

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

This week's video by the Leader is the very latest in a series looking at the amazing growth and regeneration that's being realised by the council for our residents.

The Leader is seen visiting Eastbrook Film Studios, currently under construction, as well as UCL PEARL an amazing science and engineering faculty right here in the borough. All of this demonstrates how we are creating

hubs full of cutting edge innovation as well as bringing a slice of Hollywood to Dagenham.



A-Level Results Day 2023: borough's students jump for joy!

Scenes of celebration played out right across Barking and Dagenham last week as A-Level students received their results.

For A*-B grades, the borough's results were up by 13.0% compared to 2019. For A*-C grades, LBBD is above the national average at 78.6%, an improvement of 11.4% compared to 2019.

This year's results are the best ever for the borough excluding the pandemic years (2020-22) where special arrangements were made.

The Government decided, nationally, results would return to 2019 levels this year.

Despite the disruption to learning during and since the pandemic, pupils from around Barking and Dagenham demonstrated their resilience with another year of exceptional exam results, in many cases, defying national trends.



Parsloes Park sports hub progress update

We're shining the light on the whopping £13m investment to improve the offer at Parsloes Park.

Works on the new sports hub are well underway and residents will soon be able to benefit from three 3G pitches, gym facilities, a sports café plus a social space for the community to enjoy.

Set to be complete by November this year, watch the video above to find out how the works are coming along.



£400k cash injection to revamp tennis courts across the borough

Seventeen tennis courts across five parks in the borough are set to benefit from a cash injection of just over £400,00 to breathe new life into them.

Tennis courts in the following parks across Barking and Dagenham will be renovated; Barking Park, Central Park, Greatfields Park, Old Dagenham Park, and St Chads Park.

Works are underway and set to be completed by the end of October 2023. While the works are being carried out there'll be restricted access to the courts.

[You can see the full programme of works here.](#)

When complete, the tennis courts will be available to book online, making it far easier to find, book and pay for a court. More information can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/tennis-court-project



Dagenham Police Station closed temporarily

Dagenham Police Station has temporarily closed for refurbishment until Friday 24 November.

During this time, the police base at the Barking Learning Centre, IG11 7NB will now be open 24/7 where people can report crime/incidents.

Alternatively, [Romford](#) and [Ilford Police Stations](#) remain open 24/7.

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



Celebrating 76 Years of Pakistani Independence

Barking Town Hall came alive on Monday 14 August as the Pakistani flag was raised to commemorate Pakistan's 76th year of independence.

The event saw members of the community and staff gather in the Town Square to mark this occasion.



India celebrates 76 Years of Independence

Barking Town Hall was a beacon of energy on Tuesday 15 August as the Indian flag was raised to honour 76 years of India's independence.

The occasion brought together community members, children, families and staff to Barking Town Square.



Valence House's Summer Market!

[Valence House's Summer Market](#) spectacular is back again this year on Saturday 26 August, 11am – 5pm. There'll be 30 local community stallholders where you can pick up special gifts and treats including books, jewellery, homeware, beauty products and much more!

With free summer inflatables for children, an outdoor nature trail, museum explorer backpacks and tasty treats from the Tulip Tree Tearoom - there will be fun for all the family.

No need to book, just drop in!



Women's Safety Forum

Wednesday 20 September, 6pm to 7.15pm

If you would like to join
email csp@lbbd.gov.uk

In partnership with



Women's Safety Forum

Women's safety is a key priority for us and we're holding regular meetings with women and local organisations to understand more about any issues they're experiencing in the borough.

Our Women's Safety Forum is a safe place for open discussion and ideas for the next forum include:

1. CCTV overview and hotspots
2. Lighting in the borough
3. Safety and work in our parks
4. Police update

The next Forum is taking place on Wednesday 20 September on Microsoft Teams from 6pm to 7.15pm.

If you know anyone who you think should attend, please let them know and encourage them to email csp@lbbd.gov.uk to get an invite.



Cost of living survey

We're asking residents how the cost of living is affecting them so that we can improve the support on offer in Barking and Dagenham.

The survey takes just three minutes and residents who take part could be in for a chance to win £500.

Please help us spread the word – [the survey can be found here.](#)

Residents are also reminded there's a range of cost of living support available online and through our Community Hubs.

Around the council



Local people invited to train for a career in construction

Local residents are being offered the chance to train and get industry accredited qualifications in the construction industry.

The Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre is offering residents the opportunity to train for CSCS courses. On completion, participants will be able to safely work in the construction industry.

Courses include a three-day Level 1 in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment; CSCS test and preparation ultimately leading to the award of a CSCS card. In addition, the service can also assist participants to acquire other construction industry related cards.

