



## Have your say!

Give us your views on our  
2024/25 budget proposals



### **Residents urged to give their views on our 2024/25 budget proposals**

We're asking residents to have their say on our [2024/25 budget proposals](#).

Councils are facing severe financial pressures up and down the country. In Barking and Dagenham, our government funding has fallen by 40% since 2010. We now face rising inflation, with increased demand for services and increased costs, especially in children's and adult services, and for energy and utilities.

To balance our budget, we are reviewing all our services and making sure we are getting value for money from every pound we spend. This includes taking a

number of measures to immediately reduce our spending, such as a pause on recruitment, making staff savings and stopping all non-essential spending.

To continue to provide key services for the most vulnerable in our community, the council is proposing a 5% increase in Council Tax, including 2% ringfenced for social care, which will add around £1.40 per week onto the average band D property (excluding the GLA element) from April.



**LIVE** with the Leader  
Budget 2024/2025

Email in your budget related questions:  
[socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk)

#BDLeaderLive Barking & Dagenham

### **Leader Live Budget 2024/25**

Residents are invited to tune in to a special budget Facebook Live Q&A session with the Council Leader, Cllr Darren Rodwell and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Core Services, Cllr Dominic Twomey on Tuesday 16 January, from 6pm to 7pm on the [Leader's Facebook page](#).

Residents can find out more about the [2024/25 budget proposals](#) and ask their questions.

They can also send in their questions about the budget by email at

[socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk) by Thursday 11 January. We will try to answer as many questions as we can on the day, and for those who cannot watch it live, it will be available to watch on the [Leader's Facebook page](#) following the session.

---



## **Nominations are now open for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards**

Nominations are now open for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards which celebrate the amazing achievements of women who live and work in the borough.

This year we have nine special award categories which include:

- Community Project of the Year
- Community Impact Award
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Educator of the Year
- Health and Wellbeing Champion of the Year
- Woman of Courage

- Jodie Chesney Young Community Champion of the Year
- Anne Eastlea Lifetime Achievement Award
- Barking and Dagenham Woman of the Year 2024

Nominations close midnight Wednesday 31 January and can be made [here](#).

---



**Community Reporting Hubs launched**

In December, we launched two Community Reporting Hubs where residents can report crimes, antisocial behaviour and raise any issues. The two hubs are based at Dagenham Library and Whalebone Lane Community Hubs and officers from our Enforcement Team and the Police will be on hand to talk to residents. There will be officers based at the two hubs twice a week:

- Dagenham Library Community Hub, every Monday, 3pm to 7pm and every Thursday 10am to 2pm
- Whalebone Lane Community Hub, every Monday 10am to 2pm and every Thursday 11am to 3pm

For more information on the Community Reporting Hubs, residents can visit the [website](#)..

---

## **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.

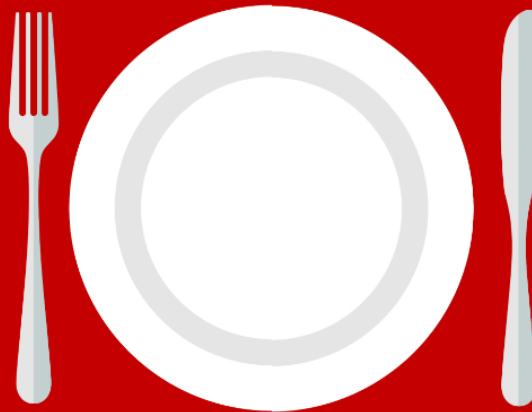
---

## **Borough News**

---



**53% OF RESIDENTS SKIP  
OR HAVE SMALLER  
MEALS BECAUSE OF COSTS**



**IT'S NOT OKAY.  
BUT IT IS OKAY TO REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT**

**[WWW.LBBD.GOV.UK/COST-LIVING-SUPPORT](http://WWW.LBBD.GOV.UK/COST-LIVING-SUPPORT)**

## **We are still supporting residents with the cost of living**

Now more than ever, as the temperatures drop, residents will be feeling the pinch with sky high energy prices and the cost of food and shopping.

That's why we're sharing easy ways for residents to access help if they need it - from benefits and low-cost loans, through to income maximisation and signposting them to food banks, warm spaces, and wellbeing support.

There's lots of help available and it's really important that we can all talk

confidently about it.

Residents can take a look at the latest cost of living support guides which bring together the support we offer, alongside our partners in one place.

