In July 2017, Barking and Dagenham Together: The Borough Manifesto was launched. This was borne out of the Growth Commission’s recommendation to produce a Manifesto that outlines how the borough will grow, prosper and be transformed into a place people are proud of and want to live, work, study and stay. People in our borough have poorer outcomes, prospects and experiences in comparison to the rest of London. By 2037 we want to ensure our residents have the same opportunities and life chances as others in the capital. Because our residents and visitors deserve better.

We all have a part to play in improving the borough. The Manifesto is a collaborative, community led, place-based vision, shaped by almost 3,000 residents. The vision is bold, and we are determined and passionate about our borough. The Manifesto is owned and delivered by the Barking and Dagenham Delivery Partnership (BDDP), which brings together organisations from across the public, private, and community and voluntary sectors. This partnership reflects the need to collaborate as no one organisation can do this alone. Through partnership working we are also able to adopt a joined-up approach and promote collaborative decision making and responsibility.

The targets set out in the Manifesto are ambitious and will be hard-work. But we are ready for the challenge. Over the last 12 months we have seen many exciting developments all over the borough. A preferred bidder was announced for the Film Studio at Dagenham East, building work has commenced on the Future Youth Zone, Coventry University welcomed its first ever cohort of students, and the Summer of Festivals programme celebrated its most successful year yet. These are all examples of steps being taken to make our vision a reality. Above all, we can and will act to ensure Barking and Dagenham remains a community that all can afford, by keeping questions of inclusive growth at the heart of every conversation and all we do. We are one borough, one community, no-one left behind.

Nobody expected significant change within one year; achieving the aspirations in the Manifesto is a long-term process, and we are at the start of the journey. Many of the outcomes will take time to change. I hope this report is of interest to you and encourages you to consider how we can all work together and join forces to fulfil the community’s vision. After all, no-one can deliver this vision alone.

Councillor Saima Ashraf, Chair of the Barking and Dagenham Delivery Partnership

“This partnership reflects the need to collaborate, as no one organisation can do this alone”
Borough Manifesto Targets

The following wheel contains our matrix of key targets, mapped over 7 cross-cutting themes. This reflects the fact that outcomes are interconnected and often interdependent. If we are to achieve the aspirations and the vision set out in the Manifesto, we expect these targets to improve incrementally between now and 2037.

One year since the launch of the Borough Manifesto, this report provides the first annual update on the progress made towards our targets and continues the borough’s story. On the following pages, Barking and Dagenham and our comparator’s latest performance across these targets is presented. This is intended to provide a visual snapshot of Barking and Dagenham in 2018. If you would like to see more detailed data and graphs for each target, data packs can be found at lbbd.gov.uk/boroughmanifesto. Or alternatively, visit the newly launched Borough Data Explorer at lbbd.gov.uk/boroughdataexplorer.

- Percentage of new homes built compared to annual target.
- Additional affordable homes as a percentage of all new homes.
- Ratio of house prices to earnings.
- Median private sector rent.
- Council housing in decent conditions.
- Residents regularly participating in the community.
- People volunteering as reported in the Residents Survey.
- Waste Production per household (Kilograms).
- Recycling rates.
- Perception of “Litter and dirt in the streets”; as measured in Residents Survey.
- People with Level 1 and above.
- Attainment 8 score per pupil.
- Police recorded number of incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Council recorded number of incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Perceived safety measured by Residents Survey.
- Hate Crime reported to police.
- Domestic abuse offences per 1,000 residents.
- Average number of offences in previous 12 month per victim.

- Average Income improving faster than the East London average.
- Unemployment rate.
- % of obese adults.
- NHS admissions where obesity was a factor (per 100k population).
- % of Year 6 pupils recorded with excess weight.
- % of people claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Job Seekers Allowance (JSA).
- New businesses which survive five years.
- Jobs density.
- Total jobs growth.
- Gross median annual earnings.
- Male healthy life expectancy.
- Female healthy life expectancy.
- Self-perception of Life satisfaction.
- Self-perception of Worthiness.
- Self-perception of Happiness.
- Self-perception of Anxiety.
- Proportion of adults who walk at least 10 minutes 5 times a week.
- Proportion of adults who cycle at least once a week.
- Proportion of active residents (participating in sport and physical activity at least twice in the past month).
- Proportion of active residents (doing at least 150 minutes moderate or vigorous physical activity per week).
- Male healthy life expectancy.
- Female healthy life expectancy.
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- Self-perception of Happiness.
- Self-perception of Anxiety.
Tracking our progress

This graph featured in the Borough Manifesto shows where Barking and Dagenham aspires to be in the London league tables by 2037, alongside where we were in 2017 and where we are now, in 2018. Achieving the targets set out in the Borough Manifesto would see us move to around mid-table for many of the indicators by 2037. However, we know that climbing up these league tables will be no easy task. A number of factors contribute to our position including the performance of other London boroughs; our performance needs to outpace theirs in order for us to move up.

