

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



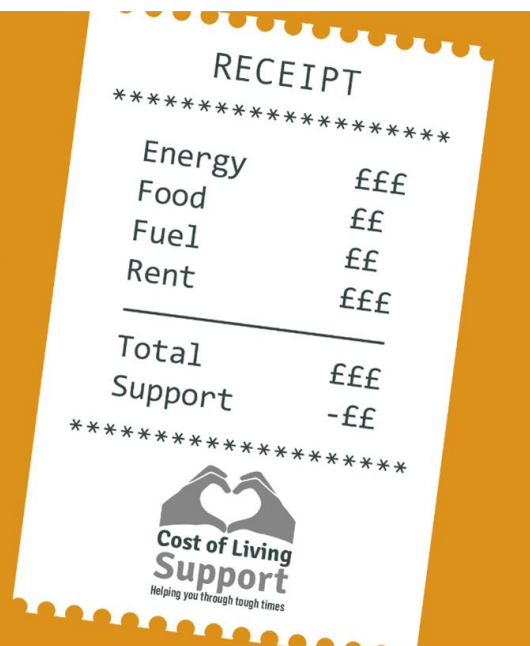
Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the cold weather and the work staff have been doing to keep the borough moving.

He describes how since Sunday our gritting team have covered about 1,000 miles with 130 tonnes of grit and provides an update on rubbish and recycling collections as they have been disrupted this week.

The Leader also reminds residents about the warm spaces across the borough that people can use, so they don't have to put the heating on at home.

Cost of Living Support



We are supporting residents through the cost of living crisis

Times are really tough right now and we know so many people across the borough are being forced to make heat or eat decisions.

That's why we're working with community partners to support residents through this really difficult time.

Our message is simple: if a resident is worried about how to make ends meet, or they know someone who is, they should please reach out for help.

We've identified areas of support which include help with money, food, energy, wellbeing and getting connected – and have developed a set of information support guides that staff, partners and members can refer to when talking about the support that's available.

The printable guides will be kept up to date as more support becomes available and can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support/cost-living-support-



This bright idea is back: mapping Christmas lights in the borough

Last year residents asked if we could help to map where Christmas lights across the borough were, so that everyone could enjoy going for a stroll and take in the festive season.

This year, we know Christmas will look a little different for lots of people because of the rising cost of living and the huge price tag that'll come with putting up lights.

For those who are planning to or have already put up festive decorations, or if a

resident has spotted a delightful display – they can pin it on our map for everyone to enjoy.

Residents who fancy taking a stroll in their local area, with a warm cuppa in tow to feast their eyes on the festive decorations, can simply check out the map to see what's nearby.

Residents can also pin local events that are taking place, as well as support that's available for local people in the area.

More information can be found at

<https://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/christmas-light-events-and-support-2022>



Keeping the young ones occupied during the Christmas break

The Winter school break is here, and we know it's tough to keep children active, especially with the rising cost of living.

Our Holiday Activity and Food programme is back and packed with more fun activities to keep them entertained during the winter break and help them make new friends.

The programme is open to children and young people aged 5 to 16, and each activity includes a hot, healthy meal.

All activities are free for children and young people who live or go to school in the borough and are eligible for free school meals. There are paid places available too, so that everyone can join in the fun.

Parents and carers of children who aren't eligible for free school meals may be eligible for tax-free childcare and a discount with some providers. You can find out more at www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Bookings are required, so parents and carers should make sure to reserve their space early before it's too late. They can [visit our website](#) for more details.



How you can help if someone is sleeping rough

We've opened emergency spaces to make sure people can be brought off the streets into somewhere warm as temperatures drop.

Sleeping outside is always dangerous, but extreme winter temperatures can kill.

Did you know StreetLink work across London connecting those sleeping rough with local services?

So, if you're worried about someone who you think is sleeping rough, you can link them to local support by giving information about their location [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



Kenyan flag flies in Barking Town Square to mark Jamhuri Day

The Kenyan flag was raised outside Barking Town Hall last Monday 12 December to mark the country's 59th Independence anniversary (Jamhuri Day).

This was the first time the Kenyan flag had been raised by any local authority in the country.

Despite the freezing temperatures, the Kenyan flag-raising event took place at 12.30pm. Councillors were joined by local dignitaries, council staff, members of the community and the Kenyan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom as the special guest of honour.

Kenya gained independence from the UK on 12 December 1963.

Exactly a year later, the country declared Jamhuri Day, which is Swahili for republic as a means of marking the country's newfound national state.

The council has flown flags for a number of different events throughout the year. For more details about flag-raising events or to donate a flag, groups and members of different communities can visit our [website](#).



Nominations open for Women's Empowerment Awards 2023

Residents are being urged to put forward nominations for next year's Women's Empowerment Awards.

The event takes place in March to mark the end of Women's Empowerment Month and celebrates the diverse achievements of women who live and work in Barking and Dagenham.

This year's event features nine different categories, seven of which are open for public nominations, including Educator of the Year, Female Volunteer, and Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

Next year marks the eighth time the Awards will have been hosted and features the Jodie Chesney Young Woman of the Year Award, in memory of Jodie Chesney who was tragically murdered in 2019.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 31 January 2023. For more details and to nominate visit oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/womens-empowerment-awards-2023



Residents invited to have their say on improvements to Old Dagenham Park

We've been awarded £85,000 as part of the Government's Levelling Up Park's Fund to put towards improvements at Old Dagenham Park and we want to hear from residents how it should be spent.

