

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader reminds residents of more Summer of Festivals events including the Eid at Eastbury event which takes place on Sunday 2 July at Eastbury Manor House.

He also reminds residents to make it a date on Saturday 5 August for the Barking Folk Festival at the Abbey Green in Barking.

The Leader mentioned the Great Big Green Week and last week's launch of the next phase of our Cleaner, Greener Barking and Dagenham campaign which

asks residents to work with us to make the borough a cleaner, greener place to live.

The Leader ends by telling residents about the launch of our new A – Z guide to waste and recycling which tells them how to dispose of waste properly.



## **New A to Z guide to waste and recycling launched**

We know that some residents can sometimes find it confusing to know how to get rid of different things properly. That is why we have launched a new [A to Z guide to waste and recycling](#) on our website.

For some residents, it may be hard for them to imagine how doing their bit and recycling correctly can make a difference, but the truth is everyone gets it right, they will see a positive change.

Residents need to be aware that the future is in their hands. Recycling properly stops tonnes of waste being buried in landfill. In the UK, recycling saves about 18 million tonnes of carbon emissions a year, the equivalent of taking around 4 million cars off the road.

Residents can [check our website](#) if they are not sure of how to get rid of their waste and watch our campaign video [here](#).

---

## Delays to Members Casework

Regrettably, our Customer Feedback Team has been facing increasing challenges which have worsened over the past 10 days. This has affected our ability to acknowledge your submissions within the usual 24/48 hours timeframe, causing a delay in meeting our 10-working day response service level agreement (SLA). We want to inform you about these delays, allowing you to confidently manage expectations for your constituents.

We anticipate that the majority of Members Casework will now be responded to within 15 working days. It's important to note that this is a temporary issue resulting from a staffing shortage of 2 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

Rest assured, we are actively recruiting to fill these positions and will resolve the situation in the medium term as shown by the timeline below:

Target Date	Action	Complete (Y/N)
W/C 29 May 2023	Roles agreed and funded	Y
W/C 5 June 2023	Roles placed on redeployment site	Y
W/C 12 June 2023	Roles placed on the internal careers site	Due to go live on Friday 16 June
W/C 26 June 2023	Roles to be advertised externally if no internal applicants received	
W/C 10 July	Interviews	
W/C 17 July	Offers made to successful applicants	
W/C 17 July	Agree start dates.	

- If internal applicants are successful, the roles could be filled as early as the first week in August.

- If we are onboarding external applicants, the likely start date would be mid-September considering notice periods and our HR/IT onboarding process.

We thank you for your patience and support during this time. Please be assured that we are diligently addressing the backlog as quickly and efficiently as possible.

