

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about making women's safety a priority and mentions behaviour by men that make women feel anxious or scared, such as staring, following them and wolf whistling. He goes on to highlight measures we are taking to make women feel safer across the borough.

He also reminds us that February is LGBT+ History Month which is all about celebrating our LGBT+ community. This year is especially poignant as it

marks the 20th anniversary of the repeal of Section 28 which banned the promotion of homosexuality by schools and local authorities.



Council tenants reminded to ‘improve their behaviour’ or face eviction

Council tenants are being reminded about their tenancy obligation - that if they cause antisocial behaviour or commit crimes, they could face eviction from their home.

In a joint initiative with the police, the council is standing up to individuals who believe it's acceptable to cause a nuisance in the borough and get away with it.

The scheme known as Operation Beatton, intends to send a strong and clear message to offenders that crime and ASB will not be tolerated and where proven will result in eviction.

Tenants who commit offences such as robbery, burglaries and ASB, including drug offences and shop lifting will be targeted.

If individuals are identified, officers will initially look to support them and their families through a variety of services to change their behaviours. However, if they don't play ball, eviction could be the only remedy.

The council is also warning parents that if it is their children or those visiting or living with them causing these issues, their council tenancy could still be at significant risk.

If residents are aware of council tenants causing issues in the borough, they should report them on our [website](#).



We're talking directly to men in order to address women's safety concerns

The council has made women's safety a top priority after they highlighted

places where they didn't feel safe in the borough.

Nobody should feel unsafe when they're out and about, and behaviours such as staring, following and wolf whistling are just some of the things highlighted by women that make them feel anxious or scared. As a council, we're asking men 'How they would feel if it was their mum or daughter who was scared?'

We're also doing lots to ensure women feel safe while in the borough, including:

- Increasing patrols in hot spot areas
- Regular patrols with the police and sharing information with them
- Improving lighting in locations women have told us they do not find safe
- Overhauling our CCTV system

In addition, we now have a 10 strong Community Safety Enforcement Team that work closely with the police patrolling hotspots seven days a week from morning to night and includes London Road and Heathway car parks. We have also installed signage to make people aware that they are being patrolled regularly and there are CCTV cameras to discourage anyone wanting to cause antisocial behaviour.

Residents can keep up to date with what we're doing to improve safety and crack down on antisocial behaviour on our [website](#) or by following our Facebook page.



Women's Safety Online meeting

Tuesday 21 February, 6pm to 7pm

If you would like to join
email csp@lbbd.gov.uk

In partnership with



Residents invited to join our online meeting on Women's Safety

As part of our work to ensure residents, especially women continue to feel safe in the borough, we're holding an online event with the police to showcase the things we're doing together to make sure this is the case.

Our community safety, domestic violence teams and the police will be doing presentations on the work they're doing around women's safety, followed by a Q&A session.

The event takes place on Tuesday 21 February from 6 to 7pm on Microsoft Teams. We know that crime and safety is an issue for lots of people, so residents wishing to attend should please email: csp@lbbd.gov.uk



Expert advice and support for local businesses

We have partnered with the London Business Hub's Wayfinder scheme to help small businesses connect with trusted expert advice and support.

Local small businesses may sometimes find that finding the right support can be tricky. For small business owners focusing on their day-to-day in the current climate can be very time consuming.

We know that businesses may need a helping hand from experts who understand what support may be available to them. Experts who can do all the hard work and connect them to impartial and excellent quality advice.

So for local businesses who need help and support, they can make sure they sign up for the London Business Hub's FREE Wayfinder programme. They can find out more and get the help they need [here](#).

Training updates for councillors

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

Borough News



Council kickstarts 2023 LGBT+ History Month with a flag raising ceremony

The council kicked off its 2023 LGBT+ History Month programme with a flag raising ceremony. Throughout the month, there will be a variety of events and initiatives to raise awareness and celebrate the contributions of members of the LGBT+ community.

It's the fifth time the council has joined in the national event, which launched as a way of marking lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, as well as celebrating gay rights and the civil rights movements.

Some key events include:

- A panel discussion on the history and current state of LGBT+ rights and activism
- A film screening and Q&A with the director of a documentary on the lives of LGBT+ people in the borough
- A series of workshops on LGBT+ inclusive language and practices for local business and organisations

Check out the full programme [here](#).



Council celebrates National Apprenticeship Week 2023

We are celebrating National Apprenticeship Week 2023 from 6 to 12 February with a range of activities throughout the week.

National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of apprentices and the positive impact they make to communities, businesses, and the wider economy.