This updated graph shows our performance one year in to the 20-year vision of the Manifesto. We know that moving up the tables will take time and therefore to expect to see big improvements in one year is unrealistic. If we want to realise the Manifesto’s bold aspirations, we must first lay the foundations for improvement. This includes seizing opportunities and strengthening partnership working in order to deliver improvements for residents over the coming years. Only after this has been done, will we begin to see real change for residents, as shifting outcomes up the league tables in a sustainable way will take years to achieve. The targets are deliberately long term in nature, and we are just at the start of our journey.

1 = best in London
32 = worst in London
**Skills and education**

- **Level 1 qualifications**: 74.2% (below previous year (74.3%) below London average (84.1%))
- **Level 4 qualifications**: 30.7% (below previous year (33.3%) below London average (51.8%))

**Community Engagement**

- **Average Attainment 8 score per pupil (GCSE)**: 46.7% (below previous year (49.7%) below London average (48.9%))
- **Engaged with Studio 3 Arts in 17/18**: 26,606 (above previous year (25,400))
- **Gave unpaid help in last 12 months**: 23.3% (below previous year (22.0%))
- **Community Engagement non-decent Council homes**: 17%
- **Median private sector rent**: £1,200

**Housing**

- **More new homes to be built in next 5 years by Be First than previously planned**: 74.5%
- **More affordable homes to be built in next 5 years by Be First than previously planned**: 42.9%
- **Ratio house prices to earnings**: 9.9% (below East London average (10.3%))
- **Median private sector rent**: £1,200 (below East London average (£1,370))
- **Non-decent Council homes**: 17% (below previous year (48%))
- **Waste per household**: 843kg (below previous year (957.2kg) above London average (579.2kg))
- **Recycling rate**: 25.3% (above previous year (18.9%) below London average (33.0%))
- **Year 6 pupils with excess weight**: 42.8% (below previous year (42.4%) below East London average (40.7%))
- **Adults volunteered to support sport/physical activity**: 8.9%

**Health and Wellbeing**

- **Adults with excess weight**: 62.8% (below previous year (69.1%) below East London average (58.1%))
- **Every One Every Day participants registered during first 10 months**: 1,200
- **NHS admissions where obesity a factor**: 1,250 (above previous year (929) above East London average (1,075))
- **Life satisfaction self-perception**: 7.50
- **Happiness self-perception**: 7.38
- **Anxiety self-perception**: 3.02
- **Adults walk 5 times a week**: 25.7% (above previous year (23.9%) below East London average (35.2%))
- **Male healthy life expectancy**: 58.2% (below previous year (59.8) below London average (63.5))
- **Female healthy life expectancy**: 60.7% (below previous year (68.5) below London average (64.4))
- **Adults cycle once a week**: 6.8% (below previous year (7.1%) below East London average (12.8%))
- **Adults active 150 minutes per week**: 49.2% (below previous year (54.5%) below East London average (60.7%))

**Environment**

- **Recycling rate**: 3.02 %
- **Adults with excess weight**: 62.8% (above previous year (69.1%) above London average (58.1%))
- **Median private sector rent**: £1,200
- **Non-decent Council homes**: 17% (above previous year (48%))
- **Waste per household**: 843kg (above previous year (957.2kg) above London average (579.2kg))
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**State of the Borough 2018**

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Case studies

"We need genuine and meaningful partnerships if we are to achieve our aspirations and get the basics right from now until 2037."

The remainder of this report highlights case studies from a number of partners working within Barking and Dagenham. These demonstrate how we are laying the foundations to deliver the vision of the Borough Manifesto. This is not an exhaustive list of partners and there are many other organisations doing great work in the borough. These simply provide a flavour of the work local organisations have recently done, work they plan on doing in the upcoming months and years, and crucially, how this work benefits people who visit, live and work in the borough.

Where relevant, the case studies also highlight how each organisation is working with other organisations towards aspirations in the Borough Manifesto. This is a testament to the significance of collaboration; we need genuine and meaningful partnerships if we are to achieve our aspirations and get the basics right from now until 2037.

Future Youth Zone

Onside Youth Zone is a national charity providing young people aged between 8 and 19 – and those up to 25 with additional needs – somewhere safe and stimulating to spend their leisure time. We are excited that Future Youth Zone, currently being built in Parsloes Park, will be the first state of the art youth facility of its kind in London.

Future Youth Zone has been built around the ideas and aspirations of the borough’s young people and a development group has been set up enabling them to have a say in key decisions. They designed the Youth Zone’s brand – aptly naming it Future – and have worked with architects to design the interior layout. After all, it’s their Youth Zone.

Annual membership is £5, and each activity will cost just 50p thereafter. The facility will be staffed by a dedicated team of trained youth workers and volunteers, with mentoring also available to help young people deal with any issues they may be facing. There will also be a focus on employment and enterprise, supporting members to develop the necessary skills to be work ready. We will adapt sessions for young people with additional needs to enable anyone to access them. We want Future Youth Zone to be inclusive, and to provide everyone with the opportunity to participate and succeed.

Future Youth Zone will be open 7 days per week, 365 days per year, offering a wide range of activities, including DJing, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and sports. Facilities will include a four-court sports hall, 3G pitch, fitness suite and martial arts area. The Youth Zone café will serve hot, nutritious meals for just £1, providing space for people to socialise and eat a healthy meal.

