

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader reminds residents of the Elrow Town Festival which took place in Parloes Park over the weekend with renowned acts. He reminds residents that funding from events like this help fund our free Summer of Festivals events.

He also reminds residents of our very own FREE Barking Folk Festival which takes place on Saturday 5 August at the historic Barking Abbey Green where

residents can enjoy world renowned acts, creative workshops, street theatre and dance, fairground rides, facepainting and much more.



## **The council's innovative 'developer tax' boasts the community with £1m of funding**

More than £1m has been given out to community groups in the borough thanks to our innovative 'developer tax'.

Local projects including women's-only boxing, free after school clubs, creative workshops for disabled people, and men's mental health support groups have each been awarded up to £10,000 funding.

The money comes from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), which the council introduced in 2017 and requires developers in the borough to pay a fee as part of their legal agreement.

The funding from the 'developer tax' is made available to community and voluntary organisations, not-for-profit companies, registered charities,

constituted organisations and social enterprises operating in the borough.

Over the last six years, more than 120 groups have benefited from the scheme, which uses a resident-led panel to decide how the money is awarded in the style of a 'Dragons Den' pitch.

You can find out more information on the [Neighbourhood Fund webpage](#).



## **Parents urged to make sure their children have had their MMR vaccine**

Measles cases are rising across the capital and parents are being reminded to ensure their children get the vaccine.

There is no cure and vaccination is the only protection against children becoming seriously unwell. Measles is very infectious – just one case can infect nine out of ten unprotected people and it's more than just a rash, in some cases it can lead to meningitis and sepsis causing real risk to life.

Parents are being asked to check their child's red book to make sure the child

is up to date with their vaccinations. They can catch up on any missed doses of the MMR or they can either contact their GP or call 020 8017 4292 to arrange an appointment at a local clinic.

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### **Vision for a Food School in the borough takes shape with introduction at historic Billingsgate Market**

A new pilot food school located at the historic Billingsgate Fish Market opened its doors to schools from Barking and Dagenham, as an introduction to the City of London Corporation's vision for a permanent food school in the east London borough.

The City Corporation is developing plans for a food school at the new markets site in Dagenham, which will train tomorrow's market traders, providing the

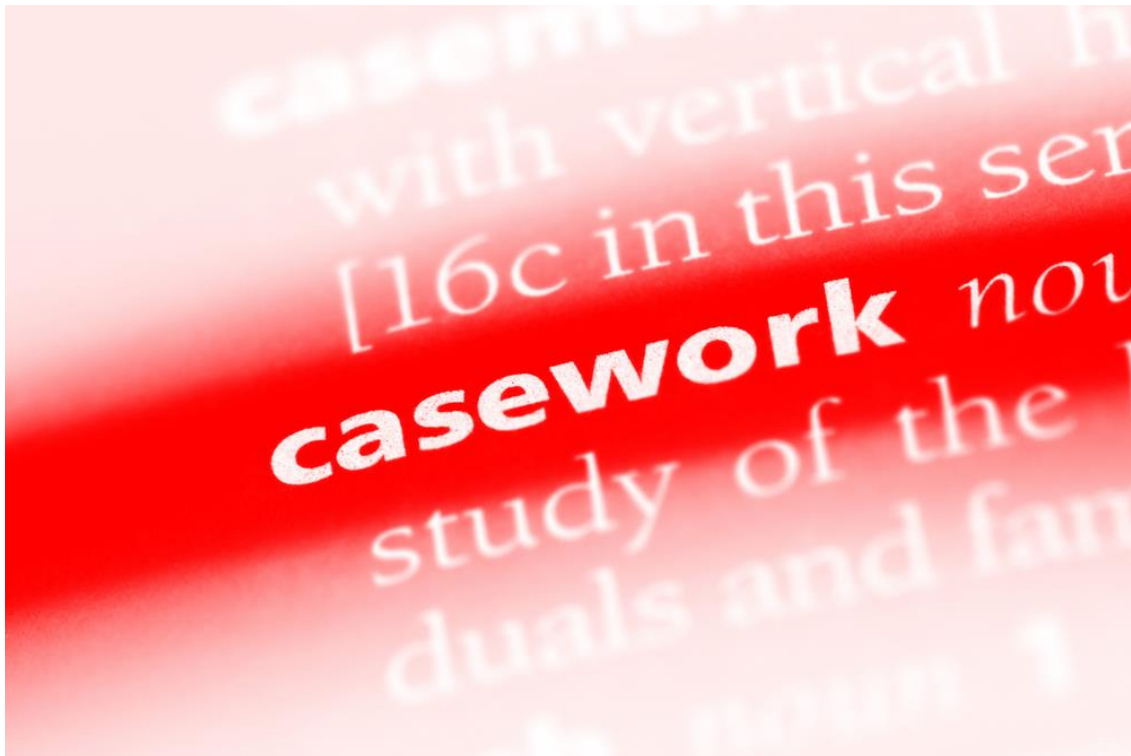
skills required to develop future butchers, fishmongers, and fruiterers – whilst strengthening the future resilience and prosperity of the wholesale food markets and the competitiveness of the traders.

