

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader congratulated West Ham United Football Club on winning the Europa Conference League and then goes on to talk about calls of support he has received from residents about their concerns about knife crime and youth violence – repeating his message to parents to take some responsibility to keep their young ones safe.

He also gives an update on the conclusion of the Every One Every Day project and plans to secure a legacy by ensuring the equipment and assets are available for use by the whole community.

The Leader ends by reminding viewers that June sees the return of Pride Month where the borough will be taking part in Pride in London, and a fantastic Barking Pride celebration event on Thursday 22 June.



Volunteer Week – celebrating our borough’s brilliant volunteers

We know our borough isn't short of community spirit. Each year, so many of our residents give up their spare time to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into a range of volunteering opportunities.

In the past year alone, nearly 450 volunteers in the council have amassed a whopping 20,000 hours of time dedicated to supporting our local community.

To mark Volunteer Week which began on Thursday 1 June, we invited our volunteers to a special event held at the Broadway Theatre to say a big thank you. The evening included a range of awards, speeches from volunteers past and present, a magician and a cake cutting.

Well done to all our volunteers and residents who fancy getting involved in volunteering opportunities can [find out more here](#).



Supporting our residents through the cost of living crisis

As part of our efforts to support residents through the cost of living crisis, Cllr Jane Jones, Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care & Disabilities, and Cllr Elizabeth Kangethe, Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment & School Improvement, visited Future Youth Zone to see the work they do and to hear about the help and support the council and its partners are providing to local people to help them through the crisis.

At Future Youth Zone, a purpose-built facility for young people aged 9 to 19 and up to 25 for those with a disability can pay a £5 annual membership fee and 50p per visit as well as get access to a meal for £1.

There’s lots of other support available and residents can find out more by

heading to our [Cost of Living webpage](#).



LIVE
with the Leader
Police Special
Have a question for the
leader or the Police?
Email
socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk
#BDLeaderLive **Barking &
Dagenham**

Leader's Facebook LIVE special with the Police

Residents are being invited to send in their questions and find out more about the work our local Police force do during a LIVE Facebook Q&A session with Council Leader, Cllr Darren Rodwell and Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell.

Interested residents should make sure to tune in on Thursday 15 June, from 6pm on the [Leader's Facebook page](#).



Adult College launches 2023/24 prospectus – empowering our residents to be the best they can be

Residents can work towards achieving their lifelong learning ambitions through taking advantage of learning opportunities available from the Adult College.

This is an opportunity for residents to acquire additional knowledge, skills, qualifications and enhance their wellbeing.

Whatever the starting point or skills level, the Adult College is able to work with residents to support and empower them to grow in confidence and to develop their skills to progress on to further training, higher level qualifications or into employment.

Courses on offer range from Business Skills, Childcare, Continuous Professional Development, Construction, IT and Computing, English, ESOL,

Family Learning, Maths, Health and Social Care among others.

Residents can view details of the courses available in the [Adult College Prospectus - 23/24](#).

They can find out more about courses, financial and other support available by contacting the Adult College on 0208 270 4722 or email adultcollegeenquiries@lbbd.gov.uk

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



Pride Month is here!

For the sixth year running, we are proud to be taking part in the extravaganza that is Pride in London next month, which draws thousands of people from across the country to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

The progressive pride flag was raised outside Barking Town Hall to mark International Pride Month and will fly for the rest of the month.



Free family fun day to mark The Great Big Green Week

We're marking [The Great Big Green Week](#) with a free family fun day at Eastbrookend Discovery Centre on Saturday 17 June, from 11am to 3pm.

Set in the beautiful Eastbrookend Country Park, residents will find out more about living sustainably through fun activities and they can even pick up freebies like compost bins and bicycle repairs while there to help them.



The Equalities and Diversity Community Fund is back

Community organisations across Barking and Dagenham are invited to apply for grants of up to £500 to hold an event relating to our [Equality and Diversity Calendar](#). This includes Black History Month, Pride, national independence days and much more.

All projects should promote social inclusion, celebrate diversity, and support equality through providing opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

Interested residents and groups can [apply today](#).



Hoover dumper needs to clean up his act in latest Wall of Shame

Our grime-fighting web-series is back with another bumper episode of local fly-tipping caught on camera. If you know anyone featured email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk and you can also [catch up on the show so far here](#).

Around the council



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

Over £100,000 in affordable loans have so far been handed out to borough residents through our partnership with Leeds Credit Union.

The partnership aims 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.

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 <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/discretionary-financial-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.

Local Government News

A week in parliament

London Councils sent briefings to London MPs ahead of three debates in the House of Commons last week on matters affecting London local government.

