

**Notice of Meeting of the**

**ASSEMBLY**

**to be held on Wednesday, 27 January 2021  
commencing at 6:00 pm in the  
Meeting to be held virtually**



To all Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Date of publication: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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Acting Chief Executive

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Please note that this meeting will be webcast, which is a transmission of audio and video over the internet. Members of the public who attend the meeting and who do not wish to appear in the webcast will be able to sit in the public gallery on the second floor of the Town Hall, which is not in camera range.

To view the webcast click [here](#) and select the relevant meeting (the weblink will be available at least 24-hours before the meeting).

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.

**3. Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020 (Pages 3 - 9)**

**4. Death of Dr Donald Hoskins, MBE and Freeman of the Borough (Pages 11 - 12)**

**5. Leader's Statement**

The Leader will present his statement.

**6. Appointments**

The Labour Group Secretary will announce any nominations to fill vacant positions on Council committees or other bodies.

**7. BAD Youth Forum Annual Report 2020 (Pages 13 - 47)**

**8. Local Government Boundary Review - Council Preferred Warding Pattern (Pages 49 - 69)**

**9. Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22 (Pages 71 - 87)**

**10. Scrutiny Annual Reports 2019/20 (Pages 89 - 106)**

**11. Motions (Pages 107 - 118)**

**12. Questions With Notice**

**13. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent**

14. **To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.**

#### **Private Business**

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). ***There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.***

15. **Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

## Our Vision for Barking and Dagenham

# **ONE BOROUGH; ONE COMMUNITY; NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND**

## Our Priorities

### **Participation and Engagement**

- To collaboratively build the foundations, platforms and networks that enable greater participation by:
  - Building capacity in and with the social sector to improve cross-sector collaboration
  - Developing opportunities to meaningfully participate across the Borough to improve individual agency and social networks
  - Facilitating democratic participation to create a more engaged, trusted and responsive democracy
- To design relational practices into the Council's activity and to focus that activity on the root causes of poverty and deprivation by:
  - Embedding our participatory principles across the Council's activity
  - Focusing our participatory activity on some of the root causes of poverty

### **Prevention, Independence and Resilience**

- Working together with partners to deliver improved outcomes for children, families and adults
- Providing safe, innovative, strength-based and sustainable practice in all preventative and statutory services
- Every child gets the best start in life
- All children can attend and achieve in inclusive, good quality local schools
- More young people are supported to achieve success in adulthood through higher, further education and access to employment
- More children and young people in care find permanent, safe and stable homes
- All care leavers can access a good, enhanced local offer that meets their health, education, housing and employment needs
- Young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded in the context of their families, peers, schools and communities

- Our children, young people, and their communities' benefit from a whole systems approach to tackling the impact of knife crime
- Zero tolerance to domestic abuse drives local action that tackles underlying causes, challenges perpetrators and empowers survivors
- All residents with a disability can access from birth, transition to, and in adulthood support that is seamless, personalised and enables them to thrive and contribute to their communities. Families with children who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) can access a good local offer in their communities that enables them independence and to live their lives to the full
- Children, young people and adults can better access social, emotional and mental wellbeing support - including loneliness reduction - in their communities
- All vulnerable adults are supported to access good quality, sustainable care that enables safety, independence, choice and control
- All vulnerable older people can access timely, purposeful integrated care in their communities that helps keep them safe and independent for longer, and in their own homes
- Effective use of public health interventions to reduce health inequalities

## **Inclusive Growth**

- Homes: For local people and other working Londoners
- Jobs: A thriving and inclusive local economy
- Places: Aspirational and resilient places
- Environment: Becoming the green capital of the capital

## **Well Run Organisation**

- Delivers value for money for the taxpayer
- Employs capable and values-driven staff, demonstrating excellent people management
- Enables democratic participation, works relationally and is transparent
- Puts the customer at the heart of what it does
- Is equipped and has the capability to deliver its vision

## MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 25 November 2020  
(6:00 - 8:36 pm)

### PRESENT

Cllr Elizabeth Kangethe (Chair)  
Cllr Faruk Choudhury (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Andrew Achilleos	Cllr Dorothy Akwaboah	Cllr Saima Ashraf
Cllr Abdul Aziz	Cllr Simon Bremner	Cllr Princess Bright
Cllr Sade Bright	Cllr Laila M. Butt	Cllr Peter Chand
Cllr Josie Channer	Cllr John Dulwich	Cllr Edna Fergus
Cllr Irma Freeborn	Cllr Cameron Geddes	Cllr Syed Ghani
Cllr Rocky Gill	Cllr Kashif Haroon	Cllr Amardeep Singh Jamu
Cllr Jane Jones	Cllr Eileen Keller	Cllr Mohammed Khan
Cllr Donna Lumsden	Cllr Olawale Martins	Cllr Mick McCarthy
Cllr Dave Miles	Cllr Margaret Mullane	Cllr Adegboyega Oluwole
Cllr Glenda Paddle	Cllr Simon Perry	Cllr Moin Quadri
Cllr Foyzur Rahman	Cllr Tony Ramsay	Cllr Chris Rice
Cllr Lynda Rice	Cllr Ingrid Robinson	Cllr Paul Robinson
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Cllr Muhammad Saleem	Cllr Faraaz Shaukat
Cllr Bill Turner	Cllr Dominic Twomey	Cllr Lee Waker
Cllr Phil Waker	Cllr Maureen Worby	

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Sanchia Alasia	Cllr Evelyn Carpenter	Cllr Emily Rodwell
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#### **29. Declaration of Members' Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **30. Minutes (30 September 2020)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 were confirmed as correct.

#### **31. Minutes of Sub-Committees - To note the minutes of the JNC Appointments, Salaries and Structures Panel held on 7 October and 16 October 2020**

The Assembly received and noted the minutes of the JNC Appointments, Salaries and Structures Panel held on 7 October 2020 and 16 October 2020.

#### **32. London Boroughs Charter for Councillor Development Award**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September the Council was successfully re-assessed for the London Boroughs Charter for Councillor Development at the Charter Plus standard. The Councillor Development Charter was a nationally recognised framework which

assesses the processes, impact and effectiveness of councillor development.

The Cabinet Member thanked Council colleagues for their enthusiasm and support for the Councillor Development Programme and also made special mention of the Councillors on the Member Development Group and also to the lead Director, Fiona Taylor, and the Member Development Officer, Fiona Jamieson.

The Cabinet Member then introduced Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families and Deputy Leader, London Borough of Islington, who on behalf of London Councils formally presented the award to the Assembly.

Members noted that Fiona Jamieson had recently retired from the Council after 11 years. Members thanked Fiona for her support and wished her a long and happy retirement.

The Assembly **resolved** to note the report and accept the Councillor Development Charter Plus Award.

### **33. Leader's Statement**

The Leader of the Council presented a verbal statement updating the Assembly on a range of matters since the last meeting, focussing on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which had been announced earlier that day.

The CSR announcement did not include support for local authorities to continue running their services and would in fact mean leaving the Council with no choice but to increase in Council Tax, which would penalise the poorest in our communities by asking them to pay more. This came at a time when residents were struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leader urged residents to stay at home this Christmas and avoid meeting with family members to help reduce the infection rates in the Borough and reduce the number of deaths from the horrible disease. The Leader asked that all residents and workers in only go out if they need to, and if they needed to go out to take appropriate measures such as social distancing and wearing a mask.

Other issues covered in the Leader's statement included:

**White Ribbon Day:** White Ribbon Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November was an important time to show that the Council continued to stand against any type of abuse. It was important to acknowledge that there would be a disproportionate amount of women suffering domestic abuse in the Borough during the current pandemic and Members were reminded of the strong support networks in the Council and partners for those suffering from domestic abuse.

**Film Studios:** The agreement for the film studios was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November with Hackman Capital Partners and HBS. Hackman Capital Partners would be putting £1m into a training pot for local people, which would be topped up with every blockbuster film made at the studios.



**United States of America Presidential Election:** The Leader congratulated Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their success in the recent Presidential Election particularly with Kamala Harris becoming the first woman to hold the office of Vice President of the United States and the first Black and Asian woman.

**Drive-in Christmas Carol Service:** The prospect of a drive-in Christmas Carol service was being explored and it was hoped that this would include streaming of the service to residents.

**Free Parking Permits for NHS staff and Key Workers:** The Council would be extending the free parking permits for nearly 1,850 people, with over 1,350 for NHS Workers until the end of January.

**A13 Tunnel:** There had been no update in the CSR regarding the tunnel along the A13, despite the benefits this would bring for the environment, housing and job opportunities in the Borough.

**Finance:** The Leader gave thanks to the Cabinet, with particular reference to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services, for balancing the budget despite the difficult times and the enormous pressure that the Council was under.

**Wall of Shame:** The 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wall of Shame had been published online and the Leader made reference to correspondence that he had received from an ex local resident who advised that they had moved out of the Borough since a family members was featured on an episode of the Wall of Shame.

**Christmas Cheer Campaign:** In previous years, the Mayor had always taken part in donating gifts to children. This year it would be extended to support vulnerable families with a Christmas hamper and providing a call from a volunteer to those who may be isolated.

#### **34. Appointments**

There were none to report.

#### **35. Treasury Management 2020/21 Mid-Year Review**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services presented a report on the Treasury Management 2020/21 Mid-Year Review.

The mid-year review report provided details of the mid-year position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by the Assembly on 17 February 2020 as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member advised that through the hard work of Members and Officers, the Council was in a robust and resilient position moving forward. The Council was in a position that, despite the recent hardships and associated financial pressures from the COVID 19 pandemic, will still be delivering a strong budget return.

The Assembly **resolved** to note:

- (i) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement Mid-Year Review 2020/21;
- (ii) That the value of the treasury investments as at 30 September 2020 totalled £241.1m;
- (iii) That the treasury investment strategy outperformed its peer group, with a return of 1.50% against an average of 0.48% for London Local Authorities and 0.34% for the total comparable population of 211 Local Authorities;
- (iv) That the value of the commercial and residential loans lent by the Council as at 31 March 2020 totalled £171.0m;
- (v) That the value of long term borrowing as at 30 September 2020 totalled £945.8m, of which £275.9m related to the Housing Revenue Account and £669.9m to the General Fund;
- (vi) That the value of short term borrowing as at 30 September 2020 totalled £99.5m;
- (vii) That interest would be capitalised on long term developments of over £10m, effective from 1 April 2019; and
- (viii) That in the first half of the 2020/21 financial year, the Council complied with all 2020/21 treasury management indicators.

### **36. Reviewed Corporate Plan 2020-22**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services presented a report to the Assembly on the reviewed Corporate Plan 2020-22.

The Assembly recalled that the new Corporate Plan and Single Performance Framework were agreed in April and May 2020. This was agreed on the understanding that their contents would need to be reviewed, later in the year, to take account for the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's plans for the next two years.

While the pandemic continued to evolve, the Council was now in a much better position to understand how Covid-19 was impacting on its resources, priorities and plans. Therefore, over the past few months, the Council's strategic framework, including the Corporate Plan and Single Performance Framework, have been reviewed.

The Cabinet Member explained that it was important to note that while the review of the strategic framework was vital to ensure that the Council's plans were up-to-date and reflected the reality of the context in which we work, the fundamental approach and strategic intentions of the Council, as set out in the Corporate Plan, were not changing.

The Assembly **resolved** to agree the reviewed Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **37. The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2019/20**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Integration presented a report on the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20.

The Annual Report described the work and priorities of the Barking and Dagenham

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) from April 2019 to March 2020. It set out how the Board had worked to improve the protection of vulnerable adults across Barking and Dagenham along with its achievements in 2018/19 and key priorities for the future.

The Cabinet Member advised that all Safeguarding Adult Boards were required to produce an Annual Report. This year however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, SAB's were given flexibility over the production of the report and what information to include.

The Annual Report was agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board at its meeting on 10th July 2020 and was presented and discussed at the Health & Wellbeing Board on the 15th September 2020.

The Assembly **resolved** to note the contents of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board for 2019/20.

### **38. Adoption and Corporate Parenting Annual Reports - a new approach**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Integration presented a report on the Councils Adoption and Corporate Parenting Annual Reports.

The Council was required to produce annual reports on Corporate Parenting and Adoption. Compared with previous years the reports presented are distinct in their origin. The Corporate Parenting Annual Report was produced, as it always has been, by Council Officers. The Adoption Annual Report was the first produced since the Council joined the Regional Adoption Agency (Adopt London East) as mandated to so by government.

The appended Adoption Annual Report had, therefore, been produced by Adopt London East and covered the period of 1st October 2019 to end of March 2020. Whilst these reports were important documents, it should be noted that they were required to be produced as stand-alone documents, and do not necessarily reflect the Councils more considered approach to system-wide improvement for our children and young people, something which was more clearly reflected in our Annual Self-Evaluation that was presented to Cabinet at the start of each calendar year.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member advised that:

- The 15 children adopted children in the period of the report were local children who had been adopted either within or outside of the Borough;
- There were 402 young people that Members were the corporate parent for and it was important for Members, where possible, to step forward to be mentors for young people, with the Councils assistance;
- Skittles, a group of young people in care, attended the Corporate Parenting Group on a regular basis and once a year ran one of the meetings.

The Assembly **resolved** to:

- (i) Note the contents of the two annual reports on adoption and corporate

parenting respectively; and

- (ii) Note developments in children's social care over the last 6 months and support their reflection in a more useful, timely and purposeful strategy.

### **39. Motions**

There were no motions.

### **40. Questions With Notice**

#### **Question 1**

##### **From Councillor Jamu**

"Can the Cabinet Member for Finance update the Assembly on what funds the Council has received to provide support to families previously receiving free school meals?"

##### **Response**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services advised that the £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme would be made available in early December 2020 and used until March 2021 to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. The allocation of the Winter Grant Scheme for Barking and Dagenham was £870,077.

#### **Question 2**

##### **From Councillor P Robinson**

"Can the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health integration update the Assembly on what are we doing as a local authority to improve local contract tracing following the failures of the track and trace system to contact all positive cases? "

##### **Response**

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration advised that there was a team of call handlers who were making calls to those people whose details have been provided by track and trace. The call handlers have been trained to use council data (such as council tax records) to see if the Council held information on the person. Where a telephone or email contact is not provided, the Council had a team of visiting officers who carry out a home visit.

#### **Question 3**

##### **From Councillor Princess Bright**

"Following the fantastic reveal of our Hollywood partners Hackman Capital, Can the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Aspiration update the Assembly on the progress made on the Dagenham Film Studios and explain

how we're supporting local residents into training and job opportunities?"

### **Response**

The Cabinet Member for Employment Skills and Aspiration advised that the Eastbrook studios offered a fantastic opportunity to the borough in these difficult times and would not only bring in over 1,200 jobs and opportunities for local people but was also set to inject £35m per year to the local economy.

The Cabinet Member also advised that the Council would proactively build partnerships with the film studios and local educational institutes to create clear employment and training pathways into the industry for young people and older workers in the borough. In addition, the Council would work to create a strong local supply chain around the film studios.

### **Question 4**

#### **From Councillor Freeborn**

"With Christmas looking remarkably different than previous years, can the Cabinet Member for Community Leadership and Engagement update the Assembly on what we will be doing to spread some Christmas cheer and support the most vulnerable in these difficult times?"

### **Response**

The Cabinet Member of Community Leadership and Engagement advised that the Council were working with the Food Network run by BDCollective, and led by the people at Humdum, and together with partners at BD Group and our Community Food Clubs, to make sure we donations are turned into a food offer to help people put a festive meal on the table at Christmas.

The Council was again supporting TimeFM's campaign to collect gifts in for local children.

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**ASSEMBLY****27 January 2021**

<b>Title:</b> Death of Dr Donald Hoskins, MBE and Freeman of the Borough	
<b>Report of:</b> Acting Chief Executive	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> John Dawe, Senior Governance Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk">john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Claire Symonds, Acting Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep sadness that following a long illness Dr Donald Hoskins, the former Head of the Music Centre at the University of East London (UEL) passed away in hospital on 30 November aged 88. His burial took place on 14 December near his birthplace of Six Bells, Abertillery in South Wales.</p> <p>After graduating from the University of Wales he spent his early years teaching in the Midlands where he directed local choral groups and instrumental ensembles. During his career he was a lecturer in music at Eastbourne College of Education before moving on to the UEL and its predecessor colleges. He was awarded the MA and a Ph.D for research in the field of English Musical Theatre. He was also a visiting professor at Brigham Young University, Provo, Salt Lake City, Utah and the Music Conservatoire, University of Cincinnati. He was also for many years the President of the Redbridge Music Society. He holds an entry in the International Who's Who in Music and Musicians Directory.</p> <p>Throughout his distinguished career of more than 40 years he successfully managed to combine a teaching role with that of a renowned concert performer.</p> <p>Dr Hoskins had a long association with the Borough spanning over 38 years, conducting many classical music concerts performed by his own professional orchestra, the Aminta Chamber and Concert Orchestra of London which as the artistic and music director he founded in 1985. He gave many concerts in this country and abroad as both pianist and conductor. This included many open-air concerts in the grounds of Barking Abbey, raising funds for numerous Mayoral charities. He also directed concerts for music education events for children, again raising considerable sums of money for charitable and good causes. Over the years he was a guest conductor with the London Mozart Players, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Choir.</p> <p>Dr Hoskins also founded the very popular concert band courses, which included not only University students but also many local musicians from the neighbouring boroughs. These courses culminated in hugely successful annual performances which took place</p>	

over many years in the Great Hall of the University (*the then Longbridge Road precinct*), charity concerts at the Richmond Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen and women as well as in Germany including two in Witten. Notable guest artists who performed included Dame Vera Lynn, Marisa Robles, Larry Adler and Don Lusher.

