

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions our fantastic Women's Empowerment Month events and the Women's Empowerment Awards which recognise and celebrate the achievements of women and girls across the borough.

He mentions the outstanding contributions of women which will continue to inspire future generations and congratulates the winners.

He ends by announcing the signing of the Menopause Workplace Pledge - our

commitment to recognise the impact of the menopause on female council staff who are affected by it. He adds that with the support and guidance of our staff Menopause Support Group we've pledged to talk openly, positively and respectfully about the menopause and actively support colleagues whenever they may need help.



2023 Women's Empowerment Awards highlight extraordinary achievements

Last Tuesday, we celebrated our borough's women and girls at the eighth Women's Empowerment Awards event which took place at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club. The event was a celebration of local women and girls who have made outstanding contributions in the borough.

The awards recognise women across nine categories, who have worked

tirelessly to empower themselves and others, and who have made a significant impact in their communities.

The winners were:

Tracey Nutter - Female Parent or Carer of the Year

Heena Njie - Businesswoman of the Year

Asma Haq - Educator of the Year

Marks Gate Relief Project - Women's Community Group of the Year

Millie Kisek - Jodie Chesney Young Woman of the Year

Dorothy Gander - Female Volunteer of the Year

Sarah Robertson - Leadership Award and Outstanding Woman of the Year

Luljeta Nuzi - Anne Estlea Lifetime Achievement Award



Council signs Menopause Workplace Pledge

With the support and guidance of our staff Menopause Support Group and Women's Network, the council has signed the Menopause Workplace Pledge, committing to recognise the impact of the menopause on female council staff who are affected by it. We have pledged to talk openly, positively and respectfully about the menopause and actively support colleagues whenever they may need help.

Some women might find it difficult to talk about the menopause and may suffer in silence. It shouldn't be a taboo topic, and we're assuring colleagues that we're here to offer help and support throughout their menopause journey, whenever they may need it.

Each person's experience with menopause is unique and it goes beyond simply feeling uncomfortable. That's why we're committed to creating an open and supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable discussing it and can get the support they need.

**Barking &
Dagenham**

**Over £4 million
to improve...**

**road safety, bus lanes, cycling
infrastructure and training, and
much more**

Barking and Dagenham Council, March 2023

Council receives over £4 million in TfL funding

The council has received over £4 million in funding from Transport for London (TfL). The funding is part of TfL's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programme which aims to improve all forms of transport across the capital, from cycleways to bus lanes as well as improve air quality and Londoners' health.

The sum, the highest amount given to a London borough in this round of funding, will go towards improving road safety, bus lanes, cycling infrastructure and much more to improve transport in Barking & Dagenham.

The amount received is nearly double the amount the council has received in previous rounds of funding. Nearly £3 million will go towards bus lanes and carriageway widening and £230k will go towards developing the borough's cycle network.



Council gets stuck into removing chewing gum litter

The council is clearing its transport hubs from chewing gum litter thanks to a £35,000 grant from the Chewing Gum Task Force.

The Chewing Gum Task Force scheme, managed by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, involves targeted street cleaning and specially designed signage to encourage people to bin their gum.

It was set up by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(Defra) to tackle the growing problem of gum litter in towns and cities; estimated to cost the taxpayer around £7 million a year in the UK.

Pavements which see high footfall outside the borough's train stations have been pressure washed and eye-catching signage put up on bins to prompt people to use them.

Dedicated gum bins have also been installed on lampposts. Known as Gumdrop bins, they're not only designed specifically for the disposal of waste chewing gum but are also made with waste chewing gum. The bins have been proven to reduce chewing gum litter by up to 78 per cent in the first 12 weeks of use.

Major chewing gum producers, including Mars Wrigley and Perfetti Van Melle are backing the scheme, which was set up in 2021, and are expected to invest up to £10 million over a five-year period.

Training updates for councillors

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

Borough News



Summer of Festivals Weekender celebrating the Coronation

Residents are being urged to mark their calendars for Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May for our Summer of Festivals Weekender at Valence Park, Dagenham.