---

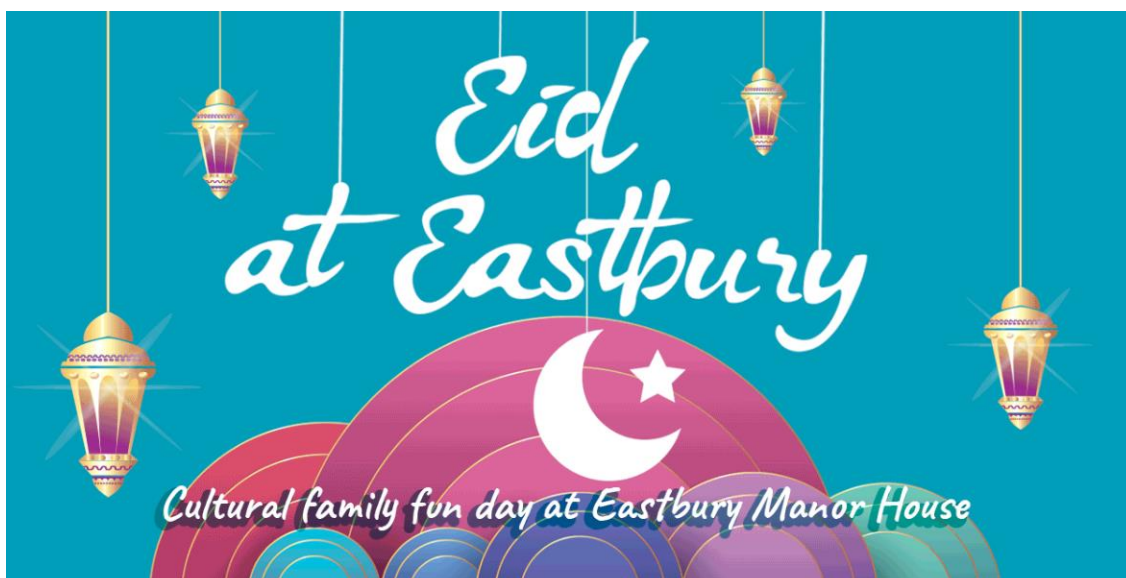
## Training updates for councillors

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

---

## Borough News

---



Sunday 2 July | 11am to 4pm | [www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury)

## **Residents invited to embrace the spirit of Eid-al-Adha in a vibrant celebration of unity, culture, and festivity**

As part of the Summer of Festival event calendar, residents are being encouraged to get involved and attend Eid at Eastbury on July 2nd. Residents and their visitors can immerse themselves in a joyous day of cultural exploration, live entertainment, and community togetherness, while honouring the significance of Eid-al-Adha.

The event will be held at Eastbury Manor House on Sunday 2 July, from 11am to 4pm.

Eid-al-Adha, also known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," holds a deep cultural and religious significance for Muslims worldwide and brings together all members of the community. The occasion is a time of reflection, gratitude, and community bonding.

Residents can immerse themselves in a range of performances, exhibitions, and workshops - from drumming to henna and face painting. They can also indulge in a tantalizing selection of culinary delights, including traditional dishes and international flavours, at a number of diverse food stalls.

The Summer of Festival Event - Eid at Eastbury reflects our commitment to creating an inclusive and vibrant borough, where all residents can partake in cultural festivities and experience the richness of our diverse community.

For more information about the Summer of Festival Event - Eid at Eastbury, please visit: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury).

---



## **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.

---



## **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](#). Applications close at midnight Sunday 25 June.

---

## **Around the council**

---



## **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](mailto:adultcollegeenquiries@lbbd.gov.uk)



### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work).

---

## **Local Government News**

---

### **Annual General Meeting**

London Councils held its AGM two weeks ago at which Cllr Georgia Gould was re-elected as Chair of the organisation, with Mayor Phillip Glanville elected as Deputy Chair; Cllr Elizabeth Campbell elected Vice Chair as Group Leader of the Conservative Group and Cllr Gareth Roberts elected Vice Chair as Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat group.

Cllr Baroness O’Neil of Bexley OBE stood down from her role as Vice Chair and Group Leader of the Conservative group, where she has served since 2010, and Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE stood down from her role as Vice Chair and Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat group, where she has served since 2014.

Cllr Darren Rodwell stood down as Deputy Chair of London Councils, but will continue in his role as Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing and Planning.

Croydon Executive Mayor Jason Perry was elected to London Councils’ Executive as Member for London’s Future (Business, Economy and Culture).

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Gould said: “London boroughs represent London’s diverse communities, and we stand united in supporting our residents. From helping Londoners affected by the cost-of-living crisis to tackling the climate change emergency, we understand the challenges facing our capital and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure London’s voice is heard.

“(London Councils) AGM has once again delivered a strong cross-party leadership committee for London local government who are committed to doing its best for Londoners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Baroness O’Neil of Bexley OBE and Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE who are stepping down as Vice Chairs this year after many years of dedicated service. Their knowledge of London, the depth of their commitment and passion for our city has carried London Councils through many years of opportunity, challenge and change and they will continue to make a huge contribution as borough leaders.”

[You can read more about all London Councils’ Executive Members and their portfolios here.](#)

### **Grenfell Tower: six years on**

Last Wednesday, 14 June marked the six-year anniversary since the fire at Grenfell Tower in west London that claimed the lives of 72 people.

Cllr Darren Rodwell, Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing and Planning at London Councils, said: “Today our thoughts are with the families of people who died in the Grenfell Tower fire, the survivors and the wider North Kensington community.