He received an Honorary Doctorate from the UEL for Services to Music. In 2005 he was awarded the Freedom of the Borough for his outstanding contribution in promoting live orchestral music in the Borough and in 2007 the Queen presented the award of MBE for services to music.

Dr Hoskins will be fondly remembered for his humour and warmth of personality. He leaves a wife of 48 years, Dinah.

**Recommendation**

The Assembly is asked to mark his passing with a minute's silence in his memory.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:** None



## ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

<b>Title:</b> Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum and Young Mayor Annual Report 2020	
<b>Report of the Director for People and Resilience</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Sally Allen-Clarke, Senior Youth Worker, Participation, Opportunity and Wellbeing	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 07971111532 E-mail: sally.allen-clarke@lbbd.gov.uk
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Director for People and Resilience	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report highlights the achievements and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum in 2020. Outlining the work of each of the sub-groups, their aims and the impact of the work completed.</p> <p>The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. The Forum enables young people to develop the skills and confidence to express their views and represent their peers. By doing this young people contribute to policy development and encourage local decision makers to listen to the views of young people and recognise the importance of this. The Forum elects 60 young people each year through a democratic election process in secondary schools, supported by Democratic Services.</p> <p>As in all other years, the Forum year started with a team building evening at the Vibe Youth Centre, giving new members a chance to get to know each other along with a Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall Chambers. Each year, the Forum splits in to three sub-groups focussing on different campaigns.</p> <p>The <b>Community Action sub-group</b> enables young people to work on topical and relevant campaigns and projects that will have a positive impact on the borough's youth. In 2020 young people focussed on domestic abuse and the negative impact this has on young people. With the pandemic and lockdown situation young people felt very strongly that this was an issue they needed to raise awareness about and support other young people to recognise and understand the signs, as well signposting to support services.</p> <p>The <b>Young Mayor sub-group</b> worked closely with the borough's Young Mayor to support her efforts to raise funds for Refuge, Domestic Abuse charity. The group were keen to make a positive impact in terms of donations as well as raising awareness of the charity. Throughout lockdown the young people were very creative with their fundraising ideas.</p>	

The **Young Inspectors sub-group** were unable to operate as they normally would, conducting inspections of various health services. Instead they worked in partnership with Havering and Redbridge to create a lockdown survey to gather young people's views, Held discussions about the Black Lives Matters movement and initiated a piece of work focussed on mental health in response to the lockdown survey results.

The Forum adapted well during lockdown and the significant changes everyone experienced, please see attached report with full details of the Forum's work and their achievements.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

1.1 Please refer to main report.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

2.1 Please refer to main report.

## **3. Options Appraisal**

3.1 N/A

## **4. Consultation**

4.1 A wide range of consultation work has taken place through the Forum. Please refer to main report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

### **Implications completed by Kofi Adu – Group Finance Manager.**

5.1 The budget for the operation of the Youth Forum is funded from cost centre F17400. Ongoing budget provision has been made, therefore there is no current financial risks for the continuation of this arrangement.

## **6. Legal Implications**

### **Implications completed by Lindsey Marks Deputy Head of Law**

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **7. Other Implications**

### **7.1 Corporate Policy and Equality Impact**

7.1.1 The Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum support the Council's vision to empower people and to encourage citizenship and participation, specifically encouraging civic pride and social responsibility. The Forum supports young people to be pro-active,

empathetic, resilient residents with a good skill set transferrable to everyday life. Through consultation and campaign work, young people regularly meet with local decision makers. By doing this young people ensure policies and strategies that most affect the lives of young people are reflective of their needs. Young people gain an understanding and appreciation for participation, recognising they have the right to express their views and be listened to, and that their voices count.

7.4.2 Young people have seen change as a result of their participation, and where this was not possible, they understand why. This work aims to ensure that as young people grow into adulthood, they are active citizens who contribute to the local community. Please refer to full report, in particular the Additional Forum events section which details the range of consultations the Forum has been involved in and the impact of their involvement.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – BADYF Overview 2020
- Appendix 2 – Community Action Sub-Group
- Appendix 3 – Young Mayor Sub-Group
- Appendix 4 – Young Inspectors Sub-Group
- Appendix 5 – Additional Forum Events

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# Overview 2020



## Introduction and background

The BAD Youth Forum was created in 2001, to give young people a formal and recognised platform to express their views and make a positive impact in their community.

In 2020, 65 young people were democratically elected representing each secondary school. 6 young people were elected from 10 of the 13 secondary schools, including youth groups. Members must be aged between 13 and 19 years, or up to 25 with a disability.

Each year up to 15 young people are invited back to the forum based on their contribution and attendance in the previous year.

These young people by-pass the election process and contribute to the initial sessions, supporting new young people to engage.

At the start of the year, the BAD Youth Forum held their annual Full Forum meeting in Barking Town Hall, introducing new members to how the council works and what the role of the Forum is. Democratic Services attended the meeting and delivered a presentation about local, regional and national politics and how the Forum contributes to decision making.

The newly elected young people discussed current local youth issues as potential

campaigns/projects. Topics included: mental health, domestic abuse, environment and crime.

Councillor Bankole kindly attended, and after an election process the new Young Mayor Jessica Soares Paim was elected, announced by the Councillor.



First Full Forum meeting photo  
(February 2020)

## Team Building Day

At the start of each year all newly elected Forum members and 'returning' Forum members are invited to attend a team building day.

The aim of the day is for everyone to get to know each other, including the workers, and to start to cement good working relationships. Young people participate in an evening full of

fun games and exercises designed to get people socialising.



## Election of the 2020 Young Mayor

During the BAD Youth Forum's first AGM the borough's new Young Mayor was elected. Six young people stood for election, the vote was very close on the night. Councillor Bankole kindly announced the winner- Jessica Soares Paim who was a clear favourite amongst her peers.

*Please see Young Mayor section detailing Jessica's achievements*





## Community Action Sub-group achievements 2020

### Introduction and background

The Community Action sub-group were able to meet just 2 times face to face before the country went in to lockdown. During these sessions young people began discussing topics of interest, thinking about what campaigns they would like to focus on in 2020.

The group decided the areas they would focus on included: Environment, Domestic Abuse and Crime.

However, once in lockdown there were some restrictions around what the group could actively work on. As a result the group shifted their focus. With the issue of domestic abuse being so much more in the spotlight during lockdown, the group felt it was essential they focus on educating other young people about the signs of domestic abuse and where to get support.

## Domestic Abuse Commission

In March 2020, Amelia Grant, Domestic Abuse Commission Engagement Officer, attended a virtual session to discuss young people's views in relation to domestic abuse. This came about after the annual young people's health survey in schools highlighted that 26% of young people (in Year 10) felt that it was an acceptable behaviour to hit a partner.

Amelia and the group explored reasons why young people might feel that physical abuse is acceptable and how can these young people's perceptions be changed. The young people discussed family experiences, entrenched behaviour and the part that some cultures play in the normalising of domestic abuse.



## Domestic Abuse training

In September, the Forum participated in training with Amelia Grant exploring the different types of domestic abuse, what the signs and symptoms are and how to stay safe in a relationship. Young people engaged well with the training and gained a wealth of information. This upskilled the young people and enabled them to have conversations with their peers and share what they had learnt.



## Domestic Abuse poster campaign

As lockdown began and conversations in the sub-group focussed on domestic abuse and the harrowing reports people were hearing through the media, young people recognised the impact this would be having on other young people and felt that it was important to raise awareness and educate their peers.

Following some very mature discussions, young people decided to create a series of posters they felt would be age appropriate and share their important message. The young people designed these 3 posters themselves, in an effort to educate other young people as well as signpost them to help and support.



They met with Jules Rogers, Early Intervention Officer from Refuge, to share their poster designs, she approved of their efforts. The group decided to send these to all secondary schools and request that they be e-mailed to all students e-mail accounts.



The Posters were shared in a Council tweet on White Ribbon Day:



They have also been shared with schools in a regular newsletter, encouraging Head Teachers to display the posters or share them with students and their families in the most appropriate way.



# Young Mayor

## Sub-group achievements 2020

## Introduction and background

The Barking and Dagenham Young Mayor is supported by a sub-group of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum. The group work alongside the Young Mayor, supporting their fundraising efforts throughout the year.

This group was newly formed as lockdown began. The group had met just two times face to face, but the welcoming environment created by our returning members ensured new members were inducted quickly and work had already begun to choose a charity.

In 2020 Jessica Soares-Paim was elected to be the borough's 6<sup>th</sup> Young Mayor. Jessica was a clear favourite amongst her peers, securing their vote. Jessica delivered a confident and genuine speech demonstrating why she is perfect for the role.

During lockdown all sessions were conducted online, something everyone had to get used to, but worked really well.



## Choosing the Young Mayor's charity

In all previous years the Young Mayor, and their supporting sub-group, would conduct a public youth vote to ascertain which charity they would fundraise for. The group had started the process of brainstorming charities for their shortlist when lockdown began. In the absence of a full public vote, all BAD Youth Forum members were requested to vote. Following this process Refuge, domestic abuse charity, was chosen. The Young Mayor and her peers felt this was so important as they were aware of the truly devastating effects lockdown was having on survivors of domestic abuse and were informed of the increased need for Refuge's services during this difficult time.



## Understanding the need

In order to fully understand why it was so important to fundraise for Refuge, Service Managers from the charity were invited to attend a session and discuss the importance of Refuge's services. Young people were invited to ask questions, discuss how lockdown was affecting domestic abuse survivors, the increasing demand, and explore how the money they raised would make a difference.

## Fundraising during a global pandemic!

From the outset the group were aware of the difficulties they were likely to face when trying to fundraise. In order to support their efforts, the Young Mayor and supporting Youth Workers attended a (virtual) meeting with Refuge's Head of Events and Community Fundraising, Gabi Field. We learnt some useful tips from Gabi and some event ideas that might work in a virtual world. All of these ideas were taken to the group and planning began!

## Fundraising

A Just Giving page was set up early in the year, ensuring funds would go directly to Refuge. After long discussions the group set themselves a series of challenges.....

### **Climbing Mount Everest (in our homes....on our stairs!!)**

As a group we achieved 58,070 steps equating to 3871 flights of stairs, this is the equivalent of climbing the whole of Mount Everest!



### **Our most delicious challenges:**

The group decided to continue with personal challenges in order to raise funds. The young people's efforts were shared on the Just Giving page to show donators how hard they were working to raise money, the challenges were just for fun and were all young people's ideas!

**Baking challenge number 1 - create something that promotes Refuge visually (and is delicious!)**





Baking challenge number 2 - create an edible bear!



Decorate yourself with words related to domestic abuse sharing some of messages of hope, strength, solidarity and understanding.



And highlighting some of the devastating thoughts and feelings associated with domestic abuse...



**2.6 challenge:** for this challenge young people challenged themselves to do something in 26 seconds/minutes or walk 2.6 miles

How many items of clothes can I fold in 26 minutes....a lot!!





As a result of the young people's amazing efforts during lockdown, a total of £866 was raised. This was further boosted by our team in an end of year quiz where we won £100 towards a charity of our choice, generously donated by Erik Stein, bringing the total to £966

Understandably this is lower than the amounts the Forum has managed to raise in previous years due to the challenges of schools and young people being in lockdown. However, Forum members are determined to fundraise even more.

## **Future fundraising ideas**

With all young people now back in school, ALL schools in the borough have been contacted and requested to participate in a non-uniform day, we are hopeful some schools will support this fundraising attempt.

The Leader of the Council has kindly agreed to participate in a fundraising event, this will include an option for residents to vote for the Leader to do something embarrassing, the aim of this is to encourage people to donate. The event will start with a Leaders Live session on Facebook, where the Young Mayor will join the Leader to introduce the fundraising event. We are very thankful for the Leader's generous spirit in agreeing to this.

**A further update of funds raised will be available in February at the end of the Young Mayor's term.**

## Young Mayor events

At the start of the year, Jessica was invited to a range of events and many more were planned. These included UKON festival, Women's Empowerment Month Awards ceremony and the Junior Citizens Prize Giving ceremony. Unfortunately, lockdown meant she was unable to attend events in person, but Jessica has taken every opportunity to be involved in virtual events.

The full list of events Jessica has participated in includes:



- Attending the Women's Empowerment Month launch, where Jessica delivered a speech about her experiences as a young woman and what women's empowerment means to her
- Contributing to the Council's National Hate Crime Awareness Week video (screenshot below)
- Sending an introductory short film for the One Borough, One Love Festival
- Recorded a message for the UKON Carnival which was hosted online during the summer
- Met with the Leader of the

Council to discuss local issues and her work and has regular dates in the diary

- Will be chairing forthcoming Youth Engagement Meetings with the Leader and Cllr Mullane
- Participated in Domestic Abuse training with Monday group



National Hate Crime  
Awareness Week 2020  
in Barking and Dagenham



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# Young Inspectors Sub-group achievements 2020

## Introduction and background

At the start of the Forum year it was unclear what would be happening regarding the pandemic and whether the country would go into lockdown. We began training the Young Inspectors to carry out inspections of the C-Card condom distribution scheme, with a view to continuing the inspections of the School Nursing service and Sexual Health Service offered by Outpatients East. However, just 2 weeks into the training our sessions had to move to online and physical inspections could not take place.

With this in mind, the group shifted their focus to create a new campaign. Members of the group were mostly new Forum members so we spent time building relationships and supporting young people through the beginning stages of lockdown, which they were finding difficult. The group participated in a range of team building activities supporting the development of secure relationships, as well as keeping them engaged and entertained.

Following this period, the group worked on a range of pieces of work, which included: a survey gathering the views of young people about their lockdown experience and how they feel about the future, discussions about the Black Lives Matter movement and how young people have been affected and working in partnership with Kooth to deliver mental health workshops for young people.

# Lockdown survey

Working in partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust (BHRUT) the group worked in with other young people from Havering and Redbridge and created a survey to obtain the views and experiences of other young people during lockdown and what they were concerned about in the future. This collaborative piece of work proved to be useful on a number of levels. It was shared widely within the 3 boroughs, ensuring professionals had knowledge of the effects lockdown was having on young people and what their needs might be in the future. There were 1239 responses across the 3 boroughs, with 365 being Barking and Dagenham residents.

The survey was structured to include 5 common questions across all 3 boroughs, with the option to include additional questions personal to your borough.

The 5 common questions were suggested and agreed by young people, these were:

**1. How are you feeling?**

Why do you think you feel like this?

**2. How have you been spending your time?**

**3. Have you worried about anything during the lockdown?**

*Tick all that apply*

School/College/University

Mental health

Physical health

Money

Home life

Crime

Staying safe

Family

Friendships

Bullying

Communication

Other please say.....

**Are you worried about anything in the future?**

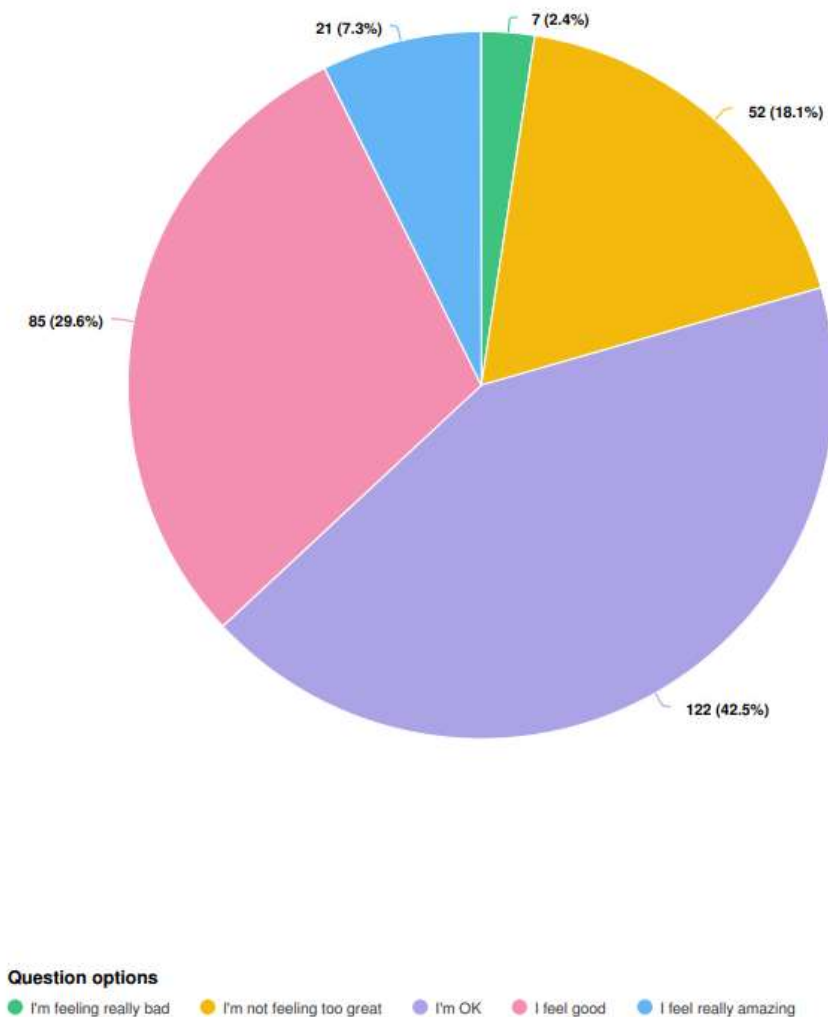
**4. Has the lockdown period been positive or negative for you?**

**5. Has there been anything that you, your family or community have done that has been positive or helped other people?**

In addition to this, Barking and Dagenham added one question asking if the young person was in care or a care leaver, and if so, how their experience of lockdown been.

