit from cheap and green public transport.”

LOTI fund launched to support innovation in social care

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) has announced an innovation fund of £200,000 to support London boroughs’ social care innovation.

The fund, which will provide up to £100,000 to two projects, is open to submissions from the 24 London boroughs who are LOTI members. Project submissions will need to address one or more of the themes of: better residential and care homes; better care at home; better community support models.

The winners will also have access to advice and hands-on assistance from LOTI’s expert team and wider professional networks on issues such as information governance, data analysis, and technology development.

Commenting on the launch of the innovation fund, [London Councils’ Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing & Adult Care, Cllr Nesil Caliskan](#), said: “Boroughs are determined to deliver the high-quality adult social care that Londoners deserve.

“Making better use of technology and data is crucial to the future of adult social care in the capital and addressing the challenges the sector faces. It’s great to have LOTI focused on this as a priority issue and encouraging innovation and collaboration between the boroughs.”

The fund is open to submissions until 9 January 2023.

[More information and expression of interest forms are available on the LOTI website here.](#)

16 Days of Activism

The annual international campaign, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, runs from 25 November which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December which is Human Rights Day.

Tackling sexual and domestic violence is one of the priorities for London Councils' grants programme up to 2026, [you can read more about the organisations supported by the London borough grants programme here](#).

And you can read more about how boroughs are tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse at a local level [here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 1 December – [Happiest place to live 2022: Riverside area takes top London spot – again](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC, 30 November – [Grayson Perry unveils street lamp sculpture in Barking](#).

Evening Standard, 30 November – [Dagenham stalker who burned clothes of ex and posted nudes online convicted](#).

Metro, 29 November – [Barking an affordable choice for London homebuyers who want lots of open space nearby](#).

Housing Ombudsman Service, 29 November – [Ombudsman writes open letter to social landlords urging renewed focus on damp and mould approach](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Architects' Journal, 29 November – [Archio to draw up 'model house' for Becontree Estate retrofit roll-out](#).

Professional Housebuilder & Property Developer, 29 November – [Latest phase of regeneration project at Barking Riverside set for launch.](#)

Wired.Gov, 29 November – [Haji Project wins CTSI Hero Award.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Vietnam Explorer News Channel, 29 November – [East London plumber slapped with £1.8k fine for keeping garden riddled with vermin, pests and overgrown weeds.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Vietnam Explorer News Channel, 29 November – [Cost of living: Map of London shows where the City's most deprived areas are and there's a clear divide.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

On London, 28 November – [City Corporation seeks augmented powers for Billingsgate and Smithfield markets move.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

City of London, 28 November – [City Corporation deposits Private Bill as part of markets relocation to Barking and Dagenham.](#)

With Guitars, 28 November – [EFG London Jazz Festival concluded it's 30th birthday with an inspiring weekend of shows.](#) Mentions The Wilds, Barking.

Lambeth.gov.uk, 25 November – [Lambeth plans housing shake-up to build more council homes.](#) Mentions Lord Kerslake and Be First.

Media Releases

[Colin Pond Trust rewards top achieving GCSE students.](#)

[The Council and community come together to mark Albania's 110th Independence Day.](#)

[Council mourns passing of local councillor.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham Trading Standards Service scoops prestigious industry](#)

[award.](#)

[East London Council marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.](#)

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

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.