

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentioned a groundbreaking partnership between the Council, the Seoul Digital Foundation, South Korea and Connected Places Catapult to launch a Smart Homes Innovation Hub in the borough, which will see a group of innovative businesses working with us to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and save costs as well as bring in jobs and investment.

He also mentioned the number of services and events to mark Remembrance Day, giving us the opportunity to acknowledge and remember the sacrifices of

those who gave their today for our tomorrows.

The Leader ends by wishing residents celebrating Diwali a very Happy Diwali.



## Innovative new partnership between B&D and the Seoul Digital Foundation announced

Last week, Council Leader Cllr Darren Rodwell and Deputy Leader, Cllr Dominic Twomey joined forces with the South Korean Seoul Digital Foundation and [Connected Places Catapult](#) to launch a new Smart Homes Innovation Hub in the borough.

The new partnership will bring new solutions for more efficient homes, not just in Barking and Dagenham but across the whole of the UK. The launch of the

Smart Homes Hub will mean more jobs and investment coming into the borough and has been completed with support from the [Thames Freeport](#).

Keep an eye out for more news on this exciting new international partnership. You can find out more [here](#).



## **We're recruiting National Management Trainees**

Residents of Barking and Dagenham who are graduates are being invited to apply for the next cohort of the National Management trainee scheme for a September 2024 start.

The National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) is a two-year fast-track programme for graduates who want to make a difference while launching their management career in the public sector.

The programme includes a fully funded postgraduate qualification in leadership and management and a starting salary of £30,699 per annum.

Interested residents can attend an information Open Day on Monday 21 November 2023. Residents can register for the open day by email to [Rabeya.Ali@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Rabeya.Ali@lbbd.gov.uk) by Friday 18 November 2023, by 5pm.

There is also the opportunity to take part in a Tips for a Situational Judgement Test on Tuesday 22 November.

Interested residents can find out more [here](#). Closing date for applications is 3 January 2024.



## **Residents invited to have their say on changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme**

Residents are being invited to have their say on proposed changes to our working age Council Tax Support Scheme. The proposed changes include the introduction of income bands, making it easier for residents to identify the discounts they are eligible for.

The proposals may result in changes to some of the amounts people receive. Any potential changes would take effect from 1 April 2024.

Residents can share their views by dropping into a face-to-face support session at Dagenham Learning Centre on Wednesday 8 November from 9.30am to 3.30pm or online at <https://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/cts-2024-25>

Residents who would like additional support to help them to complete the questionnaire can email [benefits@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@lbbd.gov.uk) with the subject 'CTS consultation'.

The consultation closes on Thursday 23 November.

---



## **Residents invited to find out about careers in construction**

Local residents are being invited to a Construction Job Fair on Wednesday 15 November from 10 am to 12 noon at the BRIC, Ground Floor, Infrastructure Way, off Choats Road, Barking Riverside.

There will be live vacancies on the day and opportunities to find out about training opportunities available to get into the construction industry.

For further details email [vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk) or telephone 07977017133.

---

## **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 Mad About Christmas is back - time for some festive magic**

Barking Town Square is set to come alive with live performances, workshops and family entertainment on Saturday 2 December.

Residents and visitors can sing along to their favourite Christmas carols and get creative with Christmas crafts. They can also explore the market for stocking fillers and unique Christmas presents and test their luck with Christmas bingo at the Barking Learning Centre.

They can also meet Father Christmas for FREE as there is something for everyone this holiday season.

We look forward to celebrating with residents – [find out more here](#).

---

**Inter Faith  
Week**



## **We're marking Interfaith Week**

Join us as we mark Interfaith Week 2023, which runs from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November. Together we celebrate the positive contribution different faiths bring to our local community, increase our understanding of religious beliefs, as well as recognise all we have in common.

Find out more [here](#).

---

**Barking &  
Dagenham**



**REPAIRS  
SURGERIES**





## Repairs surgeries for council tenants now open

Council tenants with existing or ongoing repairs in their homes can now speak to a member of the housing repairs team face to face at the Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library.

Repair surgeries will be open for appointments on the first and third week of every month between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The next repairs surgery will take place on:

- Monday 20 November 2023, 9.30 to 3.30pm at Barking Learning Centre (Meeting Pod 2)

Residents will be able to book 20 minute appointments via a [booking form which will be made available online.](#)



**WOOD you believe it - pan dumper spotted on the Heathway**

[The Wall of Shame](#) is [back](#) with more revolting fly-tippers caught on camera.

Can you help us identify them? If you recognise someone featured, then email [grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk) now.

---

## Around the council

---



### **Residents interested in a career in construction invited to get in touch**

Residents interested in a career in the construction industry are being invited to get in touch with the Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre (BRIC).

The BRIC training centre in Barking Riverside is offering construction training and qualifications plus brand-new test centre facilities where interested residents can book for their CITB Health, Safety and Environment tests. They

will also be able to gain a Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction qualification.

On successful completion of the course, participants will gain the green CSCS labourer card which will allow them to work safely in the construction industry. Staff at the BRIC will also assist participants in gaining other industry related construction cards.