Here's some information from the data we collated (specific to Barking and Dagenham respondents):

## How are you feeling?



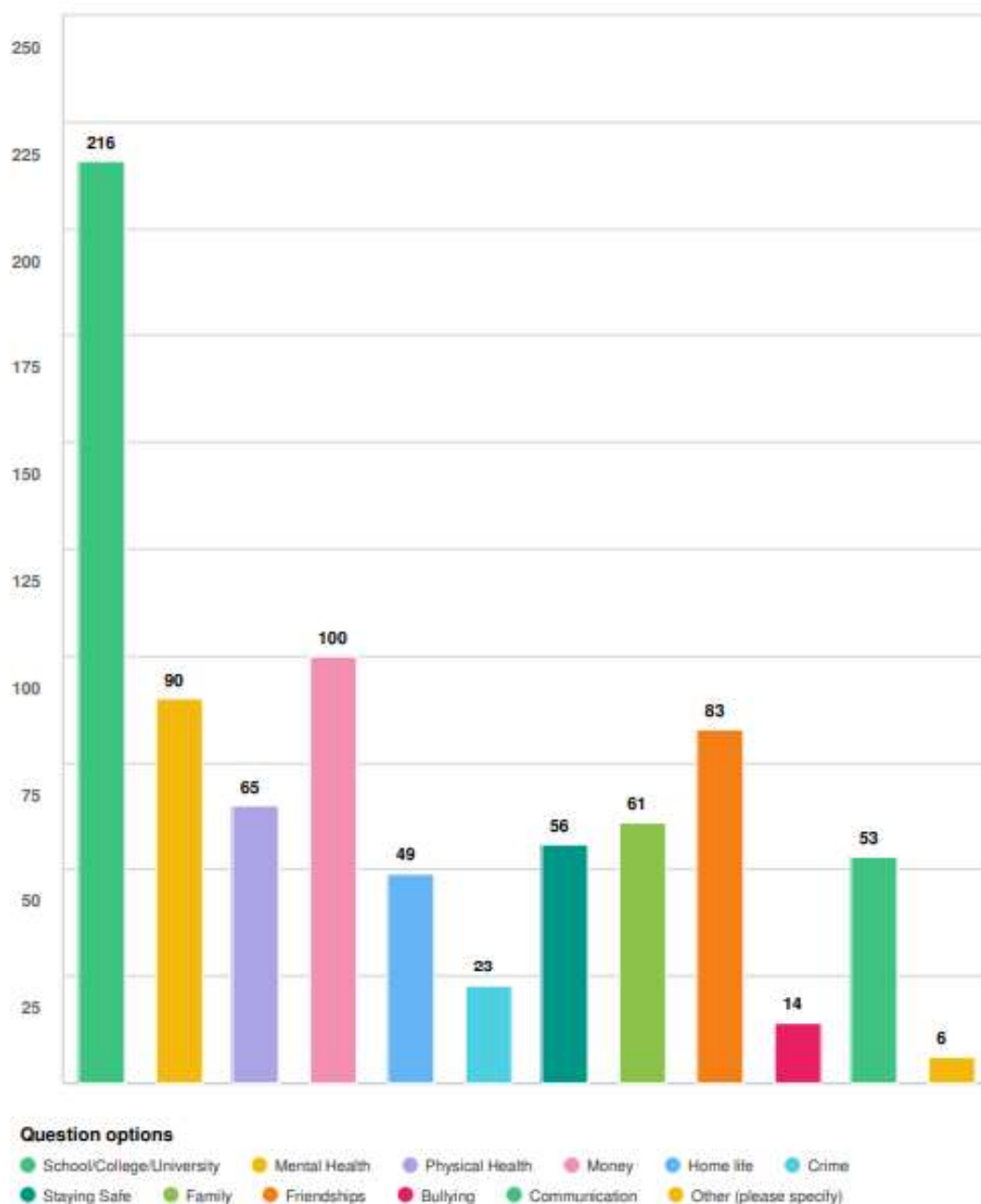
The majority of the responses ranged from 'I'm ok' to 'I feel really amazing' (79.4%), this was encouraging feedback.

There was an opportunity at the end of the survey for young people to ask for help if they felt they needed it. Youth workers e-mailed every person who indicated they would like some help and included some helpful information, as well as the offer of additional support if required.

## Have you worried about anything during lockdown?

Education featured as the biggest area of worry for young people during lockdown.

Our members reported difficulties with their education, some felt overwhelmed, others struggled to complete work alone without teacher support and others lacked motivation. Each of these contributed towards feelings of stress and anxiety.

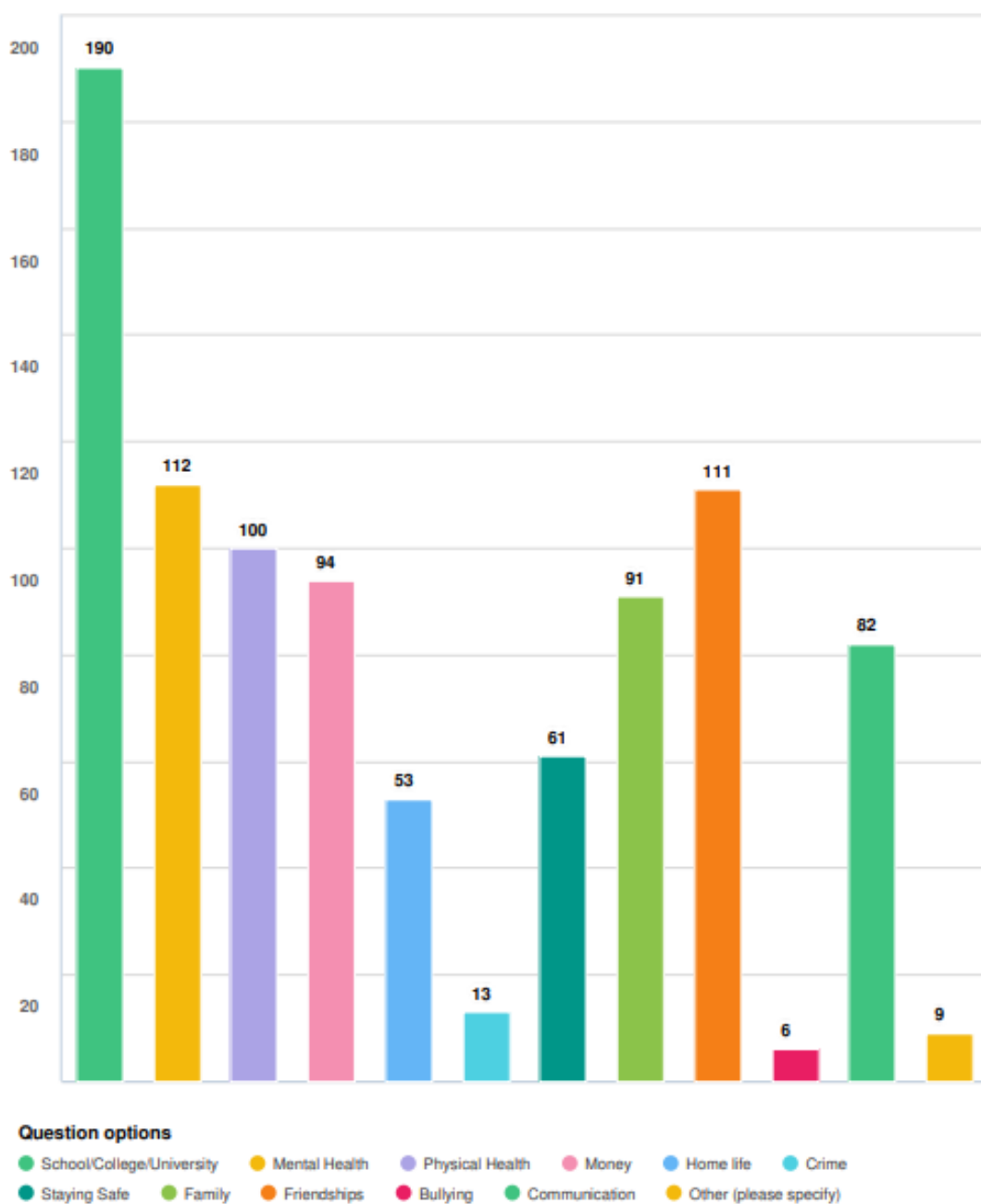




## Are you worried about anything in the future?

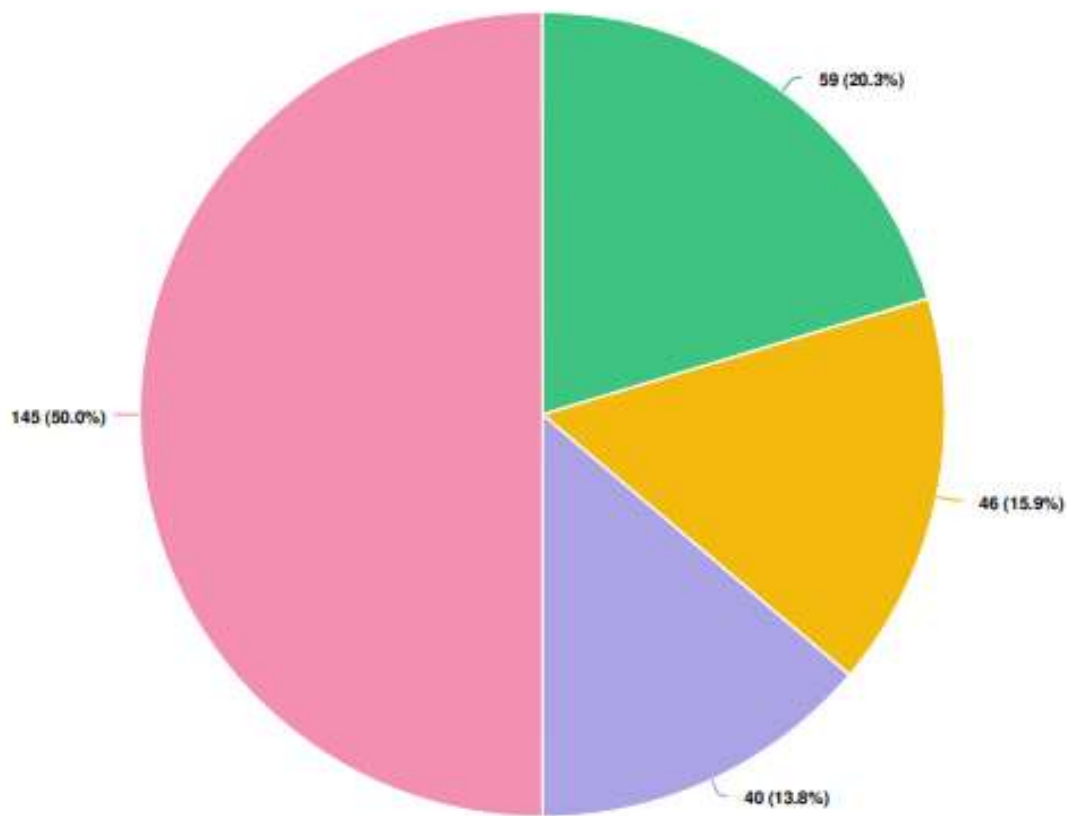
Similar to the worries during lockdown, young people were most concerned about their education when thinking about the future. Interestingly money follows in second place, with mental health in third place.

Forum members have noticed the difficulties relating to mental health, either themselves or amongst their friends and family.



## Has the lockdown been positive or negative for you?

Only 15.9% of respondents say that lockdown has been negative. Perhaps predictably, the largest proportion report that it has been positive and negative. This resonates with the Forum members who have also experienced a range of feelings and emotions during lockdown.



### Question options

Positive Negative Neither Both

## **Black Lives Matter**

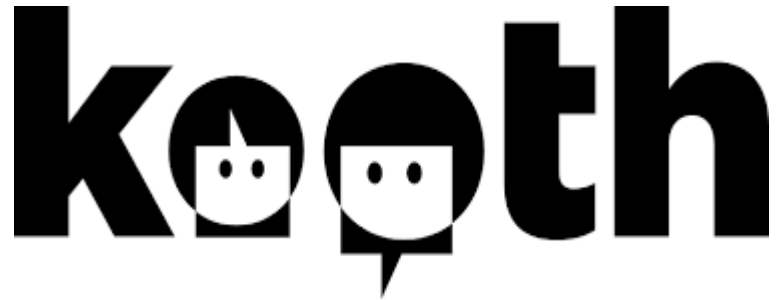
In response to the George Floyd killing and the rising momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement, the group held a series of discussions about their experiences as a borough resident and whilst at school. Young people had a range of experiences and knowledge about the issue of racism, unconscious bias and racial inequality. The group engaged well and were very mature and thoughtful in their approach to the discussions.

As a result, the Forum linked with the Black Lives Matter Barking and Dagenham group and invited them to a session. Here, both groups discussed their issues and what they had planned for the future. Subsequently, Forum members were invited to a workshop the BLM Barking and Dagenham members were leading. The workshop focussed on myth busters, all lives matter vs black lives matter, black on black crime, recognising black history and time for a Q&A. Forum members found it both informative and educational.

## **Curriculum review - Black History**

BAD Youth Forum members have requested to be involved in a curriculum review and share their views about better representation of Black History and Black people in their curriculum and how this might be achieved. This is a long term piece of work and the consultation process with schools is just beginning and being led by the Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership (BDSIP). We will be participating in discussions once stakeholder engagement has begun.

## Kooth



In response to the lockdown survey earlier in the year, the group members decided to work on a project related to the responses we received.

Although mental health was not the issue that young people were most worried about, young people recognised that poor mental health or people struggling with mental health will have an adverse effect on other parts of their lives.

Since returning to school sub-group members report greater feelings of stress and anxiety, mostly caused by an increased workload in an effort to catch up for time away from school. This is particularly apparent for students Year 10 and above. With this in mind the group explored options for a mental health project that would support young people who are struggling.

Youth Workers held discussions with Kooth, an organisation that offers online mental wellbeing support, to explore options of working together. Young people have agreed to participate in training sessions with a view to co-delivering workshops to other young people across the borough. This project will upskill our members and support them to have good mental health going forward, as well as helping other young people who are struggling. This will be a lifelong skill that will give the young people confidence, teach them coping mechanisms and the ability to identify people who are struggling with poor mental health and offer support.

### What is well-being?

Well-being is the state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy.

Well-being is recognised as being on a scale, and lots of different factors can have an impact our well-being.

For example, you could be healthy, but unhappy, or unwell but comfortable.



### Have you noticed any changes in yourself?

-  Changes in your sleep, e.g. difficulty getting to sleep or staying asleep?
-  An increase in worries about your health or the health of people around you.
-  Worries about school or handling changes in education
-  Wanting to spend less time with friends and family
-  Thoughts of self harm or suicide



Sign up for free at [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

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# Additional Forum activities 2020

## Engagement and Participation

In addition to each of the sub-groups' projects and achievements, Forum members also had the opportunity to be involved in other pieces of work too.

This included:

- A range of consultations (detailed on the next page)
- Attending formal meetings (virtually)
- Celebrating our black young people and the contribution they have made to the borough as part of Black History Month
- Attending London Youth Assembly meetings
- Participating in activity sessions to promote positive wellbeing

# Consultations

As with other years, the Forum were approached to participate in a range of consultations throughout the year, sharing their personal opinions and helping to shape services/decisions.

In 2020, the list of consultations included:

- **Domestic Abuse Commission**- Amelia Grant from the Commission spoke to young people about their perceptions of domestic abuse and the normalisation of harming a partner, as well as controlling them. Young people shared their views and experiences which helped to shape the community engagement response which will be included in the commission report.
- With **C-Card condom distribution service** in the borough offering online registrations young people were consulted about how to share the message of this new aspect of the service being available. The group approved an automated e-mail that will be sent out to everyone who registers online and discussed the possibility of condoms being sent direct to home addresses. This helped the service lead to make decisions about the most appropriate way forward for the service and ensure young people's views were at the heart of the service.
- **Fearless** consulted with Forum members about a new campaign on Snapchat and Instagram they will be running focussed on grooming, county lines and anonymous reporting. The young people gave honest feedback about the images Fearless were using and the wording on the posters, ensuring they are age appropriate and engaging.
- **NCS (National Citizen's Service)** met with the young people and posed the following question: *given the impact of the global pandemic on education, employment and training for young people, what are the keys skills and career opportunities that you think young people in your area need better access to?* Young people discussed volunteering opportunities and how they felt NCS could shape their projects going forward to suit the current restrictions.
- Having previously consulted with the Forum, colleagues working on the **Lost Hours campaign** returned to the group to showcase a series of posters asking for their views about whether the messages are conveyed accurately and if they are impactful and effective. Young people explored the positive and negative aspects of the posters and helped colleagues to adapt them.
- Young people were asked to discuss the **Becontree Centenary project** and share their views, this was part of a wider consultation in the community.
- **Transport consultation**- as plans to cut free travel for young people from November onwards were announced, young people were offered the opportunity to share their views along with information about how the lack of free travel would affect them. These views were added to other young people's views from all over London and shared with the



Mayor of London/Government in a bid to save young people's free travel. Three quotes were used from BAD Youth Forum members in a report from TravelWatch (London's transport watchdog) sent to London MP's. In October 2020 it was announced that the plans to scrap free travel for under 18s had been cancelled.