The funding can be used for:

- Park improvements: including a new outdoor gym, a children's play area, new benches and flower beds.
- Events, activities and maintenance: including fitness activities and sessions, additional park maintenance, or the development of a Friends of Old Dagenham Park group.
- Tree planting: additional tree planting and aftercare.

Residents can have their say before Monday 2 January at

<https://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/old-dagenham-park-heart-of-the-community-project-2022-23>



Merry DUMPMAS! Wall of Shame is back with a Christmas special

How's this for a stocking filler – the [Wall of Shame is back](#) with its annual Christmas special episode. There's plenty of fly-tipping numpties to be added to the naughty list, and we want to catch them.

You can take a look at the latest episode and get in touch by emailing grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk if you recognise any of the dumpers we feature.

More episodes are available on our [Wall of Shame page](#).

Around the council



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

Boroughs step up as cost of living worries reach new heights

London boroughs are redoubling efforts to support residents as new polling for London Councils reveals anxiety about the cost of living has reached new heights in the capital.

London Councils' annual survey of Londoners conducted by Ipsos, found 77% of Londoners believe the cost of living is one of the most important issues facing the capital. This is the highest ever level of concern for any issue recorded on this question in the past decade, and an increase in 15 percentage points since last year.

Around one in four Londoners say they are finding it difficult to manage financially these days, with highest levels of worry around paying energy/utility bills (67%) and covering an unexpected household expense (64%).

[London Councils Chair Cllr Georgia Gould](#) said: "The figures are stark and reflect the reality that councils across London are seeing in their communities. As we did during the pandemic, local government has once again stepped up to do everything we can to support our residents through this crisis. We are

opening up warm spaces, offering financial support and providing advice and guidance to those in need.

“The next few months will be critical for families across the capital who are already struggling. We stand ready to work with government to meet the challenge and ensure the right support gets to those who need it.”

Still a long way to go in tackling London’s air pollution

Responding to Chief Medical Officer, Sir Chris Whitty’s Annual Report on Air Pollution, published two weeks ago, [London Councils Executive Lead for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Mayor Phillip Glanville](#), said:

“London’s toxic air is a public health challenge that boroughs are determined to tackle by reducing pollution and carbon emissions.

“London Councils and London boroughs are doing a vast amount of work, including through our climate programmes. This includes prioritising low carbon transport, by aiming to halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel through restricting polluting journeys and encouraging people to use active travel options. We are also working on low carbon development, which seeks to increase low carbon buildings and infrastructure through borough planning powers.

“However, even with all these initiatives to reduce carbon emissions across the capital it currently won’t be enough to completely sort out London’s air quality challenge.

“We must bring everyone with us on the path to Net Zero and the benefits better air quality brings. Only through a collaborative, sustainable and fair approach, which involves greater levels of investment and energy than ever before, can we create a capital city that looks after the health of all our residents, beginning with the air we all breathe.”

Retrofit London named Climate Change Programme of the Year

[Retrofit London](#), the collaborative cross-tenure programme to retrofit London’s

3.7 million homes to achieve an average of EPC B or equivalent by 2030, has been named Climate Change Project of the year at the UK Housing Awards.

Retrofit London is one of the seven major programmes for cross-borough working established by London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) in November 2019.

The Retrofit London programme is being led by the London boroughs of Enfield and Waltham Forest, with support from London Councils and the London Housing Directors' Group (LHDG).

Leader's Committee

London Councils Leaders' Committee met last Tuesday (13 December). Items on the agenda included the latest Survey of Londoners findings, London Councils' ongoing work on the cost of living and the tackling racial inequalities programme.

Following the sad news of the death of the former Westminster Council Leader Phillipa Roe, Leaders from across the capital paid powerful tributes to her work with London Councils and in leading Westminster Council. A minute's silence was held in her memory.

[The full agenda and related reports are available here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 15 December – [Teenager jailed for murder of schoolboy on bus in 'revenge' for drill music video](#). Mentions Chadwell Heath.

Evening Standard, 15 December – [Meet the founder of Babyzone, a London charity bringing new mums and their babies in from the cold](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Building Design, 15 December – [Grayson Perry work completes Apparata Architects' House for Artists](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 14 December – [Zara Aleena's killer facing life for brutal sexually motivated attack](#). Mentions Dagenham.

Housing Today, 13 December – [Sadiq Khan makes three appointments to west London development corporation](#). Mentions Matthew Carpen and Sarah Coutts.

Construction News, 12 December – [Firms alerted to £1.1bn London regen framework](#). Mentions Be First.

Evening Standard, 10 December – [Revealed: London's priciest \(and cheapest\) places to buy a pint](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 9 December – [London's warm spaces: Where they are and how you can access them](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Property Magazine International, 9 December – [Oxenwood and Graftongate secure consent for East London logistics development](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[East London community and faith organisations celebrate prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Services](#).

Members' Training

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Greenhouse gas accounting including a focus on waste - Tuesday 17 January, 10 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.

Handling online abuse and intimidation - Wednesday 1 February, 6 to 7.30pm

This Government funded practical programme will provide attendees with an awareness of the steps that can be taken to manage trolls and cyber-bullies, and includes a gentle introduction to the legal framework around social media posts. There will be guidance on how to be safe online generally, as well as tips on how to create a positive online presence.

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.