Residents can also save the date for a Construction Job Fair which takes place on Wednesday 15 November at the Bric Training Centre, Infrastructure Way, Off Choats Road, Gate A, IG11 0YN from 10am to 12 noon.

Residents can register to attend on the Eventbrite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/construction-jobs-fair-tickets-740836139837?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&utm-campaign=&utm-content=&utm-medium=&utm-source=&utm-term=>

To find out more please contact [bric@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:bric@lbbd.gov.uk) or telephone 020 8227 2777/07977 017133.

You can also visit the website at: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/BRIC](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/BRIC)



**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**

---

## **Low carbon fix for potholes successfully trialled in London**

An innovative 'patching' machine that can fix potholes within two minutes with far less impact on the environment [has been successfully trialled in a London borough](#).

During the trial, the London Borough of Redbridge used the Spray Injection Patching machine, made by road repair specialists Velocity, to achieve a record breaking 120 repairs in one day, and nearly 2,200 pothole repairs during the 12-week trial. Because the method has no excavation, waste, or heat involved, holes can be fixed with minimal carbon emissions and less impact on the environment.

London boroughs are pioneering green solutions that can make a real difference in their local communities. Each London borough has a local Climate Change Action Plan setting out how they will meet their climate targets and deliver a just transition for their communities and businesses.

They are working together via the [London Councils' Climate Programme](#) to establish a greener future for London and its residents. This work includes prioritising low carbon development, which seeks to increase low carbon buildings and infrastructure through borough planning powers.

Councils are currently facing huge challenges in maintaining London's roads, with a £1.59 billion highways maintenance backlog. However, boroughs are innovating to try to address this, while also reducing carbon emissions and safeguarding London's green future.

## **Business 1000 launch**

The annual London Councils/London Chamber of Commerce survey of over 1,000 businesses is the most comprehensive review of what the capital's business leaders are thinking.

The survey includes businesses of all sizes from across London and includes a detailed look at their views on topics such as apprenticeships, recruitment



plans, crime and environmental sustainability, with results broken down by sub region, business size and sector.

This year's Business 1000 will be launched at an online event at 10.30am on Wednesday 6 December. [You can book a place at the online launch here.](#)

The event will be chaired by Mayor Jason Perry, elected Mayor of Croydon and London Councils Executive Lead Member for Business, Economy and Culture.

### **MPs hear evidence of financial distress in local authorities**

London Councils Acting Chair Cllr Claire Holland was among those who gave evidence last Wednesday to the [Levelling Up, Housing and Communities \(LHUC\) select committee](#), which is taking evidence on its inquiry into financial distress in local authorities.

The LHUC select committee inquiry is seeking to examine the current landscape of financial resilience in local authorities in England, what lessons can be learned from the recent issuers of section 114 notices, and how the various responsible bodies are fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure effective and sustainable local government.

### **By-election results**

Two by-elections took place in the City of London two weeks ago. In the Cripplegate ward, the Common Council by-election on 2 November was won by Jacqui Webster (Lab). In the Langbourn ward, the Aldermanic by-election on 2 November was won by Simon Pryke (Independent).

[You can read the results in full on the City of London's website here.](#)

---

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

**Evening Standard, 10 November** – [Revealed: the London boroughs where house prices have risen fastest since 2009 crash](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**The Big Issue, 9 November** – [More than 60,000 renters in London likely to become homeless: 'We can't continue like this'](#). Also gets a mention in the [Evening Standard](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Specification, 9 November** – [Brick Awards 2023: The winners](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Freight Business Journal, 8 November** – [Thames Freeport signs Smart Homes deal](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Public Sector Executive, 6 November** – [Homelessness pressures continue to mount](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Evening Standard, 3 November** – [London's biggest regeneration zones: 265,000 new homes are on the cards in boroughs across the capital](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Screenshot, 3 November** – [UK universities introduce 3-day week to allow students to find part-time work amid financial crisis](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham..

---

## Media Releases

[Barking and Dagenham, Thames Freeport and Seoul sign landmark agreement](#).

[Dagenham shop to fork out thousands for selling illegal cigarettes](#).

[East London council leads the way with crackdown on illegal vape sales](#).

[Residents interested in a career in construction invited to get in touch](#).

---

## Members' Training

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

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

**Communicating in a crisis**: Tuesday 14 November, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
(Online)

Crisis in local government is not new and often they can happen when you least expect them. This practical workshop will help you respond when a crisis strikes — particularly through your council's communications team.

Key outcomes:

- Awareness of the reputational risks for your organisation
- Understand what to expect when crisis strikes
- Create your own crisis communications plan

**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.

**Budget setting**: Thursday 7 December, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

Dive into financial planning and budgeting, particularly when organisations are still grappling with the effects of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

Key outcomes:

- Understand the immediate and potentially ongoing financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis on the council's finances.
- Understand the financial planning and control process at a typical local council.
- Appraise and evaluate how councillors can most effectively influence budget and spending decisions.

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

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

### **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, across 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.

---

---

*Copyright © |2020| |London Borough of Barking and Dagenham|, All rights reserved.*

---

This email was sent to [lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham · Town Hall · 1 Town Square · Barking, London IG11 7LU · United Kingdom