In collaboration with Barking and Dagenham Council, the project aims to complement the council's ambitious plans for the creation of a food hub and community food school in Barking Town centre and improve health and economic outcomes in the borough.

An introductory course for students from several primary and secondary schools from the borough was held at the pilot food school, including a tour of the wholesale fish market and covered a variety of topics, including the nutritional benefits of fish, the role of fish in a healthy diet, the sustainability of the UK seafood industry, the different types of fish available in the UK, and how to choose and prepare fish.

The relocation of Billingsgate Fish Market and Smithfield Meat Market will see the City Corporation invest nearly one billion pounds into the borough and will act as a catalyst for the development of a food economy in the local area, supporting town centre activities and revitalising the area.

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### **Further guidance on Member's casework to avoid delays**

Members are being reminded that they need to ensure that there is sufficient consent in place to direct the queries to the Member's Feedback Team - for example if a father is asking for information about their grown-up daughter's housing application, the team would need the direct consent to proceed with the enquiry from the daughter as this would be considered personal information which they cannot share without this consent.

Also, on the issue of service requests being submitted without being logged online in the first instance, Members are advised to let them know that they will need to report online, or they can log it for themselves.

The team is currently dealing with a high level of casework and these cases are causing further delays in the processing of cases.

### **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.

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## **Borough News**

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Summer Reading Challenge 2023



Ready,  
Set,  
**Read!**



**Alistair**

**Patrick-Heselton**

'Paralympian – Team GB London 2012'

**Storytime and Activities**



**Monday 31 July**

**12.30pm to 1.30pm**

**Valence Library**

**Barking &  
Dagenham**

Illustration by Lorenita Schauer and logo artwork by Lizzie Everest. All © The Reading Agency 2023

[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)



**SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**

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## **Borough set for a Summer Reading Challenge with a difference**

Retired Paralympian Alistair Patrick-Heselton will be in the Barking and Dagenham to kick off 'Ready, Set, Read', this year's Summer Reading Challenge at Valence Library on Monday 31 July, from 12.30 to 1.30pm. The event will also see the trial of a Summer Reading Challenge Equipment Loan Scheme pilot project.

Alistair will host an inspirational story time and activities for children aged 4 to 11 years old, designed to inspire them to enjoy physical activity as well as reading. It is also an opportunity for the young people to hear about his inspiring journey as an athlete which has seen him inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame.

Valence Library has teamed up with the Reading Agency and the Youth Sports Trust to offer small bags of sporting equipment for children to borrow and enjoy throughout the holidays. They can borrow things such as a giant dice, wobble boards and egg and cup games for a week at a time.



## **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](#).

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### **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.