- **LivShare**- young people in the Forum were consulted about a new kind of housing they are planning for young people, this will be for care leavers, students and other young people who need accommodation. Young people shared their views about the style of the housing, what they would need to feel safe living there, thoughts about shared and private spaces and generally what home should feel like for young people. The group will have the chance to review the architects plans early next year.

## Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting

In June, Forum members participated in a Youth Independent Advisory Group meeting, these meetings are an opportunity for young people to meet with Police to discuss issues relating to crime. The agenda is set by young people and the meeting is chaired by the BAD Youth Forum chair Johami Mutuale. The BCU commander, Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Clayman attended the meeting and agreed to answer a series of questions the young people had planned. Here are some examples of the topics discussed at the meeting:

- Stop and search data
- Gangs
- Street crime data and how lockdown has affected crime statistics
- Police improving/rebuilding relationships with ethnic minorities
- Most common crimes committed by under 18's
- Knife crime
- County lines
- Early intervention services
- Rise in crime post lockdown
- Diversity in the local police force

As a result of the discussions Cllr Mullane met with the London Youth Assembly member, Aker and at a later date with the Young Mayor and the Leader of the Council to discuss some of the issues that arose from the meeting.

## **BAD Youth Forum Chair**

Johami Mutuale, was elected the Chair of the BAD Youth Forum 2020. Johami is an experienced Chair and brings a wealth of knowledge as well confidence to attend formal meetings and share the views of young people in the borough. Despite lockdown, this year was no different! Johami continued to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings (via MS Teams) and champion the views of young people. Johami enjoys these opportunities and the committee appreciates her honesty and thoughtful responses.



In addition to the OSC, Johami has committed to attend Safer Neighbourhood Board meetings. This includes both the 'open' and 'closed' meetings. As a new member Johami has attended 1 meeting so far but is looking forward to future participation.

## **London Youth Assembly (GLA)**



Aker Okoye was the representative for Barking and Dagenham 19-20 and was elected Vice Chair by his LYA peers. The number of meetings this year were reduced as a result of

lockdown and the time it took to move meetings to online, but there has been 2 meetings since lockdown began.

The LYA continued to focus on mental health and crime issues relating to young people in London. Due to restricted number of meetings, unfortunately plans did not progress as expected.

We now have 2 new representatives from the Forum sitting on the LYA, they are Fiona Eagleson and Millie Kiseke. They will be attending their first meeting in November.

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## ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

<b>Title:</b> Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Ward Boundary Review 2020	
<b>Report of the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Report Author:</b> John Dawe, Senior Governance Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 2135 E-mail: <a href="mailto:john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk">john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance and Acting Deputy Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>Following the announcement by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to undertake a review of Barking and Dagenham's ward boundaries, this report follows the decision taken by the Assembly on 22 July 20 on the Council Size proposal of 51 councillors. This being the total number of councillors who in the Council's opinion, should be elected to the local authority in future local government elections. This recommendation was based on projected electoral numbers, the Council's current governance arrangements, the representational role of councillors and future trends and plans.</p> <p>The LGBCE being 'minded to' support the Council's submission, undertook a public consultation exercise, seeking a wide range of local views with reasons as to the Borough's ward boundary pattern, including the number and names of proposed wards, together with the number of councillors per ward. This consultation exercise ran for seven weeks and concluded on 11 January 2021.</p> <p>The Council as a statutory consultee was invited to make a submission. Consequently, all Members were given the opportunity both collectively and individually to comment on the proposed ward boundary pattern having regard to both the Council size proposal of 51 councillors and the three main principles underpinning the LGBCE criteria for conducting reviews, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivering electoral equality for local voters to ensure that, as far as possible, each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors.</li> <li>2. Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities by establishing electoral arrangements that maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable, and</li> <li>3. Promoting effective and convenient local government to ensure that the proposed wards can be represented effectively by their elected representatives.</li> </ol> <p>In the light of the above a prospective ward boundary map was drawn up with supporting information, proposing the creation of nineteen wards, made up of a combination of 2 and</p>	

3 Member wards, and which given the 11 January 2021 deadline to respond, was presented to the LGBCE as the Authority's in principle view as to its favoured ward pattern arrangements, subject to approval by the Assembly at this meeting.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Assembly:

- (i) Agree the proposed ward pattern for the Borough of nineteen (19) wards made up of a combination of 2 and 3 Member wards based on the configuration detailed in ward boundary map set out in **Appendix 3** with additional information as set out in **Appendix 4** (*location of schools*), **Appendix 5** (*location of places of worship*) and **Appendix 6** (*supporting information for each of the 19 proposed wards*), and which includes reference to the creation of two new wards named Creekmouth and Roding, and
- (ii) That the decision be reaffirmed with the LGBCE.

### **Reason(s)**

LGBCE has a legal duty to undertake an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time' and has scheduled for a review of Barking and Dagenham's electoral arrangements to begin in 2020 to come into effect from the local elections in May 2022.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) confirmed that a review of Barking & Dagenham's ward boundaries would commence this year, and which was formally launched with a presentation to Members in January 2020. The outcome of the final approved review comes into place from the next local elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The first phase of the review involved the LGBCE reaching a judgement on the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council at future elections (Council Size) based on an electoral forecast up to 2026. In this respect the Assembly at its meeting on 22 July 2020 agreed to recommend to the LGBCE a Council Size submission remaining at 51 councillors, which it felt was justified to enable each councillor to deliver/fulfil their responsibilities and duties as elected ward representatives.
- 1.3 The Council currently has seventeen wards and fifty-one councillors with each ward represented by three councillors. At the time of the last review in 1999 each councillor represented an average of 2,235 eligible electors. As of January 2020 each councillor represented, on average, 2,782 eligible electors, and in 2026 each councillor is forecast to represent, on average 3,418 eligible electors.
- 1.4 At a meeting on 20 October 2020 the LGBCE were mindful to support the Council Size submission, and thereby recommended for consultation purposes that the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham should in the future continue to be made up of 51 Councillors. At that meeting the LGBCE further decided:

- that the figure of 141,874 (*eligible electorate as of January 2020*) should form the starting figure for the review; and
  - to use 174,322 (*the Council's electoral forecast for 2026*) as the total electorate figure to underpin their public consultation on where ward boundaries should be drawn in Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.5 The LGBCE's 'minded to' decision on Council Size and the agreed electoral forecast set out in **Appendix 1** underpinned an initial public consultation exercise which the Boundary Commission launched on 27 October and which ran until 11 January 2021.
- 1.6 This consultation invited the Council, political groups, community groups, residents and other interested parties to propose:
- new ward boundaries,
  - ward names, and
  - the number of councillors per ward
- 1.7 The criteria for proposing new wards must:
- result in each councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other councillors,
  - reflect community interests and identities, as far as possible,
  - have boundaries that are identifiable, and
  - promote effective and convenient local government.

## 2. Barking and Dagenham Population today

- 2.1 During this century Barking and Dagenham has become one of the fastest changing communities in Britain:
- Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses the population rose from 164,000 to 186,000 and is projected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to rise to 228,000 by 2043. This does not include the impact from planned housing or economic developments – Barking and Dagenham is planning to build 50,000 new homes over the next 25 years;
  - The most recently available provisional local population estimate from ONS was 212,906 as of 30 June 2019;
  - The age of the community is changing with the highest birth rate in London and a large number of young people, with Barking and Dagenham having the highest proportion of under 16-year olds in the UK;
  - The borough becomes more diverse each year – the proportion of the population identifying as coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds has increased from 19.1% to 50.5% between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, whilst those identifying as White British has reduced from 80.9% to 49.5%. Ethnic projections available from the GLA forecast 66% of the borough population identifying as coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in 2020 compared to 34% identifying as White British;
  - People in the borough die earlier, have poorer health and lower levels of education and skills than across London, whilst too many residents are in low paid work and struggle to find suitable homes they can afford; and

- Barking and Dagenham had the highest overall deprivation score in London according to the 2019 indices of deprivation published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

### **3. The Challenge**

- 3.1 The identities of the Borough's current wards are well established. The last Borough electoral review took place in 1999. Prior to that review the Borough was made up of twenty wards (11- 3 member and 9-2 member wards). Although a number of former ward names were dropped, and other ward boundaries modified, fifteen of the current seventeen wards have retained their name and identity and have been familiar to local residents over a number of decades.
- 3.2 The electoral forecast shows is that by 2026 fourteen of the current wards (82.4%) will have an elector per councillor ratio that is (+/-) more than 10% from the average ratio for the borough. This is because significantly more housing development is happening in Abbey, Gascoigne, River and Thames before 2026 than has either happened for a long time within the borough or is planned in the remaining thirteen wards. (See map of proposed housing developments in **Appendix 2**).
- 3.3 The elector per councillor ratio for these four wards and the borough as a whole is significantly driven up in comparison to those wards with fewer or no housing developments. This is mainly due to the Council's growth agenda where regeneration has focused mainly on the land development opportunities in parts of Barking as compared to large parts of Dagenham. The impact of this varied growth means that in the absence of a review a considerable number of ward councillors would represent significantly differing numbers of residents. The challenge therefore has been to propose a pattern of wards that improves equality of representation across the borough whilst seeking to preserve the identities and interests of its well-established local communities.
- 3.4 This review provides the opportunity to propose sensible boundary changes as set out in the proposed ward pattern boundary map, and where the identity/essence of a ward has seen significant changes since the previous review more than 20 years ago. An example of this is the massive development at Barking Riverside within the Thames Ward which has seen large scale development in the recent past, and which justifies the creation of a second ward (Creekmouth).

### **3. Next stage of the Review**

- 4.1 After analysing all submissions from the public consultation including that submitted by the Council, the LGBCE will publish their draft recommendations on the future electoral ward arrangements for Barking and Dagenham on 23 March 2021. They will then open a second public consultation where all interested parties will be invited to comment on/challenge their recommendations and which will run until 31 May 2021. This is normally the final opportunity to influence the review, although the process does allow for the LGBCE to undertake further public consultation should they decide to significantly change their draft recommendations based on the outcomes of the second consultation.



- 4.2 The final part of the review involves LGBCE publishing their recommendations and preparing a draft Order which must be laid before Parliament for a period of 40 sitting days from September 2021.

#### **4. Options Appraisal**

- 5.1 This stage of the review involves the submission by the Authority of its preferred ward pattern proposal based on 51 councillors, including the number (19) and names of wards and the number of councillors representing each ward (combination of 2 and 3 per ward). The main principles applied to the review as set out in paragraph 1.7 above includes specifically a requirement to ensure that each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors across each ward. Therefore, in choosing not to recommend any single member wards, it was not possible from an electoral equality standpoint to maintain the current arrangements of 17 wards, each represented by three councillors.

#### **6. Consultations**

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been the subject of detailed discussions at the officer working group and discussed with Members both collectively and individually. Forming part of the review the LGBCE are carrying out a number of public consultation exercises, for which the Council has provided the Boundary Commission with a list of local key stakeholders.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

*Implications completed by Sandra Pillenger, Group Accountant*

- 7.1 This report has no direct financial implications as it does not contain any financial proposals. As the recommendation is to continue with 51 councillors the financial impact can be considered negligible.

#### **8. Legal Implications**

*Implications completed by Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Solicitor*

- 8.1 The main piece of legislation is the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). This consolidates and amends provisions previously contained in the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 1992 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Section 56 of the 2009 Act requires that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the 'Commission' for short) review 'from time to time' every principal local authority in England and make recommendations about electoral arrangements.
- 8.2 From July 2018, the Commission began a three-year program of electoral reviews of London Boroughs, that it had not reviewed in the last 5 years which includes Barking and Dagenham.
- 8.3 A Commission electoral review works to recommend new ward boundaries that mean each councilor will represent approximately the same number of voters. A

review also aims to ensure that the pattern of wards reflect the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government.

- 8.4 The Commission is required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the number of councillors who should serve on the Council as well as the number, boundaries, and names of wards.
- 8.5 In undertaking the review the Commission must have had regard to the statutory criteria contained in the 2009 Act and to their own technical guidance in carrying out a review (the most recent being their 2014 edition).

## **9. Other Implications**

- 9.1 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact** – The outcome of the Review will determine the number of councillors for the Borough as well as both the number and ward boundaries, allowing for the most effective representation of the Borough's diverse communities. It will accord with the Vision and Priorities for the Borough.

### **Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Technical Guidance 2014  
(<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/technical-guidance>)

### **List of appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – Forecast electorate for 2026, based on both the existing and proposed ward structure
- Appendix 2 – Map of housing developments expected to happen by 2026
- Appendix 3 – Map of proposed ward boundaries
- Appendix 4 – The location of schools within the proposed wards.
- Appendix 5 – The location of places of worship within the proposed wards.
- Appendix 6 – Supporting information for each of the 19 proposed ward

WARD	Existing wards - 2026				Proposed wards - 2026		
	Electors	Cllrs	Electors per Cllr	Variance	Electors	Cllrs	Electors per Cllr
Abbey	13217	3	4406	28.9%	10757	3	3586
Alibon	8231	3	2744	-19.7%	10355	3	3452
Becontree	10997	3	3666	7.2%	10116	3	3372
Chadwell Heath	9030	3	3010	-11.9%	10302	3	3434
Eastbrook	9098	3	3033	-11.3%	7323	2	3662
Eastbury	9053	3	3018	-11.7%	9763	3	3254
Gascoigne	14724	3	4908	43.6%	7077	2	3539
<i>Roding</i>					6886	2	3443
Goresbrook	9037	3	3012	-11.9%	10395	3	3465
Heath	9664	3	3221	-5.8%	7010	2	3505
Longbridge	9871	3	3290	-3.7%	10482	3	3494
Mayesbrook	8282	3	2761	-19.2%	10082	3	3361
Parsloes	7820	3	2607	-23.7%	6947	2	3474
River	12028	3	4009	17.3%	9827	3	3276
Thames	16301	3	5434	59.0%	9325	3	3108
<i>Creekmouth</i>					6844	2	3422
Valence	8902	3	2967	-13.2%	10304	3	3435
Village	8983	3	2994	-12.4%	9809	3	3270
Whalebone	9086	3	3029	-11.4%	10718	3	3573
<b>LBBD</b>	<b>174322</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3418</b>		<b>174322</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3418</b>

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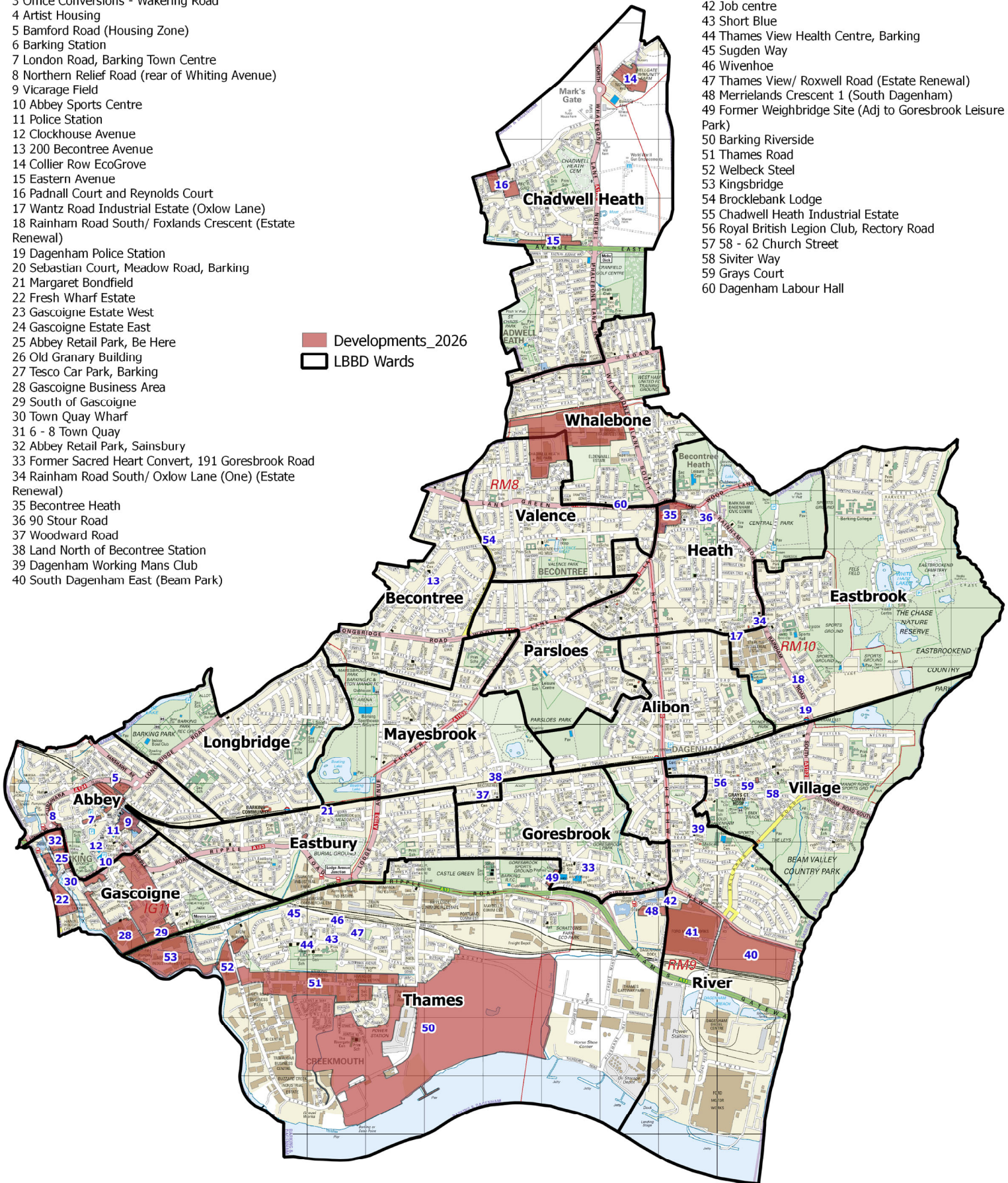
<b>026</b>
<b>Variance</b>
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1.0%
-1.3%
0.5%
7.1%
-4.8%
3.5%
0.7%
1.4%
2.5%
2.2%
-1.7%
1.6%
-4.2%
-9.1%
0.1%
0.5%
-4.3%
4.5%