Last Monday, MPs debated [the role local government has to play in achieving 'net zero'](#). Ahead of the debate, London Councils briefed London MPs on London boroughs' Climate Action Plans, the range of [cross-borough collaborative programmes](#) to reduce carbon-based emissions and improve the capital's resilience to severe weather, and the innovative [3Ci partnership](#) founded by London Councils, Connected Places Catapult and Core Cities UK to securing private investment into price-based net zero delivery. [You can read the briefing here](#).

On the same day, [MPs debated delivering new housing supply](#) and London Councils briefed MPs on the challenges of addressing the capital's acute housing shortage. While London Councils welcomes the government's recent changes to Public Works Loan Board borrowing rates and rules around the use of Right to Buy receipts, we believe further intervention is needed if affordable housebuilding is to continue. [You can read the briefing here](#).

Last Wednesday, the [Westminster Hall debate](#) explored the issues and implications around pupil role numbers and school closures in London. [Following London Councils' report earlier this year on school places in London](#), which found that London local authorities and schools are currently dealing with a significant and sustained period of reduction in demand for reception and Year 7 places, London Councils briefed London MPs on the report's main findings and policy implications. [You can read the briefing here](#).

LOTI digital exclusion service shortlisted for innovation of the year

Get Online London, which provides refurbished digital equipment and skills training to digitally excluded Londoners has been shortlisted for the Digital Public Service Innovation of the Year Award.

Get Online London is London's first digital inclusion service. It is delivered by the London Office of Innovation and Technology (LOTI) and Good Things Foundation and supported by the Mayor of London.

[You can find out more about the Digital Public Service Innovation of the Year Awards and vote for your winner here.](#)

Volunteer's Week

[Volunteer's Week](#) is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering in their communities.

An army of volunteers provide a daily lifeline for Londoners, and London Councils and the GLA have been working with a network of London based voluntary groups to support the London Lifelines campaign to shine a light on volunteering in London and the vital role it plays in powering and sustaining our communities all year round.

[You can read more about the campaign on the London Lifelines website here.](#)

By election result

Tommy Gale (Labour) was elected to represent the South Hampstead ward in Camden at the by-election two weeks ago. The by-election followed the resignation of Cllr Will Prince.

[You can read the result in full here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 9 June – [Superloop: Details of North Finchley to Walthamstow section revealed](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Lexology, 7 June – [Compulsory purchase – lessons from recent refusals](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

LBC Radio, 6 June – [Sadiq Khan opposes Labour council leader's threat to evict tenants if families don't report knife crime](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

BBC, 6 June – [Twice as many car trips in outer London – report](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Planning, BIM & Construction Today, 6 June – [Weston Homes to transform mixed-use development in Barking](#).

BTR News, 6 June – [McLaren's 12 Thames Road Build to Rent reaches the top](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 6 June – [Twice as many journeys in outer London are by car than in centre of capital](#). Mentions Barking Riverside overground station.

The Guardian, 5 June – [Labour rising star threatens to evict families if children do not inform on knife crime](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 5 June – [75% of London children in poverty from employed households, new figures show](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 5 June – [Met Police officer charged with assault over Romford arrest](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 1 June – [Solo buyers: the average salary, deposit and mortgage required for a first home in every London borough](#). Mentions Barking

and Dagenham.

NetDace, 1 June – [Rising costs force schools to shut in the UK](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Building & Construction Design, 31 May – [You need to earn £4.7m a year to purchase a property in the top 1% of the market](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Statement on Every One Every Day.](#)

[Fly-tipper gets fined for dumping on his doorstep.](#)

[Fly-tipping report lands pharmacy with £400 fine.](#)

[Online map asks residents to share their air experiences in the borough.](#)

[Barking butcher issued with suspended sentence in court.](#)

Members' Training

Member Briefing

The next member briefing will take place on Tuesday 13 June at 7pm. It will be held in Barking Town Hall and will focus on Waste Strategy.

Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following session:

Scrutiny: Wednesday 21 June, 9.30am to 11.30am (Online)

Asking questions and actively listening is of course a crucial skill for elected members. But this is most intensely highlighted when it comes to scrutiny, probing, and questioning in a local authority. This engaging training will keep participants on the edge of their seats in anticipation while providing comprehensive tools and frameworks to implement moving forward.

Training from Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following session:

Investment cost transparency: Wednesday 21 June, 10am to 1pm

This session will provide:

- An explanation of the purpose and background of the Board's ground-breaking Code of Transparency.
- A case study from an LGPS fund on how investment cost information has been used
- A troubleshooting session on how to use the online reporting system, run in conjunction with Byhiras (the system providers), and
- A facilitated discussion on the information that fund officers should be receiving and how this information should be reported to pension boards and committees.

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 von.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.

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