

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader passes on his condolences to Cllr Martins' family and wishes residents a Happy New Year.

He mentions the cold spell in December which saw heavy snow and icy conditions delay our bin collections. He assures residents that crews have been catching up with any missed collections since.

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.

And he finishes by mentioning the pressures on the NHS, ambulances and A&E as a result of rising Covid-19 and flu infections and urges residents to get their flu vaccination and Covid-19 booster jabs.



Council pays tribute to late Councillor

The funeral of the late Cllr Olawale Martins, who sadly passed away late last year, took place last Thursday, 5 January.

The funeral cortège was driven past Barking Town Hall where fellow Councillors and staff had the opportunity to pay their respects, present flowers and say their final goodbyes.

Cllr Martins was first elected to the Council in 2018 to represent Heath Ward and was re-elected in May 2022. He served on a number of Council committees throughout his time on the Council and was the Deputy Chair of the Pensions Committee when he passed away.

Floral tributes can be sent to the family's home address at 1 Clemence Road, Dagenham RM10 9YN. The family has also indicated that St Francis Hospice was Cllr Martins' favoured charity for anyone wishing to make a donation in his name.



Cost of Living Support

RECEIPT

Energy	£££
Food	££
Fuel	££
Rent	£££
<hr/>	
Total	£££
Support	-££


Cost of Living Support
Helping you through tough times

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-guides



James Coulstock joins the council as Interim Strategic Director for Inclusive Growth

Following the departure of Abi Gbago in December, James Coulstock has joined the council as Interim Strategic Director for Inclusive Growth.

For the past three years, James was Deputy Chief Planning Officer at Be First, and in that role he worked to support the bold ambitions of the Borough Manifesto to cement Barking and Dagenham's position as 'London's Growth Opportunity'.

James is keen to empower Inclusive Growth Strategic Leads and LBBD commissioned services to ensure that our residents benefit from all economic growth and regeneration within the borough, and can play their part in creating safer, cleaner and greener neighbourhoods.

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of several LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Nominations open until the end of the month 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.

This will be the eighth time the Awards have been hosted.

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

Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day

14 years of celebrating diversity in the local community

Saturday 28th January 2023



Daggers v Yeovil Town FC
Vanamara National League
3.00 kick-off



Chigwell Construction Stadium
Victoria Road, Dagenham RM10 7XL

Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day – Make it a date

Later this month Dagenham and Redbridge FC will be holding their annual Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day when they play their league game against Yeovil Town on Saturday 28 January.

The event celebrates and showcases the many good things that are happening in the borough and thanks to sponsorship from [BD Group](#), residents will be able to get children's match tickets from as little as 50p and adult tickets from £4.99, plus under 10s go free.

Residents will be able to get their tickets from Sunday, 8 January by heading to www.daggers.co.uk/tickets.

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



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

Community Infrastructure Levy: guidance updated

DLUHC last Wednesday 4 January, updated the Community Infrastructure Levy guidance to reflect the new UK subsidy control regime which commenced on the same day.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (the 'levy') is a charge which can be levied by councils on new development in their area. It is an important tool for councils to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

The levy only applies in areas where a council has consulted on, and approved, a charging schedule which sets out its levy rates and has published the schedule on its website.

To find out more about the Community Infrastructure Levy and guidance, [visit here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Net Explorer, 4 January – [East London shops caught with almost £20k of medicine and antibiotics that local people could illegally buy without a prescription.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Big Issue, 29 December – [We have the power to end homelessness if we think creatively.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Three businesses caught selling vapes to under aged kids in Barking and Dagenham.](#)
[East London council seizes almost £20k worth of illegal tobacco and medicines.](#)
[Dropped cigarette costs driver more than £1,500.](#)
[Barking and Dagenham go 'Wild and Free' for local parks photo competition.](#)
[Van driver fined more than £380 for dropping cigarette out of window.](#)

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.