We are pleased that work on Future Youth Zone is well underway. Construction began in January 2018, and by the end of April the building’s steel frame had been completed. Over the summer, contractors have been working to design the interior by installing floors, walls and staircases - a significant milestone in the building programme. Future Youth Zone is set to open in Spring 2019 and will be an invaluable space for the borough’s young people to develop new skills and engage with each other in a safe, positive and accessible environment.
At Studio 3 Arts, we put local people at the heart of everything that we do. Our mission is to be ambitious and create brilliant, challenging, relevant work that acknowledges and responds to the barriers that prevent arts participation. Our vision is a world where everyone has access to outstanding art.

We run regular events, including “Family Saturdays”, a monthly get together for parents and young children with a community cafe and free arts activities, “Spoken Not Stirred” and “LiveWire” open mic nights and “Too Fat To Run?”, a free running club for women. We offer free weekly classes and school holiday performing arts projects for children and young people, where they create their own theatre shows to perform in our brand new studio theatre.

In July 2018, we hosted “Clout!”, London’s newest fringe arts festival; it’s a dream come true to host a fringe arts festival right here in the borough. The festival offered a wide range of performances, incorporating theatre, comedy, drama, music, clowning, dance, spoken word and puppetry. The quality and breadth of work on offer was superb, there was something for everyone at this festival. Risky, provocative, funny, joyful – it was all in there. Clout! illustrated that there is more that unites us than divides us, and with diversity comes creativity and strength.

By promoting, co-creating and delivering quality arts, and offering new creative experiences we hope to improve individual lives, reduce social exclusion and help to build stronger communities. We are proud to be a part of the growing network of creative and cultural opportunities for local people in Barking and Dagenham.

Barking & Dagenham College (BDC) is a further education college working with 12,000 students over the age of 16. Our work is far reaching; we offer high-quality technical and professional training and work with young people and adults to further their career development. In addition, BDC is affiliated with several universities – including Coventry University London and the University of East London - to support students who aspire to pursue further education at university.

We have recently launched a number of partnership initiatives to further enhance our educational offer. In October 2017, we partnered with Huawei - a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) – to form the Huawei ICT Academy which allows us to deliver Huawei Certification training. This means that students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience and become employment-ready in a rapidly changing and growing ICT sector. Although this partnership is still young, there are ambitions to expand the certification offer in the future.

We were delighted to recently receive £5m from the Mayor of London to complete our Centre for Advanced Technologies (CAT). The project involves the development of an advanced and higher skills training centre, delivering cutting-edge STEM training courses to meet the skill needs of London and the local area. We expect the centre to open in November 2019. Students training at the CAT will receive technical qualifications relevant to emerging occupational areas such as construction and infrastructure, data, TV and film, and creative and digital industries; areas expected to see future job increases in the borough. Fittingly, our motto is “more than a qualification” highlighting our emphasis on helping young people and residents gain industry-relevant, practical experience.

BDC also offers a range of specialist support for students with special educational needs. We work with 240 special needs learners and we have a highly trained team who provide a range of support to make sure all students have equality of access to education. This works towards the Manifesto aspiration that Barking and Dagenham will be a place where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to succeed.

We are proud of our strong reputation in entrepreneurship and innovation and always endeavour to put learners at the heart of everything that we do.
Coventry University (CU London) opened its doors in September 2017 at the refurbished former Civic Centre in Dagenham, offering career-focused university education at the heart of the borough. In our first year, we attracted over 470 full-time students and next year we aim to more than double this number, by recruiting 1,100 students by July 2019.

We offer a range of high-quality, flexible courses available either full-time, part-time or on the weekend for those who work or have other responsibilities during the week. In addition, we want to ensure our courses are available to all. In our first year, we provided £95,000 in scholarships and bursaries to support students and the community alike.

As well as our educational offer, our facilities are used for community purposes. The best universities are increasingly taking on more ‘civic’ roles and we are committed to establishing CU London as a community hub. This means that – beyond qualifications alone – we work with key partners such as Participatory City, Future Youth Zone and Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership to drive social and economic growth and community engagement. These organisations have joined us on campus – if only temporarily – to help embed relevant, locally-connected partnerships and to immediately establish a joined-up approach to education and community engagement throughout our start-up phase.

We are also working with Be First to bring good quality, affordable student accommodation into the borough – if only temporarily – to help embed relevant, locally-connected partnerships and to immediately establish a joined-up approach to education and community engagement throughout our start-up phase.

We are also working with Be First to bring good quality, affordable student accommodation into the borough. It is hoped that this accommodation can help create a ‘campus’ for all students and staff to fully enjoy the new Central Park investment and the surrounding university environment. CU London is creating a strong ‘civic university’ serving both students and the community alike.

Barking and Dagenham Somali Women’s Association

Barking and Dagenham Somali Women’s Association (BDSWA) is a charity dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of women and families in Barking and Dagenham, offering services including housing support, benefits advice and training programmes. Many women we work with face multiple challenges, including language barriers which may prevent them from accessing other services. At BDSWA we ensure that they can access support, tailored to their needs.

