

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions the start of Baby Loss Awareness Week which starts today and aims to raise awareness of support for parents and families who have been affected by pregnancy and baby loss.

He reminds families who have been affected that they are not alone as there is help and support available. Throughout the week there will be information available about local support groups in the Barking Learning Centre. He invites residents to join him outside Barking Town Hall on Sunday 15 October at 7pm for the global 'Wave of Light' event.

The Leader ends with a reminder of the Jobs Fair taking place on Wednesday 11 October at Dagenham Library, where residents can apply for jobs in construction, health and social care, hospitality, childcare, security and more as well as training opportunities available.



Residents invited to find out about their next career step at a job fair

The council's Job Shop will be hosting a Jobs Fair in partnership with Job Centre Plus this Wednesday, 11 October at Dagenham Library, from 10.30am to 1pm.

Residents will be able to speak to employers from a range of sectors including

cleaning, construction, health and social care, childcare and hospitality.

There will also be live vacancies for people to apply for on the day plus professional advice and guidance. Residents will be able to meet and talk to employers, recruiters as well as training providers to find out what local jobs and training opportunities are available.

Residents can turn up on the day or email vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk to find out more.



Customer Services Team shortlisted for industry award

The Council's Contact Centre has been shortlisted for the [2023 Engage Awards](#) in the category of Best Use of Training. The winners will be announced at the Engage Awards Ceremony, which will take place on 28 November at The Brewery on Chiswell Street, London.

The Engage Awards celebrate achievements across the entire spectrum of customer and employee engagement.

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.

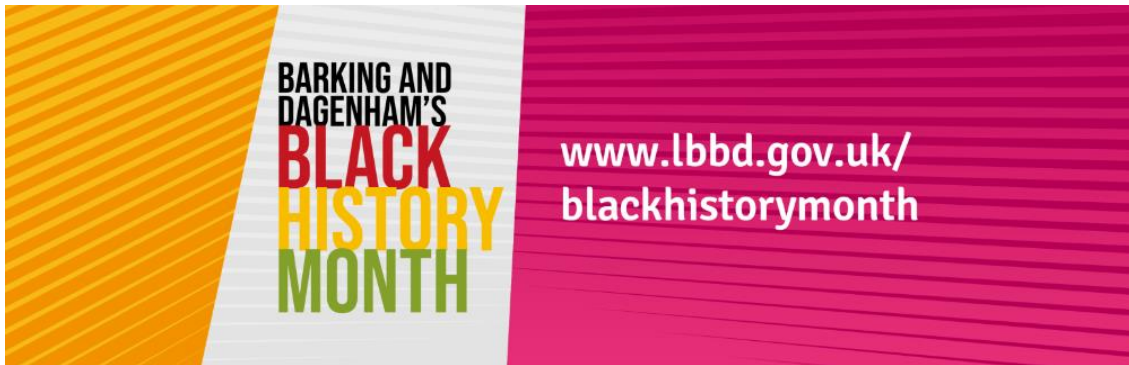
Borough News



We all Belong: Celebrating B&D's community heroes.

We're [celebrating community heroes](#) who go above and beyond to make a real difference to communities across the borough.

We explore how food brings people together and take a closer look into the lives of local people who are at the heart of the community.



Celebrating Black History Month 2023 in Barking and Dagenham

Black History Month returns this October, marking the annual celebration of the rich and diverse history of our black, African, and Caribbean community. The celebrations kicked off as we raised the Black History Month earlier today (Monday 2 October).

There will be lots to see and do, including children's workshops and special tours of Eastbury Manor House, which will look at the colonial heritage of the 16th century Grade-1 listed building.

A one-off Black History Month pop-up market will take place on Thursday 26 October (at Barking Market) to showcase black-owned businesses and local community groups.

Throughout the month, residents will also be able to read about inspirational people as part of our Black History Month Hall of Fame, which will be shared online and through social media.

First celebrated in the UK in October 1987, the focus of this year's Black History Month will be on honouring the achievements of black of black women.

For more information visit [here](#).



Advice for private renters in the borough

Residents of Barking and Dagenham who rent privately and need advice on what to do if their landlord suddenly increases their rent? We have pulled together a [simple FAQ](#) that will tell them everything they need to know, from rent increases, how and when landlords can increase rents and what to do if they can't afford it.

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

Devolution is key to addressing challenges UK cities are facing

London Councils has welcomed a major new report from the [UK Urban Futures Commission](#) which has called for the government 'to release the handbrake' on investment to unleash the potential of UK cities.