# Housing developments expected to happen by 2026

## Appendix 2

- 1 Crown House
- 2 Trocoll House
- 3 Office Conversions - Waking Road
- 4 Artist Housing
- 5 Bamford Road (Housing Zone)
- 6 Barking Station
- 7 London Road, Barking Town Centre
- 8 Northern Relief Road (rear of Whiting Avenue)
- 9 Vicarage Field
- 10 Abbey Sports Centre
- 11 Police Station
- 12 Clockhouse Avenue
- 13 200 Becontree Avenue
- 14 Collier Row EcoGrove
- 15 Eastern Avenue
- 16 Padnall Court and Reynolds Court
- 17 Wantz Road Industrial Estate (Oxlow Lane)
- 18 Rainham Road South/ Foxlands Crescent (Estate Renewal)
- 19 Dagenham Police Station
- 20 Sebastian Court, Meadow Road, Barking
- 21 Margaret Bondfield
- 22 Fresh Wharf Estate
- 23 Gascoigne Estate West
- 24 Gascoigne Estate East
- 25 Abbey Retail Park, Be Here
- 26 Old Granary Building
- 27 Tesco Car Park, Barking
- 28 Gascoigne Business Area
- 29 South of Gascoigne
- 30 Town Quay Wharf
- 31 6 - 8 Town Quay
- 32 Abbey Retail Park, Sainsbury
- 33 Former Sacred Heart Convert, 191 Goresbrook Road
- 34 Rainham Road South/ Oxlow Lane (One) (Estate Renewal)
- 35 Becontree Heath
- 36 90 Stour Road
- 37 Woodward Road
- 38 Land North of Becontree Station
- 39 Dagenham Working Mans Club
- 40 South Dagenham East (Beam Park)



- 41 Former Ford Stamping Plant
- 42 Job centre
- 43 Short Blue
- 44 Thames View Health Centre, Barking
- 45 Sugden Way
- 46 Wivenhoe
- 47 Thames View/ Roxwell Road (Estate Renewal)
- 48 Merrilands Crescent 1 (South Dagenham)
- 49 Former Weighbridge Site (Adj to Goresbrook Leisure Park)
- 50 Barking Riverside
- 51 Thames Road
- 52 Welbeck Steel
- 53 Kingsbridge
- 54 Brocklebank Lodge
- 55 Chadwell Heath Industrial Estate
- 56 Royal British Legion Club, Rectory Road
- 57 58 - 62 Church Street
- 58 Siviter Way
- 59 Grays Court
- 60 Dagenham Labour Hall



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# Proposed ward pattern

## Legend

-  proposed wards
-  existing wards



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# Schools within Barking and Dagenham - Appendix 4

- 1 Adult College
- 2 All Saints Catholic School and Technology College
- 3 Barking Abbey (Lower School)
- 4 Barking Abbey (Upper School)
- 5 Beam County
- 6 Becontree
- 7 Community Music Service
- 8 Dagenham Park Church of England
- 9 Dorothy Barley
- 10 Dorothy Barley Academy
- 11 Eastbrook School
- 12 Eastbury Academy
- 13 Eastbury Community School
- 14 ELUTEC
- 15 Five Elms
- 16 Furze
- 17 Gascoigne
- 18 George Carey
- 19 Godwin
- 20 Goresbrook School
- 21 Grafton
- 22 Greatfields
- 23 Henry Green
- 24 Hunters Hall
- 25 James Cambell
- 26 Jo Richardson Community School
- 27 John Perry
- 28 Manor
- 29 Manor (Longbridge)
- 30 Manor (Sandringham Road)
- 31 Marsh Green
- 32 Mayesbrook Park School (Previously the PRU)
- 33 Monteagle
- 34 Northbury
- 35 Parsloes
- 36 Richard Alibon
- 37 Ripple Primary (Suffolk Road)
- 38 Ripple Primary (Westbury)
- 39 Riverside Bridge
- 40 Riverside Primary
- 41 Riverside School
- 42 Robert Clack (Lower Site)
- 43 Robert Clack (Upper School)
- 44 Robert Clack Lymington Fields
- 45 Roding (Cannington Road)
- 46 Roding (Hewett Road)
- 47 Rose Lane
- 48 Rush Green
- 49 Southwood
- 50 St Josephs Catholic (Barking)
- 51 St Josephs Catholic (Dagenham)
- 52 St Margarets Church of England
- 53 St Peters Catholic
- 54 St Teresa Catholic
- 55 St Vincents Catholic
- 56 Sydney Russell
- 57 Sydney Russell Primary Division
- 58 Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- 59 Thames View Juniors
- 60 Thames View Bridge SEMH Provision
- 61 Thames View Infants
- 62 The Erkenwald Centre and Home Tuition Service
- 63 The Leys
- 64 The Seabrook Centre
- 65 Thomas Arnold
- 66 Trinity
- 67 Valence (Bonham Road)
- 68 Valence (St Georges Road)
- 69 Village
- 70 Virtual Head Teacher for Looked After Children
- 71 Warren Juniors
- 72 Warren (Secondary)
- 73 William Bellamy
- 74 William Ford

## Schools

- Infants
- ◆ Juniors
- ◆ Primary
- ★ All Through
- Secondary
- Secondary Comprehensive
- ⊕ 14-19 only
- ▲ Special
- ▲ Specialist Alternative Provision
- ▶ Additional Information



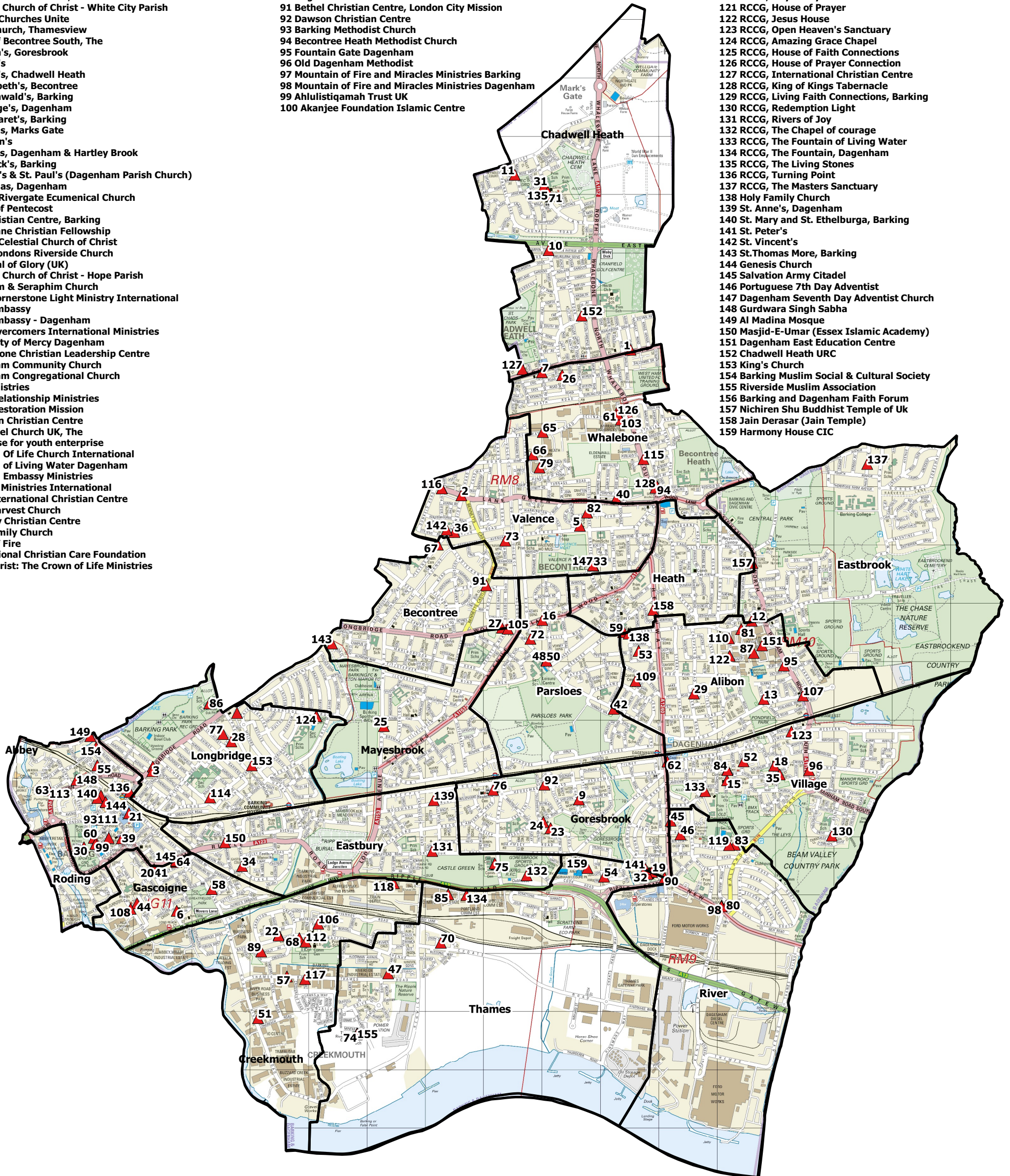
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# Places of worship within Barking & Dagenham - Appendix 5

- 1 Albany Road Gospel Church
- 2 Beacon Tree Masjid (formerly Becontree Heath Islamic Society (Dagenham Central Mosque))
- 3 At-Taqwa Islamic centre (LBBB Somali Community Association)
- 4 Barking Baptist Tabernacle
- 5 Becontree Avenue Baptist
- 6 Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church
- 7 Chadwell Heath Baptist
- 8 Christ Apostolic
- 9 Dagenham Baptist Church
- 10 Eastern Avenue Baptist Church
- 11 Marks Gate Baptist Church
- 12 Oxlow Lane Baptist Church
- 13 Pentecost Baptist Church
- 14 Upney Baptist Church
- 15 Victory Land Baptist Church
- 16 Wood Lane Baptist
- 17 Christ Apostolic Church Outreach
- 18 Christ Apostolic Church, Dagenham
- 19 Christ Apostolic Church, Goresbrook Rd
- 20 Celestial Church of Christ - White City Parish
- 21 Barking Churches Unite
- 22 Christ Church, Thamesview
- 23 Parish of Becontree South, The
- 24 St. Alban's, Goresbrook
- 25 St. Cedd's
- 26 St. Chad's, Chadwell Heath
- 27 St. Elisabeth's, Becontree
- 28 St. Erkenwald's, Barking
- 29 St. George's, Dagenham
- 30 St. Margaret's, Barking
- 31 St. Mark's, Marks Gate
- 32 St. Martin's
- 33 St. Mary's, Dagenham & Hartley Brook
- 34 St. Patrick's, Barking
- 35 St. Peter's & St. Paul's (Dagenham Parish Church)
- 36 St. Thomas, Dagenham
- 37 Barking Rivergate Ecumenical Church
- 38 Church of Pentecost
- 39 Elim Christian Centre, Barking
- 40 Green Lane Christian Fellowship
- 41 Barking Celestial Church of Christ
- 42 Bethel Londons Riverside Church
- 43 Cathedral of Glory (UK)
- 44 Celestial Church of Christ - Hope Parish
- 45 Cherubim & Seraphim Church
- 46 Christ Cornerstone Light Ministry International
- 47 Christ Embassy
- 48 Christ Embassy - Dagenham
- 49 Christ Overcomers International Ministries
- 50 RCCG City of Mercy Dagenham
- 51 Cornerstone Christian Leadership Centre
- 52 Dagenham Community Church
- 53 Dagenham Congregational Church
- 54 Dipa Ministries
- 55 Divine Relationship Ministries
- 56 Divine Restoration Mission
- 57 Dominion Christian Centre
- 58 Emmanuel Church UK, The
- 59 Enterprise for youth enterprise
- 60 Fountain Of Life Church International
- 61 Fountain of Living Water Dagenham
- 62 Freedom Embassy Ministries
- 63 Glorious Ministries International
- 64 Glory International Christian Centre
- 65 Grace Harvest Church
- 66 Harmony Christian Centre
- 67 Hope Family Church
- 68 House of Fire
- 69 International Christian Care Foundation
- 70 Jesus Christ: The Crown of Life Ministries

- 71 Jubilee Christian Church
- 72 Kingsley Hall Community and Church
- 73 Lifeline Church
- 74 Mimshank Anointing Ministries
- 75 New Bethel Christian Centre
- 76 New Life Church Centre
- 77 New Park Hall Evangelical Church
- 78 NCC - Dagenham Cultural Mass Centre
- 79 Pentecostal Revival Assemblies of God Church
- 80 Power Arena
- 81 Powerhouse International Ministries
- 82 Rehoboth Prophetic Prayer Ministries
- 83 Salvation Church of Christ International
- 84 The Great House
- 85 The Living God Temple/ International Bible Ministry
- 86 The Potter's House
- 87 Vineyard of Glory Ministries International
- 88 World Gospel Outreach Ministry
- 89 Barking Jehovah's Witnesses
- 90 Dagenham Jehovah's Witnesses
- 91 Bethel Christian Centre, London City Mission
- 92 Dawson Christian Centre
- 93 Barking Methodist Church
- 94 Becontree Heath Methodist Church
- 95 Fountain Gate Dagenham
- 96 Old Dagenham Methodist
- 97 Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Barking
- 98 Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Dagenham
- 99 Ahlulistiqaamah Trust UK
- 100 Akanjee Foundation Islamic Centre

- 101 Jabir Bin Zayd Islamic Centre
- 102 Barking Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
- 103 Dagenham Aishah Islamic Centre
- 104 Dagenham Islamic Welfare Association and Mosque
- 105 Dagenham Ummah Welfare Trust
- 106 Thames View Muslim Association
- 107 Madina Foundation Dagenham East - Islamic Centre
- 108 Al Noor Cultural & Educational Trust
- 109 Church of God Mission International
- 110 Grace to Grace International
- 111 House of Common Prayer International Ministry
- 112 Life Expression Healing Church
- 113 Living Word \Parole Vivant\''''
- 114 New Testament Assembly
- 115 Pillar of Fire
- 116 The Church of Pentacost UK
- 117 Victorious Pentecostal Assembly
- 118 Worshipville Christian Centre
- 119 RCCG, Chapel of Truth
- 120 RCCG, City of Joy
- 121 RCCG, House of Prayer
- 122 RCCG, Jesus House
- 123 RCCG, Open Heaven's Sanctuary
- 124 RCCG, Amazing Grace Chapel
- 125 RCCG, House of Faith Connections
- 126 RCCG, House of Prayer Connection
- 127 RCCG, International Christian Centre
- 128 RCCG, King of Kings Tabernacle
- 129 RCCG, Living Faith Connections, Barking
- 130 RCCG, Redemption Light
- 131 RCCG, Rivers of Joy
- 132 RCCG, The Chapel of courage
- 133 RCCG, The Fountain of Living Water
- 134 RCCG, The Fountain, Dagenham
- 135 RCCG, The Living Stones
- 136 RCCG, Turning Point
- 137 RCCG, The Masters Sanctuary
- 138 Holy Family Church
- 139 St. Anne's, Dagenham
- 140 St. Mary and St. Ethelburga, Barking
- 141 St. Peter's
- 142 St. Vincent's
- 143 St. Thomas More, Barking
- 144 Genesis Church
- 145 Salvation Army Citadel
- 146 Portuguese 7th Day Adventist
- 147 Dagenham Seventh Day Adventist Church
- 148 Gurdwara Singh Sabha
- 149 Al Madina Mosque
- 150 Masjid-E-Umar (Essex Islamic Academy)
- 151 Dagenham East Education Centre
- 152 Chadwell Heath URC
- 153 King's Church
- 154 Barking Muslim Social & Cultural Society
- 155 Riverside Muslim Association
- 156 Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum
- 157 Nichiren Shu Buddhist Temple of Uk
- 158 Jain Derasar (Jain Temple)
- 159 Harmony House CIC



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**Justifications ward by ward****BARKING:****Abbey:****Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,757**

Abbey sits on the north west corner of the borough boarded by A13 Trunk Road and encompasses Barking Town Centre. It is predicted to contain around 30% of overall developments in the Borough by 2026, and currently is imbalanced by 16.5%, which will only grow larger by the end of the review period.