During the week, there will be a wide range of activities and events to showcase opportunities available for residents, employers and businesses including:

- Monday 6 – Council Apprenticeship information session
- Tuesday 7 – Local business apprenticeship Webinar
- Wednesday 8 – Apprenticeship Job Fair at Barking Learning Centre
- Thursday 9 – School Apprenticeship Levy information session
- Friday 10 – A celebration of learning event

Residents can find out more and register for any of the events below:

For the Local business apprenticeship Webinar on 7 January, please register at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-funding-and-support-for-barking-and-dagenham-businesses-tickets-523697542447

The Apprenticeship Job Fair takes place on Wednesday, 8 February at the Barking Learning Centre from 10am to 12 noon. For further details, email vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk



Local groups invited to help spend £10,000 on equality and diversity

The council is inviting local community groups to help spend a £10,000 pot of money to help promote social inclusion, celebrate diversity, and support equality across the borough.

Our Equality and Diversity Community Fund, which was launched in 2019, offers charities and local groups the chance to apply for up to £500 for initiatives that provide opportunities for residents with protected characteristics.

The next round of funding is now open for any equalities events – key dates include Easter (April), St George’s Day (April), Mental Health Awareness Week (May), Learning Disabilities Week (May), Carers Week (June), Windrush Day (June), Pride (June/July), Eid ul-Adha (July), and South Asian Heritage Month (July/August).

Interested groups can [apply here](#). Applications close at midnight on Tuesday, 28 February.



**FREE numeracy courses that
can help you brush up your
maths skills and become more
confident with numbers.**

Residents can boost their maths skills with free courses at Barking and Dagenham College

Helping their children with their homework can be dreadful for some parents if they don't feel confident with numbers. Numeracy is helpful in everyday life and boosting these skills can lead to better paid professional opportunities.

Residents aged 19 or over that don't have a maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) can access free numeracy courses at Barking and Dagenham College.

Multiply is a series of free numeracy courses funded by the government as part of their long-life learning programme Skills for Life.

Residents can find out more [online](#), email phoebe.pratley@bdc.ac.uk or ring 0203 667 0215 for more details.



Troublesome tossing trio feature in latest Wall of Shame

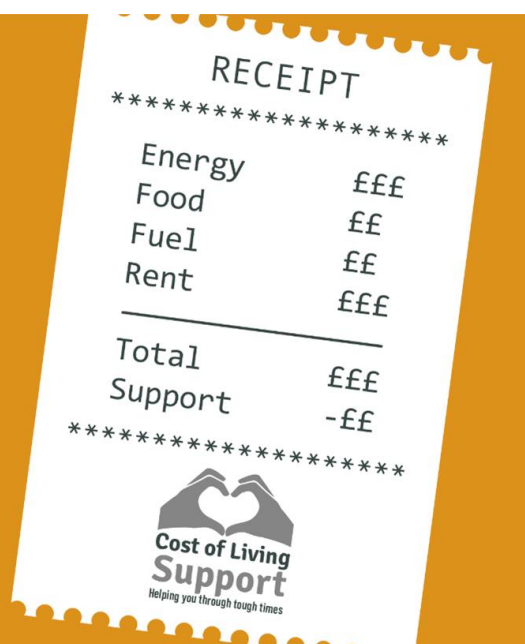
The dirtiest show on the internet is back with more wall-to-wall filth for you to look at.

And we want to catch the culprits responsible for treating our streets like their own personal dump, so if you know or recognise anyone featured on the show, then email our Enforcement Team on: grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk

And if you want to catch up on the show so far, then head to: www.lbbd.gov.uk/wall-shame

Around the council

Cost of Living Support



Giving residents a helping hand through the cost of living crisis

We've been sharing lots of ways residents can get help with money, food, energy, wellbeing and more.

If you know someone who could benefit from this support, please do help us spread the word. There's lots of information available online, or if they prefer, they could speak to staff at one of our Community Hubs or partner buildings. They can also take a look at where these are located [here](#).

While we might not have the answer to everything, residents can reach out and we'll do our best to connect them to the support they might need.

And as temperatures continue to drop, residents are reminded that there are lots of [warm spaces](#) across the borough that they can visit so they don't have to put the heating on at home.

More information on the cost of living support available can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support

**Interest paid
on a £500 loan
over 39 weeks**

**Family
Loan**

£493.78



Pay Day Lender

£424.50



Doorstop Lender

£72.50



Leeds Credit Union
Family Loan

For more information, please visit
BDmoney.co.uk/affordable-loans



Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money

The Council has partnered with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

The aim is to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the

community.

Since its launch earlier this month we've racked up hundreds of new members. For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



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

London schools will need support adjusting to falling numbers

A long term decrease in the birth rate across London is feeding into reduced demand for reception places at London's schools and a reduction in school finances, which could have an impact on school standards and children's experience of school.