One of our recent key achievements is the launch of our user-led Wellness Café. The café is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and focuses on the participants, rather than the issues they’re experiencing, in friendly, social, safe and non-judgemental spaces for women. The café runs activities to bring people together and promote independent living, social inclusion and to create social connections among communities.

Also, earlier this year, our service users decided to help homeless people during the snow. We delivered 100 sandwiches everyday for a week to hostels and a local women’s refuge. We are so proud of this huge act of kindness from our service users, highlighting their sense of social responsibility. It is our mission to support those in need of help and support in Barking and Dagenham.

We are committed to raising outcomes and aspirations, building skills, promoting community cohesion and creating a sense of belonging within our local community. We delivered 100 sandwiches everyday for a week to hostels and a local women’s refuge.

Eastside Community Heritage

Since 1993, we have worked with more than 900 community groups and organisations to document, record and celebrate the lives of “ordinary” people in East London.

We previously worked with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to collate an oral history of Barking Park. The borough’s young people interviewed residents about their memories of the park and then collated and edited the footage into a short ten-minute film. Not only did young people learn about oral histories and how to use camcorders, this facilitated a meaningful conversation between younger and older residents, who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to interact.

Last year we ran an anti-bullying project in collaboration with AB Phab - a youth club in Dagenham. We worked with young people with disabilities, their parents and their carers to raise awareness and start a conversation about disability, bullying and wellbeing, as everyone has the right to feel safe and supported. We were thrilled that a film about the project starring one of our young people was featured on Comic Relief last year and is also now featured as a film on all British Airways flights. This is a testament to our young people and something we are immensely proud of.

This facilitated a meaningful conversation between younger and older residents who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to interact.
Although we are technology driven, we pride ourselves in remaining people-focused.

Care City brings partners together to accelerate work in two main areas – healthy ageing and social regeneration. We aim to reduce avoidable injury and premature deaths of older people and to increase the number of older people enjoying a high quality of life.

In terms of social regeneration, we are committed to improving the health of our residents, so that everyone has the opportunity to make a positive and meaningful contribution in the community, whether through employment or civic participation.

We have a passion for data and technology, which is at the heart of much of our healthy ageing and social regeneration work. For example, we are evaluating AliveCor’s Kardia Mobile, a small portable device that measures heart activity – anytime, anywhere – and sends the results to a smartphone. It will immediately flag any irregular rhythms or heart conditions that need further investigation. Working with partners across East London, we have developed and tested a pathway that enables rapid screening in High Street pharmacies with a direct referral to hospitals for diagnosis and treatment within a fortnight.

Although this is a relatively new service, since April 2018, Barking and Dagenham Council launched a new mental health service, called MH Enablers, part of the Care City initiative. Mohammed is a 42 year old man with enduring mental health needs that meant he needed supported living care to give him the confidence to move from supported living to manage his illness. The MH Enablers, part of the Care City initiative, were arranged and his direct debit payments set up. Mohammed’s confidence was further increased when he found a one bed flat in Barking, supported him with furnishing it, as well as getting the utilities arranged and his direct debit payments set up.

Mohammed’s confidence was further increased through a voluntary position he held within the community, which we encouraged. His MH Enabler saw him most days, helping him develop a network of support in the community until he felt confident he could manage without a daily visit. The MH Enabler now only checks in once a month to ensure that he is happy and well.

We hope that MH Enablers will provide extensive support to people living with mental health needs, not only empowering them to live as independently as possible, but also increasing their personal wellbeing.

Mental Health Enablers

In April 2018, Barking and Dagenham Council launched a new mental health service, called MH Enablers. This new service provides wrap around service for people with mental health needs. Although this is a relatively new service, since April 2018 we have worked with 80 service users, supporting them with a wide variety of needs. Mohammed’s example below illustrates the kind of support we provide residents.

Mohammed (name changed to protect identity) is a 42 year old man with enduring mental health needs that meant he needed supported living care to help him develop life skills and coping strategies to manage his illness. The MH Enablers, part of the Adult Social Work team, worked with Mohammed to give him the confidence to move from supported living to living independently in the community. We helped him find a one bed flat in Barking, supported him with furnishing it, as well as getting the utilities arranged and his direct debit payments set up. Mohammed’s confidence was further increased through a voluntary position he held within the community, which we encouraged. His MH Enabler saw him most days, helping him develop a network of support in the community until he felt confident he could manage without a daily visit. The MH Enabler now only checks in once a month to ensure that he is happy and well.

We hope that MH Enablers will provide extensive support to people living with mental health needs, not only empowering them to live as independently as possible, but also increasing their personal wellbeing.

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham’s New Kind of Council

The 2017-18 financial year was a pivotal year for the council. We saw a number of significant changes to the shape and purpose of council services, as well as the launch of a number of council-owned companies. Our new organisation is designed from first principles to support individuals, families and communities to grow their own capabilities; to learn, to work, to live healthily and connect to one another.