Polling district AA (south of Longbridge Road and east of the railway line) was moved into Longbridge as this helped to rebalance the electoral forecast in Abbey and had the railway line as a natural boundary between the two wards.

Polling district DD (St Erkenwald Road, Cranborne Road and Westbury Road) was created in Abbey with Ripple Road as the boundary between Abbey and Gascoigne. This makes sense both as a natural barrier being a main road, and to rebalance the electoral forecast in Abbey ward.

**Roding (new ward) & Gascoigne:****Proposed electorate post 2026 – 6886 (Roding) and 7077 (Gascoigne)**

It is proposed to create a new Roding ward in 2022, as the electoral forecast for the Gascoigne Estate indicates that 4 councillors need to represent it. Had the LGBCE accepted 4 member wards, a single Gascoigne ward would have been proposed given that the estate has a distinct identity to other areas in the Borough and has clear natural boundaries with the A13 to the south, and the railway line to the east. There is only one location to cross the railway line, so this acts as a clear boundary for the ward.

A natural boundary along Gascoigne Road separates the proposed two 2-member wards.

The name for the new ward derives from the River Roding, which geographically marks the southernmost part of the boundary between Barking and Dagenham and the London Borough of Newham.

**Longbridge****Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,482**

This ward takes in east of the Fishes roundabout from Abbey, moving the boundary from Wilmington Gardens to the railway line by Salisbury Avenue. Although there is a crossing over the line and into Essex Road, it is felt that this railway line forms a boundary between wider Barking area and the Town Centre located in Abbey ward. Whilst moving these roads into Longbridge has helped to rebalance Abbey ward, this would have made Longbridge ward too large and therefore part of the Lefley Estate (roads north of Woodbridge Road) have been moved into Mayesbrook ward.

It was helpful to work from these areas outwards given the large-scale development taking place in the West and South of the Borough.

## **BECONTREE ESTATE:**

### **Mayesbrook:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,082**

This ward contains all Mayesbrook Park and the beginning of the Becontree Estate, which comprises about 60% of the borough and means that there aren't easily identifiable boundaries. However, this ward does sit between two parks which form a sensible boundary. The existing Mayesbrook ward takes in a third of Parsloes Park, which does not make much sense.

### **Eastbury:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 9,763**

Eastbury has the natural boundary of the railway line to the north and west, as well as the A13 to the south. Castle Green has been added into the ward for electoral balance as well as community cohesion, as this area is north of the A13 and therefore is more connected to the Goresbrook/Eastbury area.

### **Goresbrook:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,395**

The railway line that runs through the centre of the Borough forms a natural boundary for many of the wards including Goresbrook. This ward is one of eight that covers part of the Becontree Estate, and as such it was difficult to identify clear community boundaries. The area west of the River Gores and up to the Heathway into Goresbrook has been added as the river does not form a substantial natural or community boundary. The Heathway as a major shopping area divides the Becontree Estate and the area of Dagenham Village, and as such it is felt these ward boundaries would reflect these communities. For the sake of electoral balance, the boundary to the south as Goresbrook Road has been moved.

### **Parsloes:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 6,947**

Electorally this is the smallest existing ward, with a predicted variance of -23.7% by 2026. With the growth in the Borough taking place largely in the Barking Town Centre and Riverside areas, this ward can only justify being a 2-member ward. The borders to Gale Street on the west, down to the railway line and along Parsloes Avenue have been moved so that the ward covers the whole of Parsloes Park, and ensures all of Ivyhouse Road and surrounding streets fall into Parsloes ward, as these are accessed from Gale Street.

### **Becontree:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,116**

In order to achieve an electoral balance, polling district ND has been moved from Parsloes into Becontree ward, following the boundary for Becontree ward along the largest roads of Valence Avenue and Becontree Avenue. As previously stated, Becontree ward forms a part of the Becontree Estate, which has a distinct community feel and makes up a large proportion of the Borough.

In order to balance Valence and Becontree wards the boundary from the neighbouring Borough of Redbridge down to Becontree Avenue, has been moved, and in so doing VC polling district has been moved into Valence ward. Additionally, Becontree Avenue as a main road forms an ideal boundary.

#### **Valence:**

##### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,304**

This ward centres around Valence House and Valence Park and forms a part of the Becontree Estate. The border to the north of Green Lane has been retained, being a main road that divides the more industrial areas to the north. Wood Lane acts as the border along the east, providing a barrier between the Becontree Estate and Becontree Heath areas.

#### **CHADWELL HEATH AND MARKSGATE:**

##### **Chadwell Heath:**

##### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,302**

This ward is formed largely of boundaries to the borough and includes the Marks Gate and Chadwell Heath communities. Marks Gate is the most remote area in the borough, and therefore potentially cutting this off into a single member ward would mean residents were less able to integrate into the wider Chadwell Heath community and be represented effectively. The border for this ward is along Chadwell Heath High Road, both for electoral balance and to act as a natural boundary.

#### **Whalebone:**

##### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,718**

Whalebone ward takes in parts of Valence of Heath wards so as to achieve electoral balance. The existing boundary between Valence and Whalebone on Ager Avenue does not reflect the Lymington Fields Estate built since the last review, and therefore the proposed boundaries aim to incorporate the entire Estate as one community into a single ward.

#### **DAGENHAM:**

##### **Heath:**

##### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 7010**

This ward forms the border between the Becontree Estate and the Eastbrook area. The proposed ward follows the boundary of Rainham Road North as opposed to the original ward which incorporated the Dagenham Civic Centre (CUC) and Central Park. With no clear divide between the park and Eastbrookend Country Park, residents often raise casework regarding the Civic Centre and park with Eastbrook Councillors, and so it was felt these areas would be better represented within the Eastbrook ward.

Heath is proposed as a 2-member ward with a variance of +2.5%, and as such the Butlers Court Estate has been moved to Whalebone for electoral balance.

## **Alibon:**

### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 10,355**

The existing boundaries of Alibon ward fall along Wantz Road and the edges of the recreation ground along Reede Road, cutting the road in half and splitting one community up. In addition, the existing ward straddles the Becontree Estate and Dagenham, which has been addressed by moving all of Parsloes Park into Parsloes ward. The boundaries have been redrawn to include the whole of Rainham Road South including the London East site encompassing the Film Studios, as this feels like one community, and is predominantly accessed from the main road. By creating this boundary, it ensures a divide between the London East and former May and Bakers site, both of which have distinctly separate identities, and whilst they are geographically close, the May and Bakers site is accessed directly from Dagenham Road in the Eastbrook ward. Kingsley Close, Robinson Road and Sterry Road have been moved into Alibon ward as these are accessible from Oxlow Lane which is located in that ward.

## **Eastbrook:**

### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 7,323**

Eastbrookend Country Park takes up a significant part of the ward which has borough boundaries to the north and east. It contains 2 distinct communities – Rush Green and Eastbrook. Having moved the ward boundaries for Alibon, it became apparent that Eastbrook was in electoral terms significantly smaller than the other 3-member wards, and with the natural boundary of the railway line to the south it is proposed that this becomes a 2-member ward. For electoral balance, Rainham Road North moves into Eastbrook, also incorporating Panyers Gardens, Ashbrook Gardens and Webscroft Road. Whilst the proposed changes to Eastbrook ward creates a + 7.1% variance, it is not envisaged that there will be any more significant development in this area during the review period up to 2026.

## **Village:**

### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 9,809**

As Dagenham Village has a distinct identity from the rest of the borough, where possible the boundaries have been kept as similar to the existing community structures. The boundary to the north remains as the railway line, which has few crossing points and so forms a barrier between communities. The boundary to the south remains as Dagenham Old Park, as the roads to the south form the Rylands Estate.

## **DAGENHAM DOCK:**

### **River:**

### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 9,827**

The proposed changes in River reflect the huge amount of development which will be coming through over the next 10 years in this area, particularly around Beam Park and the old Ford stamping plant. The Heathway forms the ward boundaries for River, Goresbrook and Village to the south of the railway line – this being a main shopping parade and separates the different communities.



The A13 acts as the divider between River and Thames wards as this is a major dual carriageway that is not easily crossed. South of the A13 in River is purely industrial.

## **THAMES VIEW AND RIVERSIDE**

### **Thames:**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 9,325**

The existing ward of Thames is the biggest area of development within the borough, with the ongoing Barking Riverside project aiming to deliver large scale residential development by 2026 and beyond. This means the ward would be 59% over electoral balance if left untouched.

The ward has borough boundaries to the west and south, and the A13 forms a natural barrier between the communities north and south as it is a major dual carriageway with few crossing points. Thames ward has the largest electoral variance of -9.1%, as it is expected that at least another 5 to 6,000 residential units will be built in the Barking Riverside project in the 10 years following the review. These boundaries will thereby give Thames more capacity to grow.

For electoral balance, the area north of the A13 and South of Goresbrook Road in Thames have been included. Whilst it is recognised that this area would be better linked to Goresbrook ward, this would have resulted in Thames being around - 20% electoral variance which would have fallen outside the criteria set down by the LGBCE of +/- 10%.

### **Creekmouth: (new ward)**

#### **Proposed electorate post 2026 – 6,844**

Creekmouth is formed largely of the Thames View Estate, as well as industrial land leading down to the Thames. The river has been used as a boundary as this creates an electoral balance in the ward. The Council has established a masterplan for the area which aims to regenerate the area with large scale residential development along with light industrial and significant environmental improvements. It will be a 2-member ward.

The name derives from the Creekmouth Village as it was known, which was built not far from the Thames riverbank in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and consisted of two rows of small houses, approximately fifty in total, and had its own school.

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## ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

<b>Title:</b> Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Report Authors:</b> James Johnston, Senior Officer & Donna Radley, Head of Benefits	<b>Contact Details:</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:James.johnston@lbbd.gov.uk">James.johnston@lbbd.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:donna.radley@lbbd.gov.uk">donna.radley@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Mark Fowler, Director of COMSOL	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Claire Symonds, Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Council has a statutory duty to consider annually whether to revise its Local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) or replace it with another scheme. This report recommends keeping the current scheme for use in 2021/22 with a number of small administrative changes. The Assembly has a legal duty to approve the CTS by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.</p> <p>The Council's CTS scheme requires minor administrative changes to improve its clarity and general administration and assist in reaching those that are entitled to support.</p> <p>The scheme requires updating so it is aligned better, is more compatible and has greater clarity in its interactions with Universal Credit as this caseload continues to increase, replacing existing legacy welfare benefits.</p> <p>By replacing some paper application forms with electronic Universal Credit new claim applications received from the Department for Work &amp; Pensions we can further support residents who have been identified as eligible for entitlement to CTS but who, due to a number of reasons such as IT literacy, language barriers and understanding, are not applying. This also reduces the print requirement of LBBd and simplifies administration.</p> <p>Access to the CTS scheme for low income residents is also increased by the automatic granting of CTS entitlement if due for new Universal Credit claimants.</p> <p>The Cabinet is to consider this report at its meeting on 19 January 2021 (the date of publication of this Assembly agenda). Any issues arising from the Cabinet meeting will be reported at the Assembly meeting.</p>	

## **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is recommended to agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme implemented for 2020/21 be retained for 2021/22, subject to the administrative changes detailed in section 2 of the report which improve clarity, align with other welfare benefits, primarily Universal Credit, and enhance access for those eligible for entitlement.

## **Reason**

To assist the Council to achieve its priorities of a Well Run Organisation and Prevention, Independence and Resilience by improving access to support and services and protecting the most vulnerable in society.

## **1 Introduction and Background**

1.1. The Welfare Reform Act in 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit (CTB) from April 2013 and, in its place, support took the form of a local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS). The Local Government Finance Act 2012 contains provisions for the setting up of local support schemes. The current scheme in Barking & Dagenham has been based around the Default Council Tax Reduction Scheme and has been ratified by Assembly.

1.2. The current scheme in operation ensures that:

- The scheme is means tested
- Pensioners are protected, i.e. they must be able to receive up to a 100% reduction (a provision of the national pension age scheme).
- Everyone of working age contributes something towards their Council Tax. A “minimum payment” of 25% in Barking & Dagenham. There is a 75% maximum on which any entitlement to CTS is based.
- Those who are not pensioners and with capital in excess of £10,000 are not eligible for a Council Tax reduction under this scheme.
- Universal Credit is considered and aligned with the principles of Housing Benefit administration.

## **2. Proposals and Issues**

2.1. The proposed revisions to the scheme are:

- Change the effective date to the Monday following when Universal Credit changes in circumstances occur in line with existing change in circumstances rules.
- To update the scheme regarding the treatment of Universal Credit:
  - To confirm what deductions made to Universal Credit awards are allowable deductions for the calculation of CTS.
  - To confirm that the minimum income floor (MIF) (a designated minimum amount of self-employed income applied when earnings are deemed to

be below a minimum amount) applied to self-employed claimants within Universal Credit awards, is not applicable for the calculation of CTS in line with existing legacy benefit claimants.

- To confirm that capital verification is conducted by the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham for Universal Credit claimants and capital is applied based on this verification and not by the capital verification undertaken within the Universal Credit award.
- To confirm the ongoing use of earnings declared within the Universal Credit award in the instance the Universal Credit award is no longer entitled due to excess earnings held.
- To confirm that CTS that is no longer entitled due to excess earnings contained within a Universal Credit award, can be re-awarded if it becomes re-entitled, due to a change in the Universal Credit award, within a 3 month period, without the requirement for a new application to be made.
- To confirm that where the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham has evidence, that on the balance of probabilities, Universal Credit was obtained as a result of fraud, deception or the failure to report significant circumstances, then the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is permitted to estimate the income and household of the claimant, independently of the Universal Credit award.
- To confirm that earnings contained within a Universal Credit award are subject to the standard earnings disregards, as set out within the scheme for earned income for non-Universal Credit claimants.
- To mirror the CTS scheme to the Housing Benefit scheme regarding closed period supersessions for past periods of non-entitlement.
- To confirm when a suspension and termination can be applied to a live CTS claim.
- To confirm that when a new application for Universal Credit is made, and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham receives an electronic Universal Credit new claim application, from the Department for Work & Pensions, this will be accepted as a claim for CTS, without the requirement for the resident to submit a paper application form. If entitlement to CTS is subsequently held, based on the Universal Credit award, this will be automatically awarded and the resident notified.
- To confirm that in the advent of the death of the claimant that the remaining applicant and partner has an extended time frame extended from one month to three months in order to make a new application for CTS.
- If entitlement to CTS is subsequently held, and the application is received within 3 months, CTS is awarded from the date of the new Council Tax liability. This is also applicable in the circumstance the existing Council

Tax account remains and the award is granted from the cessation date of the prior CTS claim now ended.

- 2.2 A number of the changes above assist residents that are harder to reach, and that could experience IT challenges or English may not be their first language, therefore not receiving the support they are entitled to.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 The proposals in this report were considered and endorsed by the Corporate Strategy Group at its meeting on 19 November 2020.
- 3.2 The matter is also to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 January 2021 and any issues arising from that meeting will be reported at the Assembly meeting.

### **4. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service Finance

- 4.1 The Council is required to maintain a Council Tax Support Scheme. This is now funded as part of the Council's overall funding settlement and so any increases or decreases in take up or cost fall upon the Council's budget (rather than being provided for by a grant).
- 4.2 The total current cost for the 2020/21 financial year is in the region of £15.8m. This however includes an additional discretionary payment made as a result of the COVID situation, which is fully funded by central government. Excluding this the cost of the scheme to date is £13.7m and it is estimated that this may increase further this year to around £14m to £14.2m.
- 4.3 This income loss is accounted through the collection fund and is shared between Barking & Dagenham and the GLA. Where the income loss is higher than expected this becomes a cost to the authority's budget in the following financial year.
- 4.4 The Council has a duty to set a tax base for council tax purposes by 31 January, each year, using data held by the Council on 30th November the previous year. Increases in the Council Tax Support Scheme reduce the tax base for the next financial year and so can reduce the available budget. Current data has shown increased access to the scheme due to Covid-19, and the costs for 2021/22 will reach £13m. Increased costs for the current financial year can be attributed to greater access to the scheme, caused by Covid-19 and its impact on the local economy and employment.
- 4.5 This report proposes minor administrative changes to the current scheme. If these are not expected to have a separate impact on the level of take-up there are no direct financial implications arising. However, it is possible that the switch to accepting automated applications linked to new Universal Credit claims will rightly increase the numbers of residents on low income accessing the scheme. This would result in additional costs which could be as high as £760k, which is the Council's 79.5% share of the costs.