“Six years on from the devastation of the fire, London boroughs are committed to learning the lessons of this horrific event. It is vital that all Londoners are safe and feel safe in their homes, which is why boroughs are not waiting until the Grenfell Inquiry final report is published to act. We are focusing on working together to review and improve services right now.

“One example of this is our current report, [‘Delivering for Tenants’](#) which provides local authorities with a toolkit for assessing and improving their landlord service.”

### **LGC Award winners**

Congratulations to all the London boroughs whose work across a wide range of

categories was recognised at the LGC Awards.

LB Lewisham's 'Cleaner Lewisham' campaign was named Campaign of the Year; Islington's Parental Support Project took top spot in the Children's Services category; Hackney's Turner Prize winning public art commission was named winner in the Community Involvement category; Brent's digital transformation to deliver a more connected and empowered borough was named winner of the Digital Impact category; Tower Hamlets' Crime Reduction Team won the Innovation category; and Waltham Forest's Property and Delivery Service team won Large Team of the Year.

Former Brent chief executive Carolyn Downs received the LGC Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements over a 40-year career in local government.

## **Skills London**

Skills London will be returning to ExCel London on 24 and 25 November. Skills London offers a practical way for over 20,000 14- to 24-year-olds to meet face to face with more than 100 employers and education providers. It is free to attend and with around 35,000 jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities at the event, Skills London helps young Londoners find a future that works for them.

The Skills London team works with London schools and colleges from every borough to encourage teachers to book group visits with their students. [More information about the event and how you can get involved can be found at the Skills London website.](#)

---

## **This week's coverage in the national and regional media**

**Housebuilder and Developer, 15 June - [£50m mixed-use development adds 62 more affordable homes to the Roding Riviera.](#)** Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Tech Investor News, 15 June** – [Capita secures £50m anti-fraud contract despite cyberattack and data breaches](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Ernst & Young Global Ltd, 14 June** – [Human and social services](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Small Business Research and Enterprise, 14 June** – [How you can inspire young people in the SEND community to take their best step forward](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Daily Mail, 13 June** – [Why millions of Londoners will ignore ULEZ and will continue using their cars despite massive expansion of the daily £12.50 fee in August](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**McLaren, 12 June** – [McLaren awarded £28m East London health centre project](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

---

## Media Releases

[Adult College launches 2023/24 prospectus – empowering residents to be the best they can be.](#)

[Barking business fails test purchase operation.](#)

[East London council celebrates Great Big Green Week with new campaign.](#)

---

## Members' Training

### Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

**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.

**Shape and share your message:** Tuesday 27 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
(Online)

Go step-by-step through the purpose of your content and how it connects with your audience before moving on to planning your content, the timing and the platforms you will use. Participants will be encouraged to use the session to plan some real content around their own upcoming communication needs, although a fictional scenario will also be provided.

**Make a difference as a Councillor:** Tuesday 11 July, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
(Online)

Are you a new or recently elected Councillor finding your feet? You stood to be a Councillor for a reason, so how do you achieve it and how do you keep your head above water whilst making your mark?

This interactive workshop will give you some of the tricks of the trade from an experienced Councillor and Democratic Services Officer and leave you with actions to make a difference for your community. This workshop will also help you keep hold of the bigger picture and achieve your goals for your community.

### **Training from Local Government Association (LGA)**

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

**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.

**Personal safety for newly elected Councillors:** Tuesday 27 June, 2 to 3.30pm (Online)

This Government funded event has been specially devised for newly or recently-elected 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 is advice on surgeries, canvassing, home visits and managing unexpected doorstep visitors.

**Health in all deals – putting health at the heart of devolution:** Wednesday 19 July, 12.00 noon to 1pm (Online)

This webinar, organised by the LGA in partnership with the NISE network, will hear from leaders closely involved in local discussions about how best to ensure health is a core part of local devolution plans. We will discuss how Combined Authorities and Integrated Care Systems are working together for their shared populations, seeking greater autonomy in a range of related areas that can collectively improve prosperity, support population health and address systemic health inequalities. With Mayoral elections taking place across significant parts of the country in 2024, now is the time to realise our ambitions.

### **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](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk)

If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: [leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk) or [lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.