Writing in [Schools Week](#), London Councils Executive Member for Children and Young People Cllr Ian Edwards says: "Councils have a hugely important role in supporting the education system, and we will continue to work hard to minimise the impact fewer pupils may potentially have on school budgets. London boroughs are supporting and guiding schools during this period and are looking to work with government to attain greater oversight and influence of the system to allow a smoother operation with minimal disruption to children in schools with falling rolls.

"We do not know how long this downturn in pupil numbers will continue, and it is essential that while we adjust to this emerging trend, we find ways to minimise disruption to our children's education. Boroughs are listening to our

local schools and working with teachers and parents to find a sustainable model out of this period of reduction that brings about a better future for our schools and London's children.

“There is a real chance to nurture local and regional collaboration, to strengthen partnerships and how we share information. But this period also presents substantial risk, and our aim must be to protect and sustain our schools' hard-won gains.”

You can read London Councils' report: Managing surplus places in London schools here.

Serious Violence Duty

The [Serious Violence Duty](#), which requires responsible authorities, including local authorities, the police, youth offending teams, integrated care systems (ICS), probation, and the fire service to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis, came into effect on January 31.

The duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, is part of the government's approach to prevent and reduce serious violence through a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

[London Councils has briefed members on the Introduction of the Duty and the London Guidance. You can read the Member Briefing here.](#)

Get Online London: Device Bank

Businesses and organisations with disused digital devices and/or equipment they are looking to dispose of are encouraged to get in touch with the [Good Things Foundation](#) to see if they are suitable for upcycling as part of their National Databank.

The databank is a key element of [Get Online London](#), London's first Digital

Inclusion service offering Londoners access to refurbished devices, free mobile connectivity and digital skills they may need to get online.

Get Online London is supported by the [London Office of Technology and Innovation \(LOTI\)](#) and the Mayor of London.

There are no costs involved for organisations wishing to donate devices, which will support the circular economy, reducing e-waste as well as having a positive social impact.

If you're a business looking to support by donating your disused devices and/or equipment, please [fill in this form](#) or email Good Things Foundation at hello@goodthingsfoundation.org

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 2 February – [Man arrested after being seen' with loaded crossbow' in East London nature reserve](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 2 February – [Ulez protester escorted from City Hall as Martin Lewis raises concerns over timing](#). Mentions Dagenham.

Property Wire, 1 February – [L&Q launch new phase of homes at landmark east London development](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

LBC Radio, 1 February – [Is your child's school closed during the teacher's strike? Full list of walkouts in your area](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Landlord Today, 1 February – [Training sessions for landlords cover laws, licensing and HMOs](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Barbour Product Search, 1 February – [Smart water control for a state of the art redevelopment](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, 31 January – [Mayor of London launches scrappage scheme to encourage small businesses to go electric as ULEZ expands](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Letsrecycle.com, 30 January – [ELWA engages with market as Renewi deal nears expiry](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC News, 30 January – [ULEZ expansion: Pressure mounts on London mayor to reconsider plans](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 30 January - [£110 Ulez scrappage scheme launched ahead of expansion](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

New Statesman, 27 January – [Where has the levelling-up fund money been distributed?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 26 January – [Ulez expansion: ‘Backlash? What backlash?’ says Sadiq Khan as Labour borough leader joins calls for delay](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Media Releases

[Proactive work by east London community rangers leads to arrest of man with a crossbow in council park](#).

[Council celebrates National Apprenticeship Week 2023](#).

[East London council flies the flag in celebration of LGBT+ History Month](#).

[A day of learning for landlords in Barking and Dagenham](#).

[£1,400 fine and a 14-month ban for drunk driver caught littering by council officer](#).

[East London council warns its tenants of an impersonator claiming to be from its housing repairs team](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following training:

Strategic thinking - Wednesday 8 February, 10am to 3pm (online)

Creative, strategic thinking is massively important to a politically led and fast-changing organisation. That's why we're taking you beyond the buzzwords and confusing jargon to focus on how to think strategically and apply that mindset to a coherent vision for your organisation's future. Get the tools you need to influence your team and implement your plans in this highly interactive training.

Scrutiny - Wednesday 22 February 2023, 9.30 to 11.30am (online)

This introductory session explores the role of overview and scrutiny within an authority, how to get the best results from its work and the key skills and approaches for doing so. Join us as we take part in guided, interactive activities that will help you build a team, program your work, scope your project, and gather evidence.

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following session:

Personal safety for councillors – Tuesday 21 February, 2 to 3.30pm

This Government funded webinar 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.

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.