Interested residents can find out more by email at bric@lbbd.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8227 2777 or 07977 017 133.



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

Climate recruitment opportunities

London Councils is recruiting to a number of posts to boost delivery on the capital's collaborative climate work.

Posts include three [Climate Programme Managers](#) and three [Climate Project Officers](#) as well as a [Lead Officer and Commercial Officer for the EV Delivery Team](#) and a [RetroFit London Programme Director](#).

London boroughs are committed to working positively with partners to deliver net zero – in our communities, across London and as part of team UK. Londoners have told us they want to tackle climate change and achieve net zero and the London boroughs are committed to engaging with our diverse communities to design and deliver a future that works for all Londoners.

You can learn more about the programme of work and the new posts in this [short video](#).

Innovations in Adult Social Care

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) will host a series of 'show & tell' events on Wednesdays throughout September, each of which will highlight a different innovative project in adult social care.

The events will be of interest to councillors, local government staff and others working in adult social care, as well as those interested in data and service delivery more widely.

[You can find out more about the September series, the individual topics and register to attend here.](#)

Framework launched to increase capacity in children's social work

London Innovation & Improvement Alliance (LIIA) has worked with public sector procurement organisation YPO to launch a first-of-its-kind framework to increase children's social care workforce capacity.

The new regional framework - **Framework for London in Permanent Children's Social Work Recruitment** (FLiP) - aims to improve compliant access to permanent children's social workers for all London local authorities.

Jonathan Williams of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) said: "The recruitment and retention of children's social workers is an ongoing issue for the sector. London has continued to show innovation and collaboration in responding to this challenge together, including working in greater partnership with the provider market.

"The creation of this specialist framework is a direct result of these efforts and will undoubtedly make procurement processes and effective market engagement much smoother."

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

LabourList, August 17 – [Our rolling list of Labour parliamentary candidate selections](#)

Verified News Explorer Network, August 17 - [Skyrocketing rents are creating a new war between urban sprawl and the green belt](#)

Politics.co.uk, August 17 - ["Credit deserts" leaving households unable to access good credit in cost of living crisis, according to new think tank report](#)

City A.M., August 16 - [Skyrocketing rents are creating a new war between urban sprawl and the green belt](#)

LondonWorld, August 16 - [Barking and Dagenham house prices dropped in June](#)

LondonWorld, August 16 - [Barking and Dagenham restaurant given new food hygiene rating](#)

LondonWorld, August 16 – [Tens of thousands of people 'economically inactive' in Barking and Dagenham'](#)

Verified News Explorer Network, August 16 - [Six-time Tory mayoral hopeful Andrew Boff runs for Dagenham and Rainham MP candidacy](#)

The Caterer, August 16 - [New East London hospitality school to create a 'pipeline' of talent to the industry](#)

Eastern Eye, August 15 - [Sunak expresses 'frustration' over reports of criminal winning funding to house migrants](#)

London World, 15 August - [Hundreds of no fault' evictions in Barking and Dagenham since Government's ban pledge](#)

This is Local London, 15 August - [NHS psychologist sets up children's home in Chadwell Heath](#)

Bdaily, 15 August - [North London residential development benefits from Mayor's discount scheme](#)

WhatsNew2day.com, 15 August - [Over two thirds of councils have no plans to install residential on-street chargers for electric cars](#)

BBC, 14 August - [Harben House hotel: Convicted criminal wins funding to house migrants](#)

On: Yorkshire Magazine, 14 August – [Best places to live in London](#)

Yahoo UK & Ireland, 14 August – [Food hygiene ratings handed to three Barking and Dagenham takeaways](#)

MyLondon, 13 August - [Terrifying map shows what UK would look like if ice caps melted and London is basically wiped out](#)

LondonWorld, 11 August - [A fifth of pupils persistently absent from Barking and Dagenham primary schools](#)

This is Local London, 11 August - [Green Flag awards to seven Barking and Dagenham parks](#)

This is Local London, 11 August - [King Charles thanks Dagenham student for coronation poster](#)

This is Local London, 11 August - [Food festival comes to Beam County Primary School, Dagenham](#)

Yahoo! News UK, 11 August - [Barking and Dagenham restaurant handed new food hygiene rating](#)

Media Releases

[A-Level Results Day 2023 – Barking and Dagenham students jump for joy!](#)
[Council welcomes £2m funding boost for new youth centre](#)
[East London tennis courts set for renovation thanks to £400k cash injection](#)
[Barking and Dagenham Council to extend free parking for residents and visitors](#)

Members' Training

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 session:

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

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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