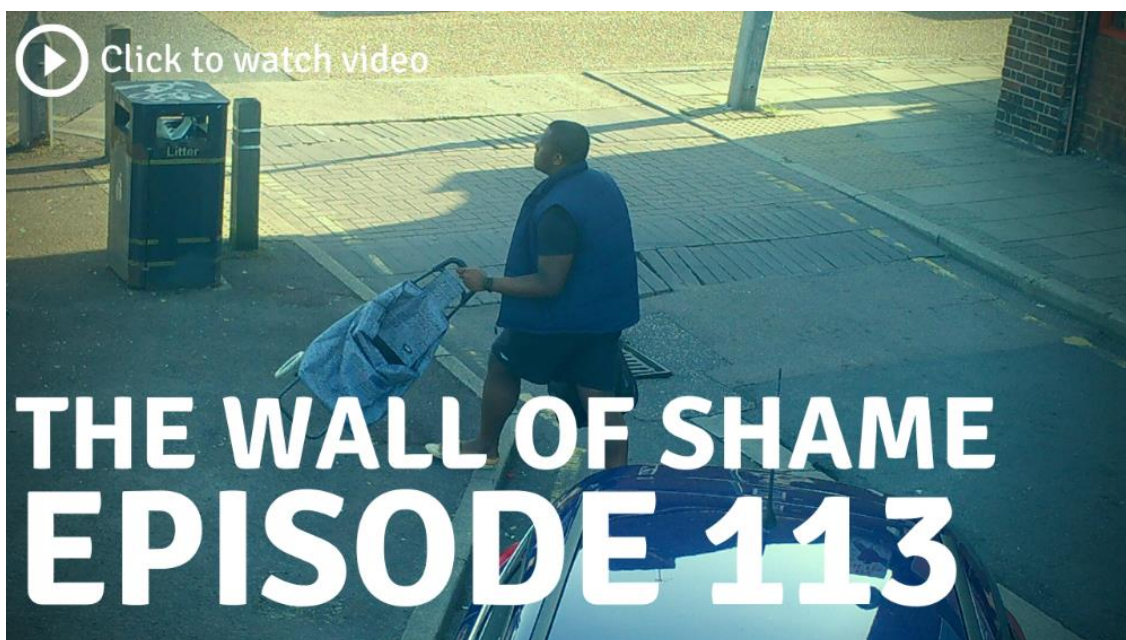
Children aged between 5 – 16 who are eligible for free school meals can take

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](#).



### **Off their trolley – Lodge Avenue trolley dumper spotted**

The Wall of Shame is back with more fly-tippers in its sights.

Help us catch the fly tipper – if you think you recognise anyone featured on the show, please email [grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk) now.

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### **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](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)

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## **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).

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### **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).

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## Local Government News

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### London Borough Apprenticeship Awards 2023: Shortlist revealed

The talented apprentices from across London local government shortlisted for this year's London Borough Apprenticeship Awards have been announced by [London Councils' Executive Member for Skills and Employment, Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE](#).

[You can read the full list of shortlisted candidates in each category on London Councils here.](#)

Announcing this year's shortlist, Mayor Fiaz said: "Each year, we come together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of apprentices working for London boroughs and their supply chains.

"Across London we see apprenticeships open up amazing opportunities to Londoners from our diverse communities. Boroughs are a driving force in championing apprenticeships as a fantastic way for people to gain new skills as well as boosting industries with recruitment challenges – including London boroughs themselves. I encourage all London employers to redouble their efforts in offering more apprenticeships opportunities.

"The Awards demonstrate the scale of ambition London boroughs have for their communities, as apprenticeships symbolise one of the many ways local government in London offers empowering opportunities through skills

development. I look forward to celebrating all the nominees and winners in September.”

## **APPG for London**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for London held its last event before Parliament goes into the Summer Recess. The event focused on London’s Housing Affordability Crisis, with almost half of Londoners struggling to keep up or falling behind on their rent or mortgage payments, while homelessness in the capital has skyrocketed and is at unsustainable levels.

Attendees at the event heard [new research by Savills and the London School of Economics into the reduced supply of private rented sector accommodation in London](#), the drivers behind this, and the likely future implications and trends, including for affordability. They also heard a presentation of the latest homelessness and temporary accommodation data from London boroughs.

Speakers included: Abigail Davies, Director of Housing Consultancy, Savills; Cllr Darren Rodwell, Executive Member for Housing, Regeneration and Planning, London Councils; Candida Thompson, Assistant Director of Housing Needs, London Borough of Newham and Chair, Pan-London Housing Needs and Homelessness Group; Ben Twomey, Director, Generation Rent.