The report, produced in partnership between the Royal Society for Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce (RSA) and Core Cities UK, hopes a new suite of local powers can help boost growth, repair the social fabric and meet net zero targets.

Responding to the report, [London Councils' Acting Chair Cllr Claire Holland](#), said:

"Devolving more power and resources to the local level is key to addressing so many of the challenges communities face across the country – and this applies to London too.

"Compared to other countries around the world, the UK still operates within a highly centralised national structure that too often undermines local leaders' ability to get the best possible results for residents.

"Boroughs in the capital are as determined as ever that London's devolution journey is not yet over. With more financial levers at our disposal, we would be in a much stronger position to boost growth and invest in the long-term future of Londoners' local services. We will continue to work alongside cities from across the UK in pushing forward this vital agenda."

Black History Month

Events and activities are taking place across the capital to mark Black History Month, which kicked off last week.

[You can find a summary of borough events across London on the London Councils' website.](#)

The theme of this year's Black History Month is 'Saluting our Sisters', highlighting the crucial role of black women in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities.

For more information on Black History Month activities throughout October, please keep an eye on London Councils' [social media channels](#).

Consultation on London Parking & Traffic Enforcement Penalty Charges

London Councils are reviewing the London Parking and Traffic Enforcement Penalty Charges and want Londoners to have their say. [The consultation can be found here](#), along with additional information to support them in responding to it.

The consultation will close on 23 October 2023.

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Health Service Journal, 6 October – [Daily Insight: Appoint of contention](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Local Government Lawyer, 6 October – [Penalty charge notices and unjust enrichment](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Commercial News Media, 4 October – [UK Cities & Partners launches £50bn Investment Prospectus](#). Mentions Barking Riverside.

Architects' Journal, 4 October - [Female-led, not-for-profit company among](#)

[RIBA Client of the Year finalists](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Art Review, 3 October – [Care: What's art got to do with it?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Digital, 3 October – [Barking & Dagenham Reside launches digital repairs pilot with EVO](#).

Local Government Lawyer, 2 October – [Council obtains High Court injunction to secure compliance with improvement notices](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Business in the News, 2 October – [Attic Self Storage bolsters London expansion with acquisition of new sites in South West London](#). Mentions Barking.

Talk Retail, 2 October – [What is the average retail rent in the UK?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Barking and Dagenham Adult College gets new Principal](#).

[Court orders man to fork out over £500 for fence found to be too high](#).

[Landlord found guilty of the same offence several years later](#).

[Celebrating Black History Month 2023 in Barking and Dagenham](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Community Engagement](#): Tuesday 17 October, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

So, you have some of the basics of being a councillor under your belt. You know how to resolve a piece of casework and you understand your council's decision-making processes. What now? How do you start to tackle some of the big issues that you got elected to fix?

Councillors are unique in having the democratic mandate for 'leadership of place'. You can use your powers of collaboration and convening to help your communities to thrive. You can hear the silent majority and influence behavioural change. You can bring their big issues to the council as well as get their backing for your big plans for the area.

Managing Casework: Tuesday 28 November, 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 the Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Election matters: Introducing the new digital campaigning imprints regime: Tuesday 17 October, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Transparency of campaigning materials is vital to transparency and fairness at local and national electoral events. Digital imprints will help to ensure that digital campaigning is brought into the same regulatory space as print materials and increase the transparency of digital campaigning.

This session, primarily aimed at councillors but will be of interest to those working in electoral services, will briefly explore the reasons for the introduction

of digital imprints and how the new regime will work in practice.

Adult social care assurance: learning from the CQC pilots and the elected member perspective: Tuesday 17 October, 10.30am to 12.45pm

The Health and Care Act 2022 puts Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance of local authorities on a statutory footing. The new duty on the CQC to assess local authorities' delivery of their adult social care (ASC) duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 came into effect on 1 April 2023. Five end-to-end pilots of the assessment process are taking place between July and early September 2023 in Lincolnshire, Nottingham City, Birmingham, North Lincolnshire and Suffolk councils. We are reviewing this learning and preparing for the first tranche of 20 council assessments.

Finance without numbers – An introduction to local government finance: Thursday 2 November, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

This virtual event is for newly elected members or those just looking for a refresh. The event will provide an overview of local government finance without any numbers - focusing instead on roles and responsibilities, key terminology and processes. It will give you an understanding of both what you need to be aware of in your role and what you need to understand about your authority's role. The session will cover:

- Members' role in finance
- How finance decisions are made
- Some key financial issues and terminology

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](#).