[View the Cost of Living Information Support Guides here.](#)

Residents can also drop into [Community Hubs](#) across the borough to access support face to face.

---



## Find out more about the population of Barking and Dagenham

One year on from the 2021 Census results, the Office for National Statistics recently released mid-year population estimates as of 30 June 2022.

Did you know that Barking and Dagenham has the highest proportion of young people under the age of 16 in the whole country? And did you know that we also have the highest birth rate in London and that we have the lowest average house price in London?

Residents can check out the latest estimate of the borough's population along with key stats [here](#).

---



### **Have a read of the latest Police newsletter**

The latest newsletter from the local Police Superintendent David Rhodes is out. You can [have a read](#) and find out what the police have been up to, crime prevention advice and who your local neighbourhood team is.

---

### **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.

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

---

### UK-wide consultation on plans to simplify electronic goods recycling

On 28 December 2023, a joint UK Government, Scottish and Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive [consultation was launched seeking views on reforms to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\) Regulations 2013](#), which are intended to increase levels of separately collected WEEE for re-use and recycling.

The plans will ensure manufacturers, suppliers and retailers will be responsible for recycling electrical goods.

The government also [published a call for evidence seeking views on longer term ways of ensuring the WEEE system supports the circular economy](#), including how WEEE is treated at the end of its life.

The consultation and call for evidence close on 7 March 2024 – for any questions, please contact [weee@defra.gov.uk](mailto:weee@defra.gov.uk)

### Make Things Right: campaign refresh and toolkit updated

Last year (6 March 2023), the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, launched the government's ['Make Things Right' campaign which urges social housing tenants to complain about substandard housing](#).

DLHUC has refreshed the [Make Things Right: campaign toolkit](#) to help councils and other partners to spread the word in their communities and to support residents.

### Date set for eligible working parents to apply for free childcare – reminder

On 29 November 2023, [the Department for Education announced that applications for free childcare for working parents would open on 2 January 2024.](#)

From January, eligible working parents of two-year-olds will be able to register to access 15 hours free childcare per week from April 2024. The recommended time to register is between mid-January and the end of February.

From 30 November, funding will also be available for new childminders who join the profession or who completed their registration on or after 15 March 2023, or those re-registering at least 12 months after the cancellation of a previous registration.

---

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

**Evening Standard, 4 January** – [London property forecast 2024: What will happen to house prices, rents and new homes? Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

**Hospitality & Catering News, 3 January** – [Future food hub in east London a step closer.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 3 January** – [Damp and mould: London tops league of rogue landlords criticised by Housing Secretary Michael Gove.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Architects' Journal, 3 January** – [Multistorey industrial developments are an architectural opportunity.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**BBC London, 2 January** – [Leaving London: Pressure on outer boroughs as families move in.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 2 January** – [Pie and smash: Police hunt driver who repeatedly rammed car into pie shop in Dagenham.](#)

**LocalGov, 2 January** – [Councils banned from charging for small-scale DIY waste disposal](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Big Issue, 22 December** – [Rents in UK are rising at highest rate in decades. Will they keep going up?](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Children & Young People Now, 21 December** – [Plans to convert derelict London community hall into youth centre](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 20 December** – [Government invests £235m in London's roads using funds from HS2](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 18 December** – [Half of London boroughs could face £2,000 average council tax bills from April in latest cost of living blow](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**The Observer, 17 December** – ['All my friends have moved': how UK cities have been hollowed out by housing price rises](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

---

## Media Releases

[What a waste of money! Property investment company issued with a confiscation order of over £60k.](#)

[Washing money away as local business ordered to pay costs of over £20k.](#)

[Multi-million pound Bobby Moore sports hub opens in Dagenham.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham youngsters aim to be next Peter Jones or Deborah Meaden.](#)

[Residents urged to have their say on proposals to balance council budget.](#)



[Six people awarded the Leader's Recognition Award for help with summer's fire 2022.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham Council extends free parking.](#)

[East London council launches partnership to support local business.](#)

---

## **Members' Training**

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

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

#### **Data and managing council performance – free introductory training for councillors - Friday 1 March 2024, 10am to 12.30pm**

This introductory training session will focus on data and the role it plays in managing council performance. The programme which has been developed in association with King's College London has been designed for councillors.

The session will cover the following topics:

- what is data?
- common ways in which data is analysed and presented
- key questions to ask of our data
- performance management – measuring what matters.

### **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.

---

---

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