[You can read more about the APPG for London here.](#)

## **Climate Blogs**

London Councils is publishing a series of blogs highlighting borough initiatives to share best practice, join up activity, and grasp economies of scale in transitioning to Net Zero and combatting climate change.

In the [latest blogpost](#), London Councils’ policy officer, Zak Bond, explores Decarbonising London’s Energy System and the lessons learnt from a recent visit to the Greater Copenhagen area, together with the Danish Embassy.

During the visit, borough officers had the opportunity to explore different

aspects of Denmark's heat network infrastructure and successful solutions, which provided valuable insights that could be applied to our decarbonisation efforts in London and across the UK.

### **Age-friendly communities**

The Centre for Ageing Better will host a webinar on age-friendly Communities, what they are and what can be achieved by becoming one.

The one-hour webinar: **An introduction to Age-friendly Communities**, will take place on Wednesday 16 August (between 10 am to 11am) and London Councils is encouraging all interested boroughs to attend.

[You can find out more and register for the webinar here.](#)

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

**Local Government Lawyer, 21 July** – [Compulsory purchase – lessons from recent refusals](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 19 July** – [Average UK house price is £7,000 below peak seen last September](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Daily Mail, 19 July** – [Is YOUR home affected? Shocking heat maps reveal how certain areas of English cities can be up to 5C warmer on hot days – and it's all down to the number of TREES](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Asian Voice, 19 July** – [Bharat Cricket Community kicks off T20 cricket tournament](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**On London, 18 July** – [London parliamentarians told homelessness services 'close to collapse'](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Property Reporter, 18 July** – [Just 4% of rental properties available to rent in](#)

[London](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Fish Focus, 18 July** – [City Corporation’s vision for a food school in Barking and Dagenham](#).

**Property 118, 18 July** – [Chances of renting in parts of London are ‘almost non-existent’](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**The Express, 18 July** – [The most expensive place to die in UK based on funeral costs – ‘costs of dying crisis’](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Bloomberg, 17 July** – [London new home sales tumble to lowest since 2012 as rates weigh](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

**BBC, 16 July** - [Hackney foodbank to serve 500 lunches for school children over summer holiday](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

**Evening Standard, 15 July** – [London house prices: the best and worst-performing London areas – and what to do if you have to move now](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 15 July** – [Pedestrian dies following fatal car collision in Clapham](#). Mentions Dagenham.

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## Media Releases

[East London council provides life safety advice to thousands of children](#).

[Local business butchers their bank balance with fly-tipping fine](#).

[‘Developer tax’ helps boost community by more than £1million](#).

[Young readers celebrated at awards event](#).

[Council seeks operator of new arts and culture centre in Dagenham](#).

[Personalised help and support on offer to local businesses](#).

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## Members' Training

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

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

**Strategic Thinking**: Wednesday 6 September, 10am to 3pm (Online)

Creative, strategic thinking is massively important to a politically led and fast-changing organisation. That's why we're 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 session.

**Make a difference as a Councillor**: Tuesday 12 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

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.

**Scrutiny**: Wednesday 27 September, 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 you on the edge of your seat in anticipation while providing comprehensive tools and frameworks to implement moving forward.

**Managing casework**: Thursday 28 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

Sustainably carrying out multiple roles and working with a variety of people requires resilience and a healthy work-life balance.

Personal resilience is about maintaining a sense of well-being, being mentally strong, effectively meeting different demands and performing at one's best on behalf of individuals, and communities as well as being an effective leader. This is a very practical seminar that will provide each participant with methods and helpful ideas to manage the pressures they face and enable them to be able to maximise the positive aspects of being an elected member.

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

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

#### **Recycling fit for the future:** Monday 18 September, 2.30pm to 4pm

Local flexibility is key to effective waste and recycling services. Catering for people in urban areas with many flats will require a different approach to rural, less populated communities. With this in mind, this session will look ahead to the implementation of government's reform of recycling services (the consistent collection framework for households and businesses), the new extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging, and the deposit return scheme for drinks containers. It will look at practical ways to increase participation in recycling schemes and consider what needs to be done to tackle the "hard to recycle" items in household waste. This will require viable end markets for materials that are not currently recycled at scale, such as flexible plastics.

#### **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](#).

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### **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.