- 4.6 However, it should be noted that where amounts specified such as the applicable amount rise by less than local income inflation this will over time tend to remove households from eligibility and so reduce the cost of the scheme. As the existing legacy benefit case load is replaced by Universal Credit claimants this will also reduce the cost of the scheme for working age claimants due to the tapers that are applied within the calculation of Universal Credit. It must be remembered that households on very low incomes on or near the thresholds for Council Tax Support are likely to struggle to pay their Council Tax and so the true cost to the Council taking into account collection rates, arrears and bad debt is likely to be much lower.
- 4.7 The Council must set aside a discretionary fund for circumstances of exceptional hardship. It is anticipated that a discretionary fund of £50,000 can be created to assist those with exceptional circumstances. This would be monitored and reviewed quarterly, although case law does suggest that if exceptional hardship is shown the Council must grant a discretionary reduction and cannot refuse due to a “depleted budget”. It is therefore vital that a clear policy is implemented so the Council can set their own criteria of whom would qualify for a discretionary reduction. The cost of the discretionary fund will reduce the overall Council Tax collected by £50,000.

## 5. Legal Implications

Implications completed by Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Lawyer

- 5.1 The CTS is a continuation of the 2019/20 scheme as approved by the Assembly last year. It was produced following consultations as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
- 5.2 As observed in the report the discretionary hardship fund while set at £50,000 shall be administered according to the exceptional hardship policy and the cap is not a reason for refusal.

## 6. Other Implications

- 6.1 **Risk Management** - It is considered likely that keeping the current scheme will continue to make it difficult to collect Council Tax from those entitled to a reduction under the scheme. Presently there are 77,338 live properties with a Council Tax Charge in this borough, as of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, and 16,152 Council Tax Support claims against these properties.
- 6.2 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact** – An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is set out at Appendix 1.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

### List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

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## Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As an authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

**About the service or policy development**

Name of service or policy	Revenue & Benefits – Revised Council Tax Support scheme 2021/22
Lead Officer	James Johnston (Senior Housing Benefit officer) & Donna Radley (Head of Benefits)
Contact Details	<a href="mailto:James.johnston@lbbd.gov.uk">James.johnston@lbbd.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Donna.radley@lbbd.gov.uk">Donna.radley@lbbd.gov.uk</a>

**Why is this service or policy development/review needed?**

The Welfare Reform Act in 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit (CTB) from April 2013 and, in its place, support took the form of a local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS). The Local Government Finance Act 2012 contains provisions for the setting up of local support schemes. The current scheme in Barking & Dagenham has been based around the Default CTS scheme.

The CTS scheme helps residents on low incomes to pay their Council Tax. Under the current scheme, a working-age household liable for Council Tax could get up to 75% of the charge paid through the scheme, dependent upon their circumstances. (Working age is anyone under Pension Credit age).

The Council's CTS scheme for 2021/22 requires administrative changes to improve its clarity, general administration and to assist in reaching those that are entitled to support.

The scheme requires updating so it is aligned better, is more compatible and has greater clarity in its interactions with Universal Credit as this caseload continues to increase, replacing existing legacy welfare benefits.

The administrative changes to the CTS scheme will also enhance access for those eligible for CTS entitlement.

By replacing some paper application forms with electronic Universal Credit new claim applications received from the Department for Work & Pensions, we can further support residents who have been identified as eligible for entitlement to CTS but who, due to a number of reasons such as IT literacy, language barriers and understanding, are not applying. This also reduces the print requirement of LBBDD and simplifies administration.

Access to the CTS scheme for low income residents is also increased by the automatic granting of CTS entitlement if eligible, for new Universal Credit claimants.

Further administrative changes are technical in nature and are designed to improve the overall administration of the scheme.

The CTS scheme for 2021/22 therefore requires administrative updates to continue to provide the best access and support for the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

**1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).**

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?  
Look at what you know. What does your research tell you?

Please state which data sources you have used for your research in your answer below

*Consider:*

- National & local data sets
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with 'protected characteristics'. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.
- It is Council policy to consider the impact services and policy developments could have on residents who are socio-economically disadvantaged. There is space to consider the impact below.

**Demographics****➤ Local communities in general**

Barking & Dagenham is a diverse borough as outlined by the following demographic trends below.

**➤ Age**

Barking & Dagenham currently has a total population of 212,906. Of this population currently 63.4 % (135,145) are considered of working age (16 – 64) & 9.2 % (19,780) are considered of pension age (over 65).

There are currently 16,611 live CTS cases, of which 11,810 (71%) are working age and 4707 (29%) are of pension age.

The CTS working age caseload is currently 8.7% of the working age population of the borough.

The CTS pension age caseload is currently 23.7% of the pension age population of the borough.

CTS expenditure for the financial year 2020/21 is currently £15,784,638.00.

Of this expenditure £10,810,644.76 (69.5%) is against working age claimants and £4,993,994.00 (31.5%) is against pension age claimants.

Working age claimants currently make up 63.4% of the population and account for 71% of the CTS caseload and 69.5% of the total CTS expenditure.

Pension age claimants currently make up 9.2% of the population and account for 29% of the CTS caseload and 31.5% of the total CTS expenditure.

(CTS case load data extraction 15.12.2020)

➤ **Disability**

Barking & Dagenham currently has 9093 people of working age (16-64) claiming disability allowance.

(DWP Nomis 2020)

➤ **Gender reassignment**

Barking & Dagenham is currently estimated to have approximately 40 people in the borough who have or who will undergo gender reassignment.

There is currently no monitoring data available within the CTS case load data to distinguish claimant's by gender reassignment.

(Gender Identity Research and Education Society advice 2016)

➤ **Marriage & civil partnership**

Barking & Dagenham currently has 41.9% of the population aged 16 and above as registered as married, 38.8% are single and not married, and 0.2% are in a same sex civil partnership.

There is currently no monitoring data available within the CTS case load data to distinguish claimant's by civil status.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Pregnancy & maternity**

Teenage pregnancy rates are significantly higher than average. The under 18 conception rate in 2018 was 20.3 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in London.

(LBBD teenage conception data 2018)

➤ **Race and ethnicity**

The proportion of the population identifying as coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds increased from 19.1% to 50.5% between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, whilst those identifying as White British reduced from 80.9% to 49.5%.

Ethnic projections available from the GLA forecast 66% of the borough population identifying as coming from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in 2020 compared to 34% identifying as White British.

There is currently no monitoring data available within the CTS case load data to distinguish claimant's by race or ethnicity.

(GLA population projections)

➤ **Religion**

56% of the population identify as Christian, 18.9% identify with no religion and 13.7% identify as Muslim.

There is currently no monitoring data available within the CTS case load data to distinguish claimant's by religion.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Sex/Gender**

Currently 51.5% of the borough's residents are female, and 49.6% are male.

(Census 2011)

➤ **Sexual orientation**

Between 10,000 – 14,000 people in Barking & Dagenham are lesbian, gay and bisexual.

There is currently no monitoring data available within the CTS case load data to distinguish claimant's by sexual orientation.

(Stonewall estimates)

➤ **Socio-economic disadvantage**

Council Tax Support is means tested across low income socio-economic groups.

All claimants will be in a lower socio-economic category.

There are currently 16,611 live CTS cases of which 11,810 (71%) are working age and 4707 (29%) are of pension age.

The total CTS case load of 16,611 is 7.8 % of the total borough population of 212,906.

(CTS case load data extraction 15.12.2020)

## COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
<b>Local communities in general</b>	X	X		The overall impact of the CTS scheme changes is either neutral or positive.	There are no negative impacts from the CTS scheme changes.
<b>Age</b>	X	X		<p>Pension age claimants are unaffected by the changes and will not fall under new application processes. Support remains in place from the Visiting &amp; Welfare outreach service to assist pension age claimants with the application process.</p> <p>Working age new Universal Credit claimants will benefit from automatic awards where eligible.</p>	<p>Pension age claimants are protected and will continue to receive full support, inclusive of outreach services.</p> <p>Working age claimants in receipt of Universal Credit will benefit from an easier application process for CTS, that will automatically award entitlement where eligible, and will also re-award entitlement to CTS within a 3-month period if entitlement previously ends.</p> <p>Working age legacy benefit claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts from the proposed changes to the CTS scheme.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	X	X		<p>Pension age claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>Working age new Universal Credit</p>	<p>Pension age claimants are protected and will continue to receive full support.</p> <p>Working age claimants in receipt of Universal Credit limited capacity for work elements (disability elements) will benefit from an easier application process for CTS, that will automatically award entitlement</p>

**COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

			claimants with disability elements will benefit from automatic awards where eligible.	<p>where eligible, and will also re-award entitlement to CTS within a 3-month period if entitlement previously ends.</p> <p>Working age legacy benefit claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts from the proposed changes to the CTS scheme.</p>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>		X	No impact.	<p>The scheme will not treat people of different genders any differently.</p> <p>There is no CTS data held for this specific category.</p>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>		X	No impact.	<p>The scheme will not treat people either married or in a civil partnership any differently.</p> <p>There is no CTS data held for this specific category.</p>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	X	X	<p>Working age new Universal Credit claimants on maternity leave will benefit from automatic awards where eligible.</p> <p>No other impact.</p>	<p>The scheme will only treat people who are on maternity leave differently in so far as considering their income &amp; household with regards to the means testing of CTS entitlement.</p> <p>Working age claimants in receipt of Universal Credit on maternity leave will benefit from an easier application process for CTS, that will automatically award entitlement where eligible, and will also re-award entitlement to CTS within a 3-month period if entitlement previously ends.</p> <p>Working age legacy benefit claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts from the proposed changes to the CTS scheme.</p>
<b>Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)</b>		X	No impact.	<p>The scheme will not treat people of different ethnicity or race any differently.</p> <p>There is no CTS data held for this specific category.</p>
<b>Religion or belief</b>		X	No impact.	<p>The scheme will not treat people of different religion any differently.</p> <p>There is no CTS data held for this specific category.</p>
<b>Sex</b>	X	X	Pension age claimants are	Pension age claimants are protected and will continue to receive full support.

**COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

			<p>unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>Working age new Universal Credit claimants will benefit from automatic awards where eligible.</p>	<p>The scheme will not treat people of different gender/sex any differently.</p> <p>All Working age claimants in receipt of Universal Credit will benefit from an easier application process for CTS, irrespective of gender/sex, that will automatically award entitlement where eligible, and will also re-award entitlement to CTS within a 3-month period if entitlement previously ends.</p>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		X		<p>The scheme will not treat people of different sexual orientation any differently.</p> <p>There is no CTS data held for this specific category.</p>
<b>Socio-economic Disadvantage</b>	X	X	<p>Pension age claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>Working age new Universal Credit claimants will benefit from automatic awards where eligible.</p>	<p>Pension age claimants are protected and will continue to receive full support.</p> <p>Working age claimants in receipt of Universal Credit will benefit from an easier application process for CTS, that will automatically award entitlement where eligible, and will also re-award entitlement to CTS within a 3-month period if entitlement previously ends.</p> <p>Working age legacy benefit claimants are unaffected by the changes.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts from the proposed changes to the CTS scheme.</p>
<b>Any community issues identified for this location?</b>		X	No impact	No issues recognised



## 2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

Barking & Dagenham Council last consulted on the principles of a draft local CTS scheme on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014, regarding the changes to the CTS scheme applied from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014, an online consultation was started with a link hosted on the home page of the LBBB website. A press release was given in the local newspaper "The Post" with a shortened URL (link) to the online content. Further to this, letters were sent to 15,441 working age CTS claimants on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 inviting them to participate in the consultation and online survey. In addition, two public consultation meetings were held, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, which were attended in total by 48 residents. Attendees were asked to fill in a paper copy of the same survey, which were collated with the online results received on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

In total 147 consultation responses were received, and the results compiled and considered in the decision-making process.

As part of the consultation process statutory government guidelines for CTS schemes were also considered.

Equality was promoted as part of the consultation by promoting changes and publicising to all groups – assistance was offered to front line offices, Children's Centres and the Revs & Bens service.

Support was put in place such as payment arrangements to help clear outstanding debt, signposting to skills training or job opportunities and debt advice.

Disabled people were identified as a group of concern in the consultation process. Organisations relevant to disabled people in the borough were directly informed so that they were able to understand the changes, and help disabled people to understand the transition.

Barking & Dagenham Council has not been required to conduct any further public consultation since November 2014 as changes to the subsequent CTS schemes from 2016/17 to date have been based on prescribed regulation changes to the default scheme, administrative changes, or positive changes to the scheme such as the increase in capital allowance limit from £6,000 to £10,000.

The changes to the CTS scheme for 2021/22 regarding the automatic CTS awards for new Universal Credit claimants and this new application process will be publicised on the Council website prior to April 2021.

This will ensure the new application process regarding new Universal Credit claimants is widely communicated and will also confirm the existing application process will also remain in place for pre-existing, non-Universal Credit claimants and pension age applicants.

Administrative changes that are technical will not be required to be communicated directly to residents.

### 3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?

*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

Action	By when?	By who?
Impact of change monitoring by reviewing Council Tax collection rates and the number of CTS claims, especially with regards to the automatic awarding of Universal Credit CTS claims, to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are met and a cost analysis can be generated.	Ongoing	James Johnston
Regular monitoring based on performance frameworks	Ongoing	Robert Nellist

### 4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or appropriate committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the wider community.

Take some time to summarise your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Strategy Team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

#### Implications/ Customer Impact

The proposals for the changes to the CTS scheme for 2021/22 are based on administrative changes, which seek to improve clarity, align with other welfare benefits, primarily Universal Credit, and enhance access for those eligible for entitlement to CTS.

The overall impact of the proposed changes to the 2021/22 CTS scheme for the residents of the borough, and overall customer impact are either neutral or positive.

There are no negative customer impacts that arise from the proposed changes to the CTS scheme from April 2021.

By adopting the acceptance of new electronic Universal Credit new claim applications as a claim for CTS with the Authority, and automatically granting entitlement to CTS, where eligible, access to the CTS scheme for low income residents is improved, helping to continue to provide the best access and support for the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

By also allowing for the reinstatement of CTS claims for Universal Credit claimants, that re-qualify for CTS entitlement, within a 3-month period, without the requirement for a further application form, access to the scheme is further improved, ensuring entitlement where eligible is awarded.

This new application process will also reduce the print requirement of LBBB and simplifies administration.

Administrative changes to improve the interactions and provide clarity between the scheme and primarily Universal Credit claims are either neutral or positive in their customer impact on residents of the borough.

Administrative changes such as not applying the minimum income floor (MIF) within Universal Credit awards will have a positive impact on eligibility to CTS and will bring Universal Credit claimants in line with existing legacy benefit claimants, who are not currently subject to a MIF.

The improved administration of the scheme through the changes proposed will assist in ensuring the correct levels of support are provided to all low-income socio-economic residents within the borough.

The scheme changes are applicable to working age claimants only, and pension age claimants continue to be protected with 100% CTS awards as per the prescribed regulations.

Working age claimants across all demographic groups, who become new Universal Credit claimants, will see improved access to the scheme by the changes to the application process, that will automatically award entitlement to CTS, where eligible.

Working age claimants who remain on existing legacy benefits will see no change in the administration of the scheme, or application process and therefore changes to the scheme are considered neutral for these claimants.

The proposed changes to the CTS scheme will see neutral or no impact on demographics such as gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, ethnicity, sexual orientation & religion or belief.

The CTS scheme continues to meet government guidelines for the protection of current levels of support for pensioners, the encouragement of people to work while not acting as a disincentive & considers the equality impact on the most vulnerable residents from scheme changes.

## 5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Divisional Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Donna Radley	Head of Benefits	22/12/2020

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## ASSEMBLY

27 JANUARY 2021

<b>Title:</b> Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20	
<b>Report of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Authors:</b> Claudia Wakefield, Senior Governance Officer Yusuf Olow, Senior Governance Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 5276 / 020 3911 7919 E-mail: <a href="mailto:claudia.wakefield@lbbd.gov.uk">claudia.wakefield@lbbd.gov.uk/</a> <a href="mailto:yusuf.olow@lbbd.gov.uk">yusuf.olow@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Mark Tyson, Director of Policy and Participation and Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Summary</b>  The four principles of good public scrutiny as described by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge;</li> <li>2. Amplify the voice and concerns of the public;</li> <li>3. Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and</li> <li>4. Drive improvement in public services.</li> </ol> This report outlines the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) and Health Scrutiny Committee (Appendix B) in 2019/20 and how they have endeavoured to achieve these outcomes.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  The Assembly is recommended to note the report.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  It is good practice for the Assembly to be made aware of the work of the Scrutiny Committees during the last municipal year.	

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Following a review of the Council's governance arrangements in 2018 (Minute 56 refers), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee have been successfully operating for two years.
- 1.2 The two Committees have looked at various issues throughout the municipal year, which are referred to in the Appendices. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also undertaken two in-depth scrutiny reviews in 2019/20.
- 1.3 There have been no referrals, call-ins or petitions to either Committee over the past year.

## **2. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Sandra Pillinger, Group Accountant

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report.