Three of the main recommendations from the Growth Commission (2015) have become the pillars of our new kind of council: inclusive growth, public service transformation, and a new relationship with residents.

Our inclusive growth agenda is driven by Be First, Reside and partnership working with key anchor institutions such as Coventry University London and Future Youth Zone, amongst others. For example, Reside – a council owned affordable landlord – manages and lets high-quality private properties at rents dependant on income, increasing the borough’s affordable housing offer. This is building an innovative social housing infrastructure fit for the 21st century which ensures that high-quality, affordable and secure housing is a right and not a privilege based on income or circumstance.

Our public service transformation puts the outcomes we are seeking for residents at the heart of every conversation. This is exemplified by Community Solutions, which integrates 16 previously separate services, from children’s services, to community safety, to homelessness. As well as transforming residents’ experience of public services, this lays the foundations for genuinely preventative action by having one integrated ‘front door’. Addressing the root cause of issues means Community Solutions can resolve early and increase independence.

Finally, we are committed to building a new relationship with residents based on citizenship and participation. We want to be an organisation that is in touch with our residents and engages them in a meaningful way. We will leave no stone unturned in empowering residents to support themselves, while ensuring council services are there for those who need us most.

Underpinning our transformation is a commitment to being relentlessly reliable, doing the basics right and being a well-run organisation that works for everyone. Whilst winning LGC Council of the Year shows our approach is the right one, we know that there is no room for complacency. This work now needs to be consolidated and strengthened. Our new kind of council has been designed to meet the challenges we face and ultimately contribute to achieving the vision set out in the Borough Manifesto.
Over 50 residents have volunteered with Grown in Dagenham on a regular basis and over 400 residents visited the farm to access fresh produce or attend workshops.

In addition, we have recently been awarded funding from the council for our Recipe for Life project, which will enable us to transform the Old Bowling Green Pavilion into a community hub for local people to cook, grow and eat together. The hub opened in August 2018 and events will run until summer 2019. Activities include workshops for local families on low incomes, cooking and lunch clubs, intergenerational workshops and orchard planting workshops.

Growing Communities

Growing Communities is a social enterprise that has been running Dagenham Farm since 2012, producing over 5 tonnes of organic vegetables a year. Our Big Lottery funded “Grown in Dagenham” project gets more local people involved in the life of the farm and learning how to grow their own food. There are several key areas within this project. We run weekly growing sessions with local school children and assisted learning students from Barking and Dagenham College. We also run a volunteer programme and an award-winning training scheme for unemployed lone parents. We are delighted that three out of four trainees from 2016 are now in employment, having learnt the basics of food growing, harvesting, preparation, marketing and retailing through the course.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Barking and Dagenham’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings together key partners such as the police, health, and substance misuse services, amongst others. MASH makes decisions around safeguarding or support required by any person referred to the council.

We are pleased to have a strong police presence at our MASH meetings; we currently have 11 police officers from a variety of specialisms – from the Child Abuse Investigation Unit to Public Protection – engaging with the MASH process. Prior to being discussed at MASH, the police assist with prioritising reports regarding vulnerable children and adults from across the borough, and subsequently refer these to relevant departments such as MASH and Adult Social Care. In addition, gangs are an emerging area of concern for Children’s Social Care. In response to this, representatives from the Gang Unit will soon be represented at MASH meetings. They will undertake joint work with social workers, share intelligence and work with other support staff to support referrals related to gangs.

In addition, MASH and partners will work closely with the newly formed Exploitation Team which seeks to embed a local contextual safeguarding approach to vulnerable adolescents and help reduce the risks of sexual, criminal and extremism exploitation.

By swiftly sharing and collating multi-agency information, MASH is able to identify harm, and provide co-ordinated early intervention. This results in longer term health, wellbeing and safety benefits for our young people and vulnerable adults.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The police and partners are taking positive steps to reduce domestic violence in the borough, especially through partnership working at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings. The purpose of MARAC meetings is for professionals to meet on a three-week basis to create an action plan for each victim. Traditionally, MARAC meetings are victim-orientated and concerned with keeping victims of domestic abuse safe. However, we are currently exploring the possibility of using MARAC to better target perpetrators.

Specifically, MARAC could be used as a forum to gather evidence against perpetrators to present to the Crown Prosecution Service, which could be used in prosecution, even in the absence of a victim statement. This is in the exploratory stages, but it means that perpetrators could be brought to justice without the victim having to give a potentially traumatic statement, which is especially significant given the power and control aspect of domestic violence. We want to send the message that domestic violence is taken seriously within the criminal justice system. This is happening alongside other work to support domestic violence cases in court. Previously, if the victim did not appear in court, no further action was taken, and the case was dismissed. Now, despite pressures facing the courts, we are reviving best practice and if victims are unable to attend court - for whatever reason - court will be adjourned and they will be supported to attend court at a later date.

