

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the government's new emergency alerts system to warn people if there is danger to life, like a fire or extreme weather, which will be tested on Sunday 23 April at 3pm.

He points out that this could cause challenges for victims of domestic violence if they have a hidden phone and directs them to a video from Refuge that shows how to turn off the alert.

He ends by reminding residents that St George's Day is coming soon and asks

them to send their favourite St George's Day photos from over the years, or any photos they take as they get ready for the day, which will be included in a celebration video.



Parloes Community Hub launches with a free family fun day

Parsloes Community Hub at Kingsley Hall was launched last Thursday, 13 April with a free family fun day, making it the ninth hub to be opened in the borough.

The launch was not only an opportunity for families to have a fun-packed day of activities, but they were also able to access advice, information and guidance covering employment, finance, housing, crime reporting and much more – all of which will now be available at the Hub.

Residents can find out more about our other Community Hubs, what is available and the opening times [here](#).

We are testing Emergency Alerts on mobile phones across the UK **23 April at 3pm**

Our new way to warn you when lives are in danger.

Find out more at gov.uk/alerts



New Emergency Alerts system

The government has set up a new [Emergency Alerts system](#) to warn people if there's danger to life nearby, like a fire or extreme weather.

It works by sending a loud, siren-like sound and a message to people's mobile phone screens.

The new system will be tested nationally on 23 April at 3pm, with a sound and vibration that will last for about 10 seconds. People just need to tap 'OK' or swipe away the notification and they won't need to do anything else.

It is important to note that the alarm will sound even if a person's phone is on silent. Victims of domestic abuse who are worried that this could put them in danger because they have a hidden phone, should please watch [this video](#) from Refuge to find out how to turn off the alert.

SEASON 2 | EPISODE 3



More grime, more punishment. Don't miss the new episode

Grime & Punishment is here to tell you about all the work our Enforcement Teams do to make the borough a better place for our residents to live. It also explains how they get the results we all want against people who think they can trash the borough for everyone else.

From eyesore gardens and overgrown land to a man illegally using a stolen Blue Badge, this episode is jam packed with content you do not want to miss out on.

You can [watch it here](#).



Residents invited to help us bring EV charge points closer to them

We're installing new electric vehicle charging points in the borough and we want to make sure we're putting them in the right places. Residents can help by telling us where they think they should go [here](#).

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 entry.

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.



Council flies the flag for the Sikh New Year festival

The council, in collaboration with Singh Sabha Gurdwara, came together with councillors and community members to mark Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year festival last Friday 13 April.

Vaisakhi is a time to celebrate with loved ones, visit the Gurdwara, and enjoy colourful parades and processions through the streets. It marks the first day of the month of Vaisakh in the Sikh calendar and is a time dedicated to community spirit and forward-thinking as well as practising spiritual physical integration.

The event included speeches, special prayers and a raising of the flag over the Town Hall.



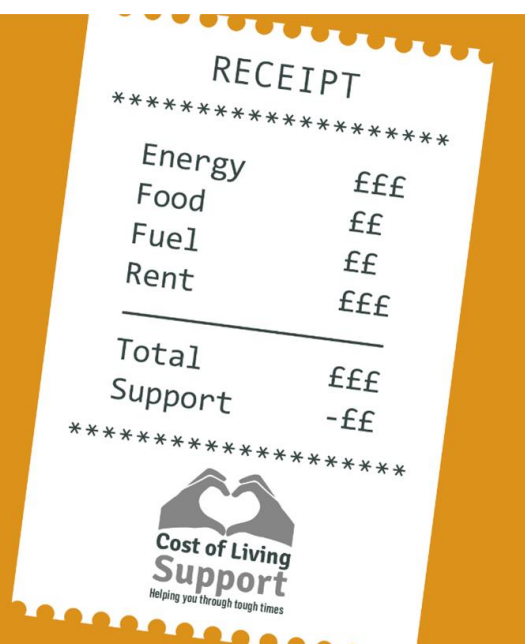
Box dumper caught on latest Wall of Shame episode

Our pioneering, [grime-busting web-series is back](#) with more dastardly dumpers and feckless fly-tippers for you to help identify.

If you recognise someone featured, please email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk with the details so we can put a stop to fly-tipping in the borough.

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

‘Our tenants deserve better’ – boroughs commit to improving social housing services.

London boroughs have launched a new shared vision for delivering high-quality landlord services for council tenants.

Led by the London Housing Directors’ Group with support from London Councils, [Delivering for Tenants: The Foundations of an Effective Local Authority Landlord Service](#), sets out best practice principles on how boroughs can go beyond their statutory and regulatory responsibilities to deliver the highest possible housing standards.

Acknowledging instances of poor practice and the massive challenges facing the social housing sector, the report reiterates London boroughs’ commitment to ensuring tenants are listened to and services respond efficiently and effectively to their needs.

Cllr Darren Rodwell, London Councils’ Executive Member for Regeneration,

Housing and Planning, said: “Boroughs are proud social landlords. Social housing is a vital part of London’s infrastructure that provides affordable homes for hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

“When it comes to deciding the future of social housing in London, national policy and investment decisions remain fundamental factors. Boroughs will continue to work with ministers on this important agenda and push for the funding required to support our shared goals.”

This week’s coverage in the national and regional media

The Guardian, 13 April – [Disappearing schools families forced out – and we call this progress](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

LocalGov, 12 April – [London Councils sets out ‘shared vision’ to improve social housing](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 11 April – [‘Tackle junk food’ call as one in four London primary pupils are obese](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

Letting Agent Today, 11 April – [Agency fined for its role in illegal HMO letting](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Londonist, 11 April – [A new Women’s Museum is opening in East London this year](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Daily Mail, 11 April – [The UK areas with the biggest and smallest house price gains over the past decade revealed: check property prices near you](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[East London council says 'no' to illegal tobacco and cigarettes.](#)

[Shisha bar owner found guilty of illegal street trading.](#)

[Local businesses in Barking and Dagenham get top marks for passing underage test purchasing operation.](#)

[East London council Trading Standards team crack down on illegal sales.](#)

[East London Council delivers food hampers to 1,000 families over the Easter.](#)

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 sessions:

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.

Progress on children and young people's mental health policy in England Thursday 18 May, 2pm to 3.30pm (Online)

A range of policies such as the 2017 Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper, the NHS Long-Term Plan, and post COVID-19 recovery, have been announced regarding children's mental health in England over the past decade. However, the scale of children's mental health needs remains of real concern to councils, schools, families and young people themselves, particularly given the impact of the pandemic, school closures and the current cost of living crisis. Children's mental health has also been highlighted in recent announcements including the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life, Schools White Paper and Special Educational Needs Green Paper. The Government is currently developing a strategy for mental health (all-age).

The Centre for Mental Health and the Children and Young People Mental Health Coalition (CYPMHC) have been commissioned by the LGA to produce a report exploring these policy approaches, announcements and steps taken to tackle the rising demand in children's mental health. It looks at the progress that has been made and what else needs to happen to ensure that central government, local government, NHS and wider partners are able to tackle children's mental health needs in England. This webinar will explore the outcomes of this report.

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 email yon.edomi@lbbd.gov.uk if you have any suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.