## **3. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 3.1 As the content of the report explains there is a legal requirement for councils which establish executive governance (this includes Leader and Cabinet, our model) to establish scrutiny and overview committees under the Local Government Act 2000. The precise arrangements are a matter for local determination and an amendment to the Act to require the appointment of a statutory scrutiny officer has given that role a specific duty to promote the scrutiny and overview function and provide support for the committee(s) and members.
- 3.2 The Council's arrangements are to operate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Health Scrutiny Committee. The division of responsibility is that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the lead Scrutiny Committee except for health matters.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a committee established under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Its functions are set out by law and also determined locally. It is responsible for addressing any Call-in/Councillor Call For Action that is received, except where the subject primarily relates to health matters in which case it will be dealt with by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The Health Scrutiny Committee carries out health scrutiny in accordance with Section 244 (and Regulations under that section) of the National Health Services Act 2006 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 relating to local health service matters. Where a proposal to substantially vary a health service relates to more than one local

authority area, it must be considered by a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed by each of the local authorities in question.

- 3.5 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer role was originally introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the requirement for English councils to designate a “statutory” scrutiny officer can now be found at Section 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000 (the legislative framework having been altered by the Localism Act 2011).

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- Appendix A: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report 2019/20
- Appendix B: Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) Annual Report 2019/20

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### Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report 2019/20

#### Chair's Foreword

"2019/20 proved to be a particularly exciting year for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having undertaken two separate scrutiny reviews into 'Improving Household Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing' and 'Ambition 2020 and its Early Impact'. I would like to commend both Members and Officers for their work in collating and scrutinising the information required for these reviews, with the recommendations assisting in our continuous efforts to improve services for the benefit of our residents.

As the Chair of the Committee, I began the year by meeting with Cabinet Members, directors and officers to find out more about their thoughts around key issues, which helped to guide the Committee in developing a meaningful work programme.

Before the Committee formally sat for the first time in June, I met with the Members to discuss the draft work programme and consider topics that we wanted to address. In doing so, we noted our role in helping the Cabinet to reach its vision of continuously improving services and amenities for our residents, while also holding the Cabinet to account for the decisions that they were proposing to make.

Once the work programme was agreed, the Committee spent the next ten months scrutinising a range of issues from the Council's Air Quality Action Plan through to how the Council is developing its Local Offer for care leavers, something which as our role as Corporate Parents, the Committee is passionate about.

I would like to thank the Cabinet Members who have attended meetings this year for their input and insights, as well as for listening and taking on board suggestions or concerns raised by the Committee."

**Cllr J Jones**  
**Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## Membership

The OSC consisted of ten Councillors, one co-opted church representative, one co-opted parent governor representative and one co-opted youth representative. There were two vacancies – co-opted church representative (Church of England) and co-opted parent governor representative (Secondary).

- Councillor Jane Jones (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Achilleos (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah
- Councillor Toni Bankole
- Councillor Laila M. Butt
- Councillor Rocky Gill
- Councillor Ingrid Robinson
- Councillor Paul Robinson
- Councillor Bill Turner
- Councillor Phil Waker
- Mrs Glenda Spencer Church Representative – Roman Catholic
- Mr Baba Tinubu Parent Governor – Primary
- Johami Mutuale Youth Representative

Leanna McPherson (5 June 2019 - 8 January 2020) and Masuma Ahmed (5 February 2020 - 4 March 2020), Democratic Services Officers, supported the Committee.

## In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook two scrutiny reviews in the 2019/20 municipal year. The Committee completed its 'Improving Household Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing' review in September 2019 and began to consider its 'Ambition 2020 and its Early Impact' review in October 2019.

### In-Depth Scrutiny Review: Improving Household Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing

On 5 February 2019, the Committee agreed to undertake an in-depth review into Improving Household Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing. As part of the Review, the Committee:

- Tasked officers with undertaking research;
- Met with the Director of My Place;
- Met with the Head of Regulatory and Enforcement Services;
- Held a meeting with representatives from 'Keep Britain Tidy';
- Undertook a visit to the Frog Island Waste Management facility;
- Received a briefing from the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement; and
- Held a joint meeting with Officers from Enforcement Services, Waste Services and the Private Rented Properties Licensing Scheme.

As a result of the review, 10 recommendations were reached by the Committee.

In approving the review, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that the Director of My Place develop an Action Plan describing how the recommendations would be implemented and requested an update report on progress at a future meeting.

The update report showed progress against the majority of the recommendations made by the Committee, such as through increased social media education campaigns and newsletters to educate residents about reuse and recycling. Nevertheless, the Covid-19 pandemic had had an impact on some of the recommendations relating to engagement and the progress of these would continue to be monitored by the Committee.

### **In-Depth Scrutiny Review: Ambition 2020 and its Early Impact**

In September 2019, the Committee embarked upon a review on the implementation of Ambition 2020, the Council's service transformation programme.

The Committee agreed the following four key lines of enquiry (KLoE) to form the basis of the Review, as follows:

- KLoE 1: How well established is the governance of the Council's new wholly-owned companies, to ensure they play their role in delivering the borough's ambition and expected financial returns?;
- KLoE 2: How much impact has the new Council approach had on the improvement in customer service standards, and what are the plans to continue this improvement with the return of Elevate services to the Council?;
- KLoE 3: How well are the new arrangements of the Council managing demand for the Council's statutory services across homelessness, adults' and children's social care?; and
- KLoE 4: How well is the Council's new approach fostering a sustainable place where people want to live?.

The final report, complete with 24 recommendations, was later approved by the Committee on 1 July 2020, during the 2020/21 municipal year.

### **My Place - Voids Improvement Plan**

The Committee received a report on the Voids Improvement Plan, which it had requested following Task and Finish Group visits to void properties in October 2018.

The Voids Improvement Plan had been developed as part of an overall improvement plan for My Place and was currently at a pilot stage (which began in June 2019), with the next step aimed at receiving feedback to be used to influence future changes. In developing the Voids Improvement Plan, officers had considered the original report prepared by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its Task and Finish Group visits, as well as the customer experience of the service and the financial losses that the service was making.

The Committee challenged officers in relation to several aspects of the Voids Improvement Plan, such as through whether improvements to homes made by tenants, such as carpets and curtains, could be retained during the void process. The Committee was advised that there were often health and safety issues with such improvements, for example as it would not be known if the products were fire retardant. Aids and adaptations also had to be removed from void properties as they were often not wanted by prospective tenants.

The Committee learnt that a database of properties containing asbestos had also been created and that a detailed plan for dealing with minor and major works to void properties was to be developed going forward.

### **Improving the Employability Prospects of Barking and Dagenham's Young People**

The Committee received a report on improving the employability prospects of Barking and Dagenham's Young People, which was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement.

In 2017, the then Children's Services Select Committee (CSSC), had undertaken an in-depth scrutiny review on the subject which was presented as a final report to the CSSC in March 2018. The recommendations of the CSSC (eight in total) as an outcome of the review were key to changes leading to improvements in the offer of work-related learning, work experience and apprenticeships.

The Committee was provided with an update on each of the recommendations. It was advised that while it was difficult to attribute specific outcomes and improved performance to the scrutiny review itself, a number of improvements to the employability prospects of young people in Barking and Dagenham had been seen since the publication of the report and implementation of the recommendations.

The Chair of the Barking and Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum also addressed the Committee as to how she felt that some young people needed more motivation. She questioned the Committee as to how a child could be motivated if their parents were not interested in what they were doing.

### **Air Quality Action Plan 2019**

The Committee received a report on the proposed Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2019, which was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety.

The Committee raised concerns that public transport provision, particularly buses, were a high source of nitrogen oxide emissions in the Borough. It was noted that while Transport for London (TfL) were providing electric buses in central London, this was not happening in the Greater London area. The Committee suggested that TfL be approached to outline how they planned on supporting outer London Boroughs to meet their air quality objectives.

The Committee also proposed that an efficiency standard for boilers be introduced as part of the AQAP, as it was noted that non-efficient boilers were highly polluting.

The Committee also heard from the Chair of the BAD Youth Forum, who spoke of her concerns in relation to reuse and recycling in the Borough. She noted that some residents used bonfires to reduce the amount of rubbish coming from their homes, where they could in fact reuse or recycle some of those items.

### **Shareholder Panel - Internal Governance Review Report**

In September 2019, the Committee heard a report on the findings of the Shareholder Panel Internal Governance Review and the current progress against actions. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Core Services attended the meeting and spoke on the main components of the review.

The Chief Operating Officer was also in attendance and answered questions raised by the Committee in relation to the governance and scrutiny arrangements of the Council's commercial portfolio.

### **Community Safety Partnership Update**

The Committee received a report outlining an update of the key priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the actions taken to address them. The report was introduced by the Operational Director, Enforcement and Community Safety (ODECS) and included a presentation on the recent Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment based on six priority areas.

A representative of the Metropolitan Police, the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and the Adolescents and Youth Offending Service were also in attendance to address the Committee on the work they had undertaken in support of the Plan.

The Committee discussed the challenges of knife crime, noting that the number of young people who were victims of serious violence had increased. Regarding 'stop and search', the Committee heard an impassioned speech from the Chair of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum, who stated that the Police needed to understand that for many young people, 'Stop and Search' was seen as a tool to deal with black youths rather than the wider community.

### **Barking and Dagenham Housing Allocations Policy**

The Committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny on the draft Housing Allocations Policy. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Social Housing presented the draft policy and recent consultation results for consideration. Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were included in the Cabinet report, presented on 18 December 2019, for consideration before the Cabinet made its final decision. The draft Housing Allocations Policy was subsequently approved by Cabinet (minute 82 refers).

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### Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) Annual Report 2019/20

#### Chair's Foreword

The Health Scrutiny Committee had five of six scheduled meetings to consider various matters in the form of individual agenda items. The meeting scheduled for 24 March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. Local NHS funding was a major theme during the 2019/20 municipal year with Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups and Barking Havering and Redbridge University NHS Trust's accounts being subject to scrutiny by the Committee.

#### Membership

During the 2019/20 municipal year, the Health Scrutiny Committee consisted of six Councillors:

- Councillor Eileen Keller (Chair)
- Councillor Paul Robinson (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor Mohammed Khan
- Councillor Donna Lumsden
- Councillor Chris Rice
- Councillor Emily Rodwell

Masuma Ahmed, Democratic Services Officer, and Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health, supported the Committee.

#### **Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups and Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust Financial Update**

Scrutiny of local NHS finances was undertaken at the October 2019 meeting. The Director of Transformation and Delivery –Unplanned Care (DTD), and the System Director of Recovery for Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge (SDR) delivered a presentation to provide a financial update on the Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups' (BHR CCGs') financial position. The presentation covered:

- Barking and Dagenham CCG and BHR CCGs' spend breakdown;
- Overview of the 19/20 Financial Position.
- NHS Financial Position to 2023/24.
- Financial Benchmarking for the BHR CCGs.
- Closing the Excess Spend Gap.
- System Efficiencies with >£1m Net Benefit.
- Mental Health Parity of Esteem; and
- Prevention Investment (primary and secondary).

Further scrutiny of local NHS finance took place in June 2020. The Committee were presented with a plan by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Barking, Havering and Redbridge University NHS Trust (BHRUT), to address BHRUT's longstanding deficit. The forecasted underlying deficit for the 2020/21 fiscal year was £100 million which was an increase on the previous fiscal year where the deficit stood at £65 million.

The Committee were informed that inadequate local health infrastructure accounted for £30 million of the deficit whilst the cost of temporary staff, net of permanent staff costs, accounted for £11 million. The Committee questioned the continued widespread use of agency staff and were assured that recruitment procedures were being reviewed. The CFO cited the example of emergency care consultancies. Members were informed that the Trust had established an Academy of Emergency Medicine that had proven successful in recruiting to junior positions within the emergency department that had previously been difficult to fill. Plans were being drawn up to extend this strategy; however, the CFO cautioned that there were recruitment challenges faced by all NHS sectors, citing the large number of GP vacancies in primary care, that was currently putting a strain on the whole system. As primary care was not within BHRUT's remit, its representatives stressed the need for a multi-agency and partnership approach to recruitment, including contributions by the Council, to attract people to this part of London.

### **Health Education England Focus Group on Barking Havering and Redbridge University Hospital NHS Trust**

BHRUT's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) presented a report on the outcome of a risk-based focus group, commissioned by the Director of Health Education England (HEE), in association with the General Medical Council (GMC), on trainee doctors. Several concerns were highlighted by participants and, in response, HEE issued nine mandatory findings for BHRUT to respond to. Of the nine recommendations, four had already been fully implemented and the remaining five were in progress but would require monitoring to ensure they were properly and continuously implemented.

The Committee welcomed the progress on the recommendations but expressed concern that BHRUT seemed unaware that there were significant issues faced by junior doctors until HEE carried out its research. The Committee also expressed concern that there may be similar issues among other professions in the Trust such as nurses and sought assurances in this regard.

The Committee were assured by BHRUT representatives that the issues faced by junior doctors were being addressed. The Committee was also given assurance that management and accountability, as well as the supervising structure, had been improved and lessons applied across the BHRUT. BHRUT's Board was committed to improving the situation for trainee doctors including having access to a "Guardian of Safe Working" whom they could report concerns anonymously. Additionally, the BHRUT was working to ensure junior doctors had an opportunity to develop leadership skills although, at the time of the meeting, this aspect of its work needed further developing.



## **Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Integrated Care Partnership and Provider Alliance Update**

The Director of Transition (DOT) for BHR CCGs delivered a presentation on the work of the Integrated Care Partnership and the move to a single CCG for North East London.

The Committee conveyed its concerns that the move to a single CCG could potentially mean that local needs are overlooked noting the Borough's higher hospital readmittance rates compared to other neighbouring boroughs, which potentially could be attributed to smaller homes, making adaptations for vulnerable residents more challenging.

The Committee insisted that the move to a single CCG must be accompanied with checks and balances to ensure that local variations are taken into consideration when delivering services and that it takes full account of population and demographic trends.

The BHR CCGs Governing Body Chair, agreed with the Committee's sentiments and said that locality boards under the new arrangements would be essential in ensuring that local differences are acknowledged and addressed.

### **Consultation on Proposed Continuing Healthcare Placement's Policy**

The Clinical Lead for Continuing Healthcare (CHC), and the Director for Transformation and Delivery for Unplanned Care (DTDUC), delivered a presentation on the BHR CCGs consultation on their proposed policy for CHC placement decisions. In line with other CCGs across England, the BHR CCGs were looking to introduce a written 'placements policy' to support how decisions are made as to where CHC patients receive their individual packages of care. The proposed policy outlined how patients and their families or carers could appeal decisions.

The key content of the proposed policy included:

- Considerations taken into account when deciding the most appropriate location for a person's CHC package (e.g., at home or in a care or nursing home).
- Exceptional circumstances taken into account when deciding the most appropriate location for a person's CHC package;
- How CHC packages were funded;
- The review process for CHC packages; and
- The appeals process for when patients or their families/carers disagree with a decision.

The Health Scrutiny Committee, together with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration made strong representations to the BHR CCGs on their proposed policy, based on the following arguments:

- Members were not comfortable with the notion of BHR CCGs having the ability to force any of our residents to go into a care home against their wishes, and asked BHR CCGs to consider very carefully how the proposed policy could affect a

resident; for example, being split from their spouse, and other members of their close networks;

- The proposed policy did not cover those who would be assessed as needing 'fast-track' CHC (care which is provided to people who have a rapidly deteriorating condition and may be approaching the end of life). However, the proposed policy, as it stood, potentially allowed the CCGs to take a decision that a person in receipt of a 'standard' CHC package, who eventually approached the end of their life, would die in a care or nursing home (potentially one not of their choice), against their wishes, which is against the principles of patient choice and dignity;
- The composition of the appeals panel: the proposed policy stated that appeals against placement decisions would be heard by a panel consisting of lay members and clinicians. Members proposed that an Adult Social Care Statutory Officer of the Local Authority be included as a member of the appeals panel to bring their expertise into the decision-making process and act as a further 'check and balance'; and
- It was explained to Members that a young person whose needs under a CHC package costs above the 10% threshold stated in the proposed policy, would be considered an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore, the policy would not apply. However, Members considered that this needed to be made clearer in the policy, as a decision to place a young person in a care home would run the risk of institutionalising them, having adverse implications on the rest of their life's outcomes.

The DTDUC welcomed the feedback and expressed his desire for the BHR CCGs to get the policy right.

### **Update on Barking Riverside**

The Director of Public Health (DPH) at the Council and the Chair of BHR CCGs Governing Body presented a report updating the Committee on the Barking Riverside development.

Members in considering the report, welcomed the role of residents in the decision-making process being developed in Barking Riverside; however, questioned whether this would be in the best interests of all residents, as they would not be experts in commissioning health services.

The BHR CCGs Governing Body Chair assured the Committee that members of the Locality Board would all be provided with detailed information on the needs of residents in Barking Riverside so they could make evidence-based decisions. Furthermore, their role would involve issues wider than health, and residents could bring in their experience in commissioning other services, such as support for victims of domestic violence.

## **Barking, Havering, and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust's Clinical Strategy Update**

At the October 2019 meeting, the Interim Chief Executive (ICE), CMO and CFO of BHRUT jointly delivered a presentation on the Trust's recent work to develop a new Clinical Strategy, which covered:

- The bigger picture;
- What's happened so far;
- Case for change;
- Emerging ideas for service improvement; and
- Developing the strategy – what's next.

The Committee made representations that the Strategy would need a key focus on paediatrics noting the high number of children and young people in the Borough and the long waiting times in A & E and other services.

Members felt that to create a successful strategy, TBHRUT would need to refer