Our focus on improving conviction rates is showing positive results already. Between April and July 2018, the conviction rate increased from 41 to 58%, and there are ambitions to increase this further – to 65% within the next four years. This is a key success. With more cases progressing to court and convictions secured, we are demonstrating to our residents that we take domestic violence seriously and that we want to get it right first time. This should improve confidence in victims coming forward for help and over time will reduce repeat victimisation and repeat offending.
Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership

“This creative opportunity is bringing innovation and a new energy to the borough’s education performance”

Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership (BDSIP) is a not-for-profit organisation owned by Barking and Dagenham schools and the council, which launched in April 2018.

As a schools-owned and led organisation, we enable schools to design and shape the improvement services they need, placing school-led improvement and peer support at the heart of the borough’s approach. This creative opportunity is bringing innovation and a new energy to the borough’s education performance.

BDSIP member schools are currently rolling out VotesForSchools, which uses topical issues to deliver citizenship, Prevent, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Lesson plans are developed weekly to respond to key issues from the news. Pupils discuss and vote on questions related to the topic online, comparing their results to the views of others locally and nationally. The programme provides an exciting opportunity for Barking and Dagenham pupils to increase their knowledge of current affairs and partake in healthy debate, whilst engaging with democracy and politics.

With 93% of the borough’s schools currently signed up to the partnership, we are delivering effective, schools-driven support to ensure that every young person in the borough is given the best start in life.

Every One Every Day

Every One Every Day is an ambitious participatory project formed out of a partnership between Barking and Dagenham Council and Participatory City. Over the next 5 years, we aim to work with 25,000 residents across the borough to create over 250 neighbourhood-led projects and form more than 100 new businesses. In the first year over 2,000 people have participated, with 1,200 registered participants spending 9,000 hours together, of which 4,300 have focused on learning with neighbours.

Every One Every Day will make it easier to spend time with neighbours doing practical and useful things together, as well as sharing knowledge and resources. Projects have included open table community suppers where people share meals with new friends, mass sunflower planting and open corners to repurpose green spaces, a coop and chicken school for people to learn how to keep chickens, play streets and a spoken word festival. And our summer programme was packed, with 84 projects and 160 events, providing the opportunity for residents to meet new people from a variety of backgrounds and learn new skills. The autumn programme will run for eight weeks from October to early December.

There are two Every One Every Day shops, one in Barking and one in Dagenham, with plans for another three - one of which is opening this year - to provide the support needed to bring neighbourhood projects and new businesses to life. Anyone can pop in to one of these shops to discuss ideas for new projects over a cup of tea.

Harmony House

At Harmony House, we deliver a variety of community-based services and projects, currently with a focus on early years and our older residents. We manage three nurseries, providing affordable childcare to over 250 children. This year, 95 children left to join primary school and we were pleased to be able to give £50 gift vouchers to each family to be spent on school uniforms. We aim to support hard-working families through what can be an expensive transition into school.

As part of our Slivernet programme, we run computer classes to help older people navigate digital technology as services are increasingly moving towards online only platforms. We have also recently invested in technology that allows for voice recognition on four of our computers, meaning a number of learners with significant sight impairments are able to fully take part in our computer classes. We firmly believe that technology and the internet should be accessible to all, regardless of age or circumstance, and are proud to be helping older people integrate technology into their lives.
Last year, our schools celebrated some incredible successes and our students are increasingly excelling themselves in the classroom.

In 2017, 97.9% of students achieved A* to E in A-levels, matching the performance of young people nationwide, with some notable success stories in the borough. Eastbury Community School achieved a 99% A-level results pass rate, with almost half of all grades achieved at A-level being A* to B.

In GCSEs in 2017, almost 25% of students in our borough achieved the new top grades of 7 to 9 in English – far exceeding the national average of 17%. With a 78% pass rate in English and maths, All Saints Catholic School was the top performing school in the borough, closely followed by Barking Abbey on 74%. Riverside Campus celebrated its first year of GCSE results with 71% of pupils collecting a grade 4 to 9 in English and maths.

Barking and Dagenham was named as one of the best local authorities in England (20th out of 151) in terms of progress made by students between the end of primary school and the end of secondary school – a measure called Progress 8. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of primary school pupils in our borough reached the government’s expected standards in the Key Stage 2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATS) in 2018, beating the national average.

Nearly 9 out of 10 of schools in Barking and Dagenham have been given a good or outstanding rating in Ofsted inspections, meaning most of our schools are effective in providing for pupil’s needs and preparing them for the next stage of their education, training or employment. Encouragingly, 2017 saw a 15% increase in young people from the borough’s schools and Barking and Dagenham College going into higher education, with 817 18-year olds heading to university.

Alongside delivering great results in exams, schools in the borough have also been harnessing cultural opportunities. Pupils from Warren Junior School recently performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, and Sydney Russell school partnered with the Barbican as part of the Change Makers project about the Suffragettes.

Our schools work extremely hard to give young people a good start in life. The results achieved, and opportunities offered, highlight that Barking and Dagenham strives to be a place with high-quality education and the opportunity to succeed for all.

