

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Step-Free Access at Dagenham East Station

We are writing this letter to strongly support Barking and Dagenham Council's campaign to secure step-free access at Dagenham East station.

At Brook Sixth Form and Academy, located in the London East Business Park, where there is a positive regeneration programme, we have firsthand experience of the limitations that the lack of step-free access has on our staff, students, and visitors. Despite our facilities being fully inclusive and designed to accommodate a wide range of mobility needs, the absence of accessible public transport creates significant barriers.

We have lost a valued member of staff, who was unable to continue to work with us, due to the challenges caused by the station's lack of accessibility. The physical challenge of using the station stairs made commuting unsustainable for them. This is not just a loss for our Academy, but a reminder of the wider barriers that people with disabilities continue to face.

Additionally, access for members of the public attending events, such as our Open Evenings, has been severely impacted. Families with prams, individuals with mobility challenges, and elderly visitors have all faced difficulties reaching our site, which could undermine our efforts to remain an inclusive and welcoming institution for all.

Dagenham East has seen extraordinary growth and investment, with institutions such as us, Brook Sixth Form and Academy, Eastbrook Film Studios, and the PEARL and CAVE research facilities bringing us an ever increasing vibrant and innovative community. However, the station's inaccessibility stands in sharp contrast. We fully support the call for an immediate start to step-free access improvements at Dagenham East station. This is not only essential for ensuring equal opportunities but also vital for supporting the economic and social growth of the area.

We urge Transport for London and relevant authorities to prioritise this matter and ensure that the momentum of this positive change in Dagenham East is not hindered by the outdated infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms. K Donovan
Principal
Brook Sixth Form and Academy