On Saturday, residents can join us from 11am to 5pm for a special [Coronation event](#) to honour His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. We'll be screening the historic Coronation event, and residents can enjoy a picnic while soaking up the festival vibes.

On Sunday, from 1pm to 7pm, residents can enjoy the [One Borough Festival](#), where we're mixing in old favourites like the Steam and Cider Fair and Roundhouse Music Festival. There will be classic cars, tribute acts, dance performances, family fun activities, food and drink stalls, and more.

The best part is it is all FREE for all.

Visit lbbd.gov.uk/coronation-day for information on the Coronation Day and

lbbd.gov.uk/one-borough-festival for information on the One Borough Festival.

If anyone you know wants to exhibit or perform at these events, applications are now open, and forms can be found on the above weblinks.



Nominate now for the Borough Recognition Awards

If you think someone deserves a shout out for what they do for the local community – nominations for the Borough Recognition Awards are now open.

If you know someone who has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on the lives of others, then we want to hear about them. These awards are an opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of those who make a real difference in our borough.

To nominate someone, simply visit our [website](#) and fill out the nomination form.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 28 April and the winners will be awarded at the annual Mayor Making event on Friday 19 May.

Let's celebrate the amazing people in our community and show them our appreciation for all that they do.

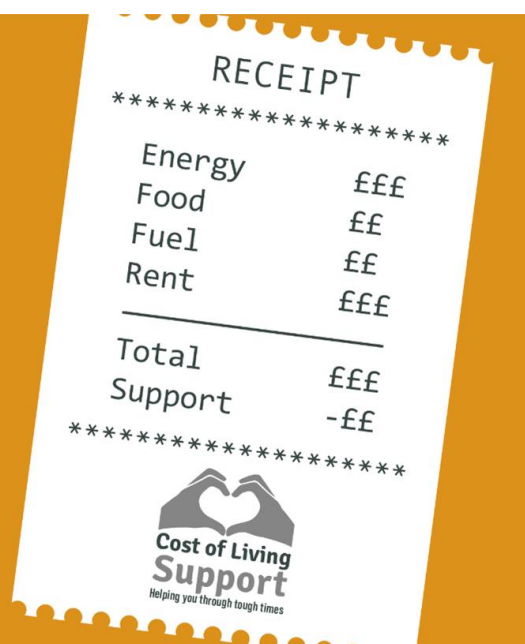


Bed dumping bandits spotted in latest Wall of Shame

We're returning again with the Wall of Shame. Do you recognise any of these bed related fly-tippers featured in the latest episode? If you do, make sure that you email our Enforcement Team on grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk

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, residents can 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 Community Hub and Dagenham Library Community Hub 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 Development Agency

London boroughs have launched a [Housing Development Academy](#) with backing from the Mayor of London to boost council housebuilding and help tackle the capital's homelessness crisis.

The academy, believed to be the first collaboration of its kind between local authorities in the UK, will help ensure London has the skills to deliver council-built homes in even larger numbers.

[London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning, Cllr Darren Rodwell](#), said: "Boroughs are proud to be building the next generation of council homes across the capital.

"We're determined to give more Londoners the opportunity to live in affordable, high-quality homes. That means building more council housing, as boroughs were able to do in previous decades. This is vital for our vision of London as a fair, economically dynamic and environmentally sustainable city.

“The Housing Development Academy will play a pivotal role in making sure London has the skills required to deliver the council-built homes our communities are crying out for.”

Set up by the London Housing Directors’ Group with the support of London Councils and grant funding from the Greater London Authority, the academy’s training programmes are delivered by Future of London, the capital’s leadership and networking organisation for the built environment.

Transport for London funding for local travel plans agreed

The agreement of more than £63 million in Transport for London (TfL) funding for the Local Implementation Plans (LIPS) programme has been welcomed by London Councils as “a hugely welcome starting point”.

Between them, London’s 32 boroughs and the City of London are responsible for around 9 per cent of streets across the capital and are vital partners in making them safe, accessible and reliable for all.