Celebrating School Success

Barking Enterprise Centre

Barking Enterprise Centre (BEC) has been open in Barking Town Centre since November 2011. Since becoming a Community Interest Company in April 2016, the BEC has gone from strength to strength, delivering “more than workspace” to local residents and neighbouring boroughs. We provide business training, 1-to-1 business mentoring and a host of other support services for start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Over the last two years the BEC has seen enormous growth in the number of businesses started. In 2016, 58 businesses were started. In 2017/8 this almost doubled to 104 businesses. And the growth continues; in the first quarter of 2018/9 the BEC has already supported 52 people to start a business.

We are also proud to buck the national trend, with over 70% of businesses started by women, and 76% of new businesses owned by people from BAME backgrounds. We recently started a Young Entrepreneurs programme which is gaining momentum and in September 2018, we will open a dedicated space for young entrepreneurs to meet, network and grow their businesses. This summer we set up a collective of arts-based businesses who work from the studio spaces in BEC and a music studio is being built at the moment.

The BEC takes its community interest company status seriously and has committed over £5k worth of resources and time for community-based businesses to access the facilities.
East End Women’s Museum

Launched in 2015, the East End Women’s Museum is a public history project working to record and represent women’s stories and voices from East London’s history through pop-up exhibitions, events, and online resources. We are delighted to have found a home for the museum in Barking and Dagenham. Thanks to the support of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, developer Be Living, and our partner Eastside Community Heritage, we hope to open to the public in 2020.

Our current project, Working for Equality: The Fight for Fair Pay and Equal Rights, celebrates women factory workers in Barking and Dagenham. The project celebrates three anniversaries in 2018: 100 years since some women first won the vote, the end of the First World War and 50 years since the Ford Dagenham strike which inspired the Equal Pay Act.

Developed in partnership with Eastside Community Heritage and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Working for Equality includes a travelling exhibition and a short film created with the help of a team of local volunteers. Visitors to the exhibition so far have commented that “women’s voices shine through”, and it “opened my eyes to sacrifices of women”. This autumn the exhibition will visit local secondary schools and be developed into an online resource.

An accompanying events programme inspired by the exhibition’s themes is also underway, including family activity days, free film screenings, and a panel discussion. Highlights of the programme so far have included the creation of a unique dance piece by Barking & Dagenham Youth Dance, and activities for children at Dagenham Library.

Huggett Women’s Centre

The Huggett Women’s Centre is led by The nia Project in partnership with Barking and Dagenham Council for Voluntary Services (BDCVS) and DABD UK. We are run by women, for women and girls in East London. In December 2017, we celebrated the first anniversary of our opening, and have worked alongside 232 women and girls since this date. The centre offers a vibrant, accessible and welcoming environment for women and girls who may be facing multiple disadvantage in relation to gender inequality, race, class, poverty, sexuality, disability, domestic and sexual violence, and exploitation. Over the last eight months, we have worked hard to develop a variety of programmes to support women and girls in the borough. For example, we offer a 10 week psycho-education programme for women who may have experienced domestic violence, forced marriage, FGM, harassment and trafficking.

We have partnered with other local organisations to deliver specialist services. East London Rape Crisis delivers rape and sexual violence counselling at the centre and we work with the London Exiting and Advocacy Project to support people involved with prostitution. We also work with organisations to provide targeted support, including the Ashiana Network to provide counselling support for black and minoritised women, and Respond, for women on the autistic spectrum who have experienced sexual abuse.

The centre is relatively new to the borough and we are at the beginning of developing our services. However, we are looking to grow and extend our services to more of the borough’s women and girls over the upcoming months and years, and are currently exploring the possibility of running sessions in schools and youth centres.

Be First

“We will accelerate growth and ensure existing residents benefit from the opportunities that come from new investment and regeneration”

Be First was created by the council to capture the benefits of the borough’s growth for local people. It was established in October 2017 on the recommendation of an Independent Growth Commission which saw the need to capitalise on the emergence of Barking and Dagenham as London’s growth opportunity. Our mission is to create great places to live, work and play that build on the borough’s amazing history and traditions. We will accelerate growth and ensure that existing residents benefit from the opportunities that come from new investment and regeneration.

Our target is to deliver 50,000 new homes and create 20,000 jobs in the next 20 years, including 2,286 new affordable homes by 2023. We will build homes to replace stock lost through the right to buy including properties with rents comparable to those offered by the council, to provide homes for those who cannot afford to rent or buy privately.

We have a number of key regeneration sites that will help us achieve these targets:

- Barking town centre - capacity for over 10,000 new homes and growing retail, leisure and creative industries to become East London’s cultural hub.
- Barking Station - delivering an interchange fit for the future, with 2,200 homes, affordable space for small businesses and new places to eat, drink and shop. The first site, Crown House, will deliver 400 homes, of which 40% will be affordable.
- Vicarage Fields – up to 850 homes and a modern retail and entertainment complex with a cinema and music venue.
- Gascoigne East and West – our estate renewal will result in 2,400 top quality homes with over half affordable. The first homes are already let.

• The River Roding - a cluster of sites along the river will deliver a vibrant mix of over 3,000 homes for sale, affordable rent and shared ownership, with creative industries in the Ice House Quarter at the core.

