

**Helping  
you through  
tough times**



**building a stronger  
future together**

**W** [lbbd.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](http://lbbd.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)

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**f** barkinganddagenham

**PLUS  
INFO ON  
COST OF LIVING  
SUPPORT & OUR NEW  
WOMEN'S MUSEUM**

# Foreword from the Leader of the Council

Dear resident,

Just like families living in the borough, councils up and down the country face unprecedented pressures on their budgets.

We have all grown used to bigger bills and a hike in shopping prices. One of the consequences has been more people who need our support. That's why we have worked hard alongside our community partners to help residents as part of our Cost Of Living Alliance. You can find more information at one of our Community Hubs or on pages 4-5.

At the same time, the last few years have been marked by austerity or dwindling funding for public services. As a council, today we receive just 40% of what we received a decade ago - for every £1 we had then we have just 66p today. And just 16% of our funding comes from local council tax from residents. That means we are largely reliant on funding from central government. And it's why we are trying to make every penny count.

However, just as our funding has fallen so dramatically, our population has grown! 33,000 more people call the borough home today compared to 10 years ago and one in four residents are not old enough yet to have sat their GCSEs. All this has increased demand for our services.

We all want to be looked after in old age or if we have a fall or something happens to us. But the rising cost of social care for our elderly and vulnerable people is also something that has added pressure on our budget.



Despite this, we continue to be a borough of huge ambition. In the last few years, we have secured £4 billion of investment with nearly 10,000 new homes, our two film studios (the second one opens later this year) and the three wholesale markets of London, on top of world-class scientific facilities at London East in Dagenham. And we have left no stone unturned in working to secure more jobs through the Thames Freeport.

As the borough that helped secure equal pay for women, I am hugely proud to see a women's museum opening in Barking this month. It will celebrate all that we have in common as well as the vital contribution women have made to our lives.

Finally, there may still be a chill in the air, but Spring is just around the corner. We have wonderful parks and open spaces where you can stretch your legs, and we have been investing in them, too. You can find out more inside this booklet, and more besides.

**Councillor Darren Rodwell**  
Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council



## Money Matters: Why we need a funding boost

**40%**

Our funding from Government has been reduced by **40%** since 2010



**£11.4 million**

Inflation has cost the council an additional **£11.4m** in budget for 2023/24



**£1,206**

The average cost of providing an elderly residential placement is **£1,206** a week

**£4 million**

We spend on average a net **£4 million** every week to provide council services



**33,000**

more people live in B&D now than 10 years ago (the third highest growth rate in England and Wales)



**59%**

For every £10 we have, around **£6 is spent** on adult and children's social care



**26.1%**

of residents are **under 16** (we have the highest proportion of under 16s in England and Wales)



**Over £10,000**

Supporting a child in care with complex needs can cost over **£10,000** every week



**£4 billion**

Councils in England face a funding gap of **£4 billion** over the next two years



# Cost of living support & where you can get help



Things are really tough right now and we know many people are feeling the pinch. You can get help if you need it - from benefits and low-cost loans, through to support with food, warm spaces, and help into work.



Working with our partners, we're bringing together lots of support including:

**Help with Money**

Did you know BD Money offers a range of money support to help you maximise your income? From making sure you're getting the right benefits to providing trusted low-cost loans.

Find out more at: [bdmoney.co.uk](http://bdmoney.co.uk)

**Help with Food**

There are lots of ways you can take the edge off your food shopping bill - from coming along to food workshops to learn how to cook healthy meals on a tight budget, or visiting food banks for some extra groceries.

Find out more at: [lbbd.gov.uk/help-with-food](http://lbbd.gov.uk/help-with-food)

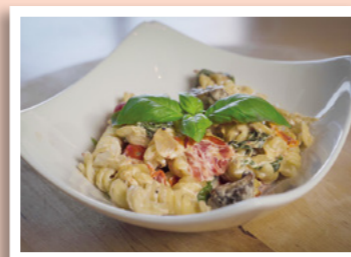
**Help with Finding Work**

Whether you're looking for the right role for you, or that next step in your career, from refreshing your CV to free upskilling courses - there's lots of help to get you back on track.

Find out more at: [lbbd.gov.uk/help-getting-work](http://lbbd.gov.uk/help-getting-work)



Take a look at our brand new cook book 'Come Cook With Us' which has a range of nutritious, value for money recipes that have been written by the community. And check out our short videos to see local people preparing tasty and cheap dishes. [lbbd.gov.uk/cook-with-us](http://lbbd.gov.uk/cook-with-us)



## Visit a Community Hub



If you're struggling with the cost of living, visit our Community Hubs where you can get a whole range of support under one roof, near to where you live.

While we might not have the answer to everything, we'll be there to listen and connect you to the help you need.

So why not pop into your nearest Community Hub to get advice and support from a friendly face?

Find out more at: [lbbd.gov.uk/community-hubs](http://lbbd.gov.uk/community-hubs)

### Support for families

We've recently launched three Family Hubs across the borough for families with children aged 0 to 19 who need a bit of extra help.

Our welcoming Family Navigators can provide a whole range of information, advice and support including:

- building positive family routines
- specialist support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

Find out more at: [lbbd.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://lbbd.gov.uk/familyhubs)

You can get more information about the support that's available at [lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support](http://lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support) or call **020 8215 3000** if you'd like to talk through your situation and get more help.

## OneBorough newsletter



Get the latest information about the help we can provide by signing up to our One Borough email newsletter. It delivers news and information about free events, competitions, ticket giveaways, jobs and training direct to your inbox.