The funding will support the boroughs to deliver new cycle routes, school streets schemes, new or upgraded pedestrian crossings, bus priority schemes and 20 mph speed limits on borough roads.

Following the announcement on Monday (27 March), [London Councils’ Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Environment, Mayor Phillip Glanville](#), said: “London boroughs are championing active travel solutions for Londoners and are already making changes on the ground to increase healthier and greener travel options across the capital. It is essential that all of London’s diverse communities can benefit from the projects that each borough’s Local Implementation Plan programme will deliver.

“We are committed to a strong partnership with TfL to deliver on this ambition, recognising that 9 per cent of London’s streets are managed by the boroughs and City of London.

“This funding is hugely welcome as a starting point, but we will continue to work with government to address the funding backlog to improve London’s highways infrastructure, including cycle routes, footpaths, lighting, trees, gullies, bridges and tunnels. Our soon to be launched State of the City Report has revealed this backlog now surpasses £1.5 billion.

“We look forward to working alongside TfL and government to make sure active travel is a sustainable and viable option for all Londoners wanting to make greener choices for themselves and for London’s green future.”

Climate blog launched

London Councils has launched a new blogspace for boroughs to share experiences as they collectively work to address the challenges of climate change.

In November 2019, the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) and London Councils’ Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) agreed an ambitious Joint Statement on Climate Change, that sets out seven major programmes for cross-borough working – and London borough Leaders have made delivering the programmes and achieving net zero one of London Councils key shared ambitions.

The new blog is a collaborative space for knowledge sharing between London borough officers and London Councils’ climate programmes. It will cover various topics and projects related to net zero and adaptation and will enable open conversation in the space. [You can read the blog posts here.](#)

This week’s coverage in the national and regional media

The Negotiator, 30 March – [London agent fined over £12k for tole in illegal HMO. Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

City A.M., 30 March – [As help to buy winds down, caps on savings schemes](#)

[will only hinder home ownership](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Insurance Edge, 30 March – [MIB reveals top London hotspots for uninsured drivers](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 29 March – [London social entrepreneur scoops award for transforming hardship payments for those in need](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Business Money, 28 March – [Bridge secures planning consent for its largest UK development to date](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Digital, 28 March – [London boroughs launch training academy to build 'next generation' of council housing](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Schools Week, 27 March – [Free schools to open in areas with growing surplus places](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 25 March – [Five care homes thought to make £150m a year for low-rated homes in England](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 25 March – [TfL set aside £4m for renaming London Overground lines](#). Mentions Barking Riverside.

The Law Society Gazette, 24 March – [Centre Stage](#). Mentions Vicarage Field and Barking and Dagenham.

Local Government Lawyer, 24 March – [Don't shoot me, I'm only the Monitoring Officer – Croydon and the Penn Report](#). Mentions Dr Paul Field.

Media Releases

[East London council receives over £4 million in TfL funding](#).
[2023 Women's Empowerment Awards highlights extraordinary achievements](#).

[Barking and Dagenham Council signs Menopause Workplace Pledge.](#)

[Redbridge landlord ordered to pay tens of thousands by judge.](#)

[Local pupils attend award-winning show free of charge in Barking.](#)

[Council responds to community calls for fresher, healthier food.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following training:

Strategic thinking – Wednesday 26 April, 10am to 3pm (Online via Zoom)

Creative, strategic thinking is massively important to a politically led and fast-changing organisation. That's why the LGiU are 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.

Training from the Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following session:

Biodiversity and nature recovery show and tell - Thursday 20 April, 10.30am to 12noon (Online)

As councils look to tackle their net zero targets, it is important to remember that there is an ecological crisis happening as well and responses to both are intrinsically linked. A key consideration of councils is looking to the Environment Act to see what is now required of them. Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, protected sites and species are just a handful of new requirements that councils now need to act on.

In this webinar, funded by Government, we will hear from a range of councils about their approaches and experiences delivering biodiversity and nature recovery activities to date. These form part of a set of case studies showcasing approaches and experience drawn from across the country which will be launched at the event by the Planning Advisory Service.

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.

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