Longer term, we are working with the Greater London Authority to secure government infrastructure funding for a new station at Castle Green. This will help deliver the first 5,000 homes of a potential 15,000, with modern business space too. And, we will masterplan the industrial estate at Chadwell Heath to take advantage of the new Elizabeth Line services which start in 2019. These will slash journey times to the centre of London and beyond, and pave the way for a vibrant mixed-use community providing 3,000 homes and modern business space for growth sectors including the creative industries.

We are working in partnership with housebuilders and developers to accelerate the construction of new homes on their sites. In 2017/18, the Council approved 10,000 homes at Barking Riverside and 2,166 new homes in Beam Park. In each development, 50% of the housing will be affordable - at council comparable rents, discounted market rents or shared ownership. So far in this financial year, a further 1,245 homes have been approved, 39% of which will be affordable. Overall, there is planning permission for 18,524 homes in the borough.

Be First is wholly owned by the council, which means that the proceeds of growth are reinvested into the borough. Our work is laying firm foundations for the future - good growth which creates jobs and homes for local people. Over the next few years the pace of delivery will increase, but our commitment will remain: to regenerate the borough so that no-one is left behind.
Made in Dagenham Film Studio

Be First’s mission is not just about building new homes. We are equally focused on jobs – attracting growth industries that will deliver a range of opportunities for local people. One of our key projects is the development of the Made in Dagenham studios, which will be London’s largest new film and TV studios, built on a 20-acre site at Dagenham East. The scale of the plans is truly exciting - 12 sound stages, a post-production, a visual effects and media technology complex, special stages for job training programmes, an auditorium, a visitors’ centre and studio tours - are among the planned features.

US based Pacifica Ventures are our preferred operator, which was announced in early 2018. Having overseen the production of blockbusters such as the Avengers and shows such as Breaking Bad, Pacifica will bring world-class film and television to our doorstep and unlock opportunities locally. The studios are expected to directly create over 1,000 jobs, with significantly more created in related industries, from catering to make-up artistry.

There’s every prospect that the borough will be as famous for films as it was for Fords.

Homes and Money Hub

A host of factors prompted us to create the Homes and Money Hub. Earlier this year Universal Credit went live in Barking and Dagenham; this combines six benefits previously paid separately in to one single payment. This has the potential to add even greater financial strain to a population already experiencing high levels of poverty, both in and out of work, and deprivation. What’s more, London’s housing crisis continues to make it difficult for those who fall into financial crisis to sustain suitable accommodation for themselves and their families.

In response, the Homes and Money Hub was designed and implemented at the start of 2018. The Hub is a partnership team working collaboratively to enable residents to improve their financial independence. Based out of the Barking Learning Centre but working flexibly across the borough, representatives from LBBD Community Solutions, Elevate, the Job Centre Plus and the voluntary sector have come together to adopt a cross-sector collaborative approach to delivering a range of services to those residents most vulnerable to financial crises.

We offer services across a range of areas, including personal budgeting, job readiness, employment support, confidence and self-esteem improvement, conflict resolution, housing options and advice, tenancy sustainment support.

The Hub receives referrals from all relevant sources, regardless of organisational boundaries, such as from council services including Community Solutions and Care and Support, Elevate, Job Centre Plus, MPs’ offices, Councillors and direct from residents themselves.

The Hub is practically pioneering best working practices for this kind of cross-sector collaboration, which is vital in an age of limited resources and complex need.

Sustrans Community Street Design

Sustrans, Be First and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham recently collaborated to deliver an innovative two year healthy streets project in Marks Gate. Working closely with the community, the project combined community-led street design, behaviour change and infrastructure improvements with the aim of increasing opportunities for walking and cycling. This project was born out of a number of challenges in the area, such as a car dominated environment, low levels of cycling, poor mental and physical health and a lack of community empowerment.

We believe that residents are the experts in their local area and hold the key to their own behaviour change. Therefore, Marks Gate residents and local stakeholders were at the core of this project and involved from the outset. Over the course of the project, 710 children attended cycling activities, including 85 children who learnt to ride. 50 women and 84 young people participated in bike clubs which involved training and skills development. Moreover, approximately 400 people attended pop-up and co-design sessions for the street design work and over 700 people came to celebratory events and the public launch of Marks Gate new streets.

After collating the opinions of residents and community stakeholders, we incorporated their ideas into concept designs. We then displayed these at the local community centre to allow people to leave comments and join us at drop in sessions to discuss them. Residents and stakeholder opinions directly informed the installation of traffic calming measures, place-making features, cycle storage facilities and alterations to school entrances to enable safer walking and cycling.

As well as focusing on physical interventions, the project delivered a suite of walking and cycling initiatives to support and encourage residents to change their travel behaviour. These initiatives included a women’s bike club, cycle to school initiatives, group walks, and a free local bike repair. And we are seeing amazing results. For example, 79% of residents who were surveyed said they walked or cycled more due to the changes in the local area.

We firmly believe in the importance of healthy streets and liveable neighbourhoods in encouraging physical activity and promoting healthy habits. This Marks Gate project a great example of a healthy streets approach in action.

“79% of residents who were surveyed said they walked or cycled more due to changes in the local area”