

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions our celebration of Pride month and joining council staff, Councillors and members of the Flipside youth club at the London Pride march.

He reminds residents to save the date in their diary for the Barking Folk Festival which takes place on Saturday 5 August from 12pm to 7pm at Barking Abbey Green.



A magical Eid at Eastbury

Last Sunday (2 July), saw residents come together at Eastbury Manor House, to celebrate Eid al-Adha.

The beautiful gardens of Eastbury Manor House were filled with the peaceful and melodic sounds of Quranic recitation. There was also a lively bazaar where visitors were able to explore traditional clothes, beautiful jewellery, and enjoy delicious food and desserts from different cultures.

Children had a lot of fun with face painting, henna art, and playing games whilst local artists performed live music, captivating dances, and engaging spoken-word poetry.

The event saw over 1,200 residents attend, which was all made possible by the hard work of our events team, Al Madina Mosque, volunteers, and sponsors who made it a memorable celebration.



Our HAF Summer programme returns

Arts, crafts, sports and much more are just a few of the exciting things that children across the borough can take part in our HAF Summer programme.

Children aged between 5 – 16 who are eligible for free school meals can take part in the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) for free.

For children who are not eligible for free school meals, there may be paid places available.

Booking is essential on all activities, so residents are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Residents can find out what's on the programme [here](#).



102 new homes near completion in Gascoigne neighbourhood

More new, affordable, rental homes are nearing completion as part of a £36.1m regeneration project in the Gascoigne neighbourhood.

To celebrate the topping out of the block that will bring 102 new homes to the area, Council Leader, Councillor Darren Rodwell and Councillor Cameron Geddes, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economic Development, joined contractors Willmott Dixon, on site.

The additional 102 new homes will be a mix of one and two-bedroom units which are being added to the eastern side of the Gascoigne neighbourhood and will complement the award-winning regeneration of the whole neighbourhood to create more and better quality housing, which is safe, well-ventilated and more energy-efficient.

The development will also accommodate a new, 700 sqm public park with plants, benches, picnic tables and trees. The block will also provide five on-street parking spaces as well as 186 cycle spaces and is due to be completed next spring.

The new homes add to the 815 homes already being delivered by Be First on the eastern side of the Gascoigne neighbourhood. A total of 1,016 new homes have been built across the whole neighbourhood to date.

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



Barking Folk Festival is back - save the date

Residents are being invited to save the date and join us for the Barking Folk Festival on Saturday 5 August at Barking Abbey Green from 12pm to 7pm as we celebrate the best music and dance from around the world.

As well as performances from Skinner Lister, Beans on Toast, Honey and the Bear and more, there will be plenty for the whole family to get involved in including a playground area, creative workshops, Dino Crafts, flower workshop, facepainting, funfair and more.

Residents can find out what else is going on [here](#).



Funding available to help communities to come together

A new £15,000 pot of cash is up for grabs for residents to help set-up activities that will benefit the community.

Barking and Dagenham Council's CAN DO fund is aimed at helping local residents start projects they are passionate about, whether it is setting up a walking group, creating a craft workshop or starting a sports tournament. Grants of £50 will be available this summer, with larger grants of up to £250 up for grabs in future bidding rounds.

The funding can be used to buy equipment, provide food or refreshments, or pay for activities.

The funding has been secured from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported by the mayor of London.

For more information visit oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/activate-volunteering-and-can-do-fund.



Help us nail these salon chair dumpers on the Wall of Shame

Our grime fighting web-series, the Wall of Shame, is back with more disgusting dumping caught on camera – but can you help us catch the culprits?

Check out the [latest episode](#) and email grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk if anyone looks familiar.

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 020 8270 4722 or email 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



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

London's housing pressures going from 'bad to disastrous'

[New research published by London Councils](#) shows a 41 per cent reduction in the number of London properties available for private rent since the Covid-19 pandemic, amid warnings that turbulence and supply constraints in the private rental market is worsening near-record levels of homelessness across the capital.

The analysis – which represents the most comprehensive study yet published of London's private rental market and its relationship to homelessness pressures – was undertaken jointly by the LSE and Savills and commissioned by a partnership led by the cross-party group London Councils. is the latest evidence of London's broken

London Councils and the report's co-funders – Trust for London, Capital Letters, and the London Housing Directors' Group – say the research is the latest evidence of London's broken housing market and the need for urgent government action to address rising homelessness.

With boroughs in the capital collectively spending more than £52 million each month on temporary accommodation and suitable accommodation for homeless households increasingly scarce, London Councils has branded the situation "unmanageable".

London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning, Cllr Darren Rodwell, said: "A bad situation is now becoming disastrous. We're seeing fast-rising private rents and reduced availability of rental properties against a backdrop of continuing cost-of-living pressures and London's longstanding shortage of affordable housing. Homelessness is a national emergency, but with London accounting for two-thirds of England's temporary accommodation placements, we are at the epicentre of this crisis. Urgent action is needed from the government to help households avoid homelessness and to reduce the number in temporary accommodation."

Contracts for next phase of e-scooter trial awarded by TfL

Transport for London has awarded contracts to Dott, Lime and Voi, following a competitive procurement process for operators to run the next phase of London's rental e-scooter trial.

Last year, [TfL and London Councils announced they were extending the capital's trial of rental e-scooters](#) in response to the Department for Transport (DfT) guidance that allows local authority trials to continue until 31 May 2024.

The next trial phase will build on what has been learnt from the current trial, as well as providing operators with opportunities to test new onboard technologies, including pavement detection, tandem riding detection and acoustic vehicle alerts. This will ensure that London can continue to learn about e-scooters and the role that they can play in London's transport network. TfL also expects to see the network of parking locations expanded across the trial.

By-election results

Two by-elections took place in London boroughs recently.

In Haringey, the by-election in the Hermitage and Gardens ward was won by Anna Lawton (Labour). [You can read the result in full here.](#)

In Southwark, the by-election in the Newington ward was won by Youcef

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

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 7 July – [Revealed: Full list of London rail stations that could see ticket offices close.](#) Mentions Barking Station and Dagenham Dock Station.

Evening Standard, 5 July – [Which London schools will be affected by the NEU teachers' strikes?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Big Issue, 5 July – ['A bad situation is becoming disastrous': Number of homes for rent in London has plummeted since Covid.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Metro, 4 July – [Map reveals five London councils in Ulez expansion High Court battle.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 4 July – [Here's what the average London house price buys in every borough.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Show House, 3 July – [Lord Kerlake, former head of civil service dies, aged 68.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC, 1 July – [London Overground lines to be given names.](#) Mentions Gospel Oak to Barking.

Media Releases

[East London council and Police team up for Day of Action. Council invites interested residents to apply for a role on its ethics and Standards body.](#)

[No entry allowed! Closure Order issued for east London property linked to drugs.](#)

Members' Training

Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following session:

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 session:

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

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.