Sign up at [lbbd.gov.uk/oneborough](http://lbbd.gov.uk/oneborough)

# We're securing new jobs, homes & opportunities for you



Despite the challenges we face, we're doing everything we can to unlock our borough's potential. We're securing investment and creating new partnerships to deliver the homes, jobs and opportunities our community needs.

## Jobs and local investment

We've secured billions of pounds in investment, and brought in thousands of jobs, homes and new opportunities over the past ten years.

And we're committed to making sure that all residents get the chance to benefit with training, workshops, skills classes and much more.

Leading the way is Film Barking and Dagenham's 'Make it Here' programme. It has seen thousands of local students having the opportunity to use film equipment at industry led careers days, access vocational training and learn more about opportunities in the film sector. Find out more at [filmbarkinganddagenham.com](http://filmbarkinganddagenham.com)

It's part of our drive to bring the big screen to Barking and Dagenham with East London's newest film studios. They'll bring a multi-million-pound boost to the local economy, creating jobs for local people and opportunities for local businesses.

And our new relationship with the Corporation of London is bringing London's iconic meat, vegetable and fish markets right here.

We're also working with international partners. Last year we signed a groundbreaking agreement with South Korea's Seoul Digital Foundation, the Thames Freeport and Connected Places Catapult to launch a Smart Homes Innovation Hub in Barking.

It will improve the energy and heating efficiency of existing homes in the borough - lowering bills for residents and reducing carbon emissions.

The project will also make homes safer, especially for more vulnerable residents, through the development of health tech that can be used in the home and in the community.

## Building homes our residents need

We're proud to be one of the largest affordable home builders in the country, we're currently building one in five of all affordable homes in London, and we're not stopping.

We have one of the largest house building programmes in the country at Barking Riverside and over 1,500 new homes are under construction through Be First right across Barking and Dagenham.

Building safe, warm, high-quality homes is a key priority for us and we aim to build over 40,000 homes by 2037 as well as creating 20,000 new jobs.

## A safer and greener borough for you

### Park life

Our parks are the living, breathing heart of Barking and Dagenham. Since 2017, we've secured over £23 million of investment to transform and improve our much-loved green spaces.

We have six Green Flag Awards under our belt, which recognise the best managed parks and green spaces, and we're working hard to secure even more over the coming years.

Parsloes Park, one of the largest open green spaces in Dagenham, is home to the brand-new £12.8m Bobby Moore Sports Hub, providing a fantastic upgrade of football facilities for the community. The hub boasts three 3G pitches, gym facilities, a café, plus a social space for the community to enjoy every single day.

We've also invested over £1 million in delivering a major park development scheme at Central Park. The improvements include landscaping, tree and wild flower planting, and a brand-new toddler playground. A junior adventure play area and a number of improvements to footpaths and accessibility are still to come.

### Women's safety

Making sure women and girls feel safe when they're out and about in the borough is another top priority for us.

We're continuing to work closely with the police and we encourage local women to join us and the police at regular Walk & Talks where you can let us know more about any places in the borough where you don't feel safe. Email [EAwalkandtalk@met.police.uk](mailto:EAwalkandtalk@met.police.uk) if you would like to go on one.

We also hold a regular Women's Safety Forum where residents can raise any issues they're experiencing. Email [esp@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:esp@lbbd.gov.uk) to join our Forum.

### New Community Reporting Hubs

We're also making it easier for you to report crime and antisocial behaviour or raise issues.

At our new Community Reporting Hubs, you can walk in to see a Police or Enforcement Officer at the times and venues below:

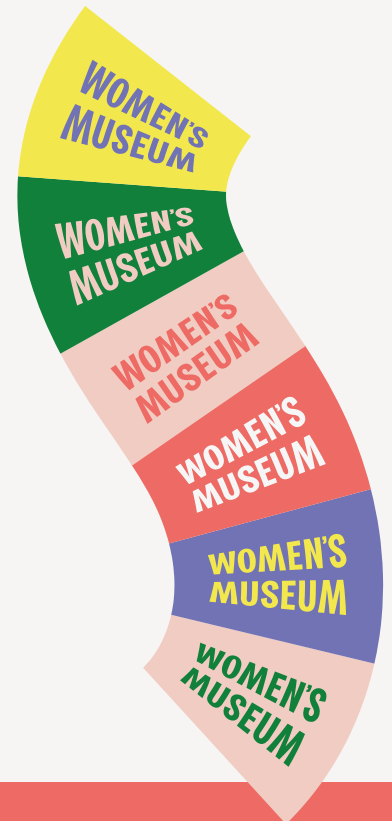
- Dagenham Library Community Hub, 1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham RM10 9QS (Mondays from 3pm to 7pm and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm)
- Whalebone Lane Community Hub, Chadwell Heath Community Centre, High Road RM6 6AS (Mondays from 10am to 2pm and Thursdays 11am to 3pm)

### Dagenham Heathway Police Team

In January, we supported the Police as they launched a brand-new Dagenham Heathway Team. They're focused on local issues that residents have raised and we're working closely with them to tackle problems together.

# WOMEN'S MUSEUM

OPENING ON  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY  
ON FRIDAY  
8 MARCH



EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES.  
EVERYONE WELCOME. FREE.  
OPENING HOURS: 11AM – 5PM, THURS – SAT

[oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/womensmuseum](http://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/womensmuseum)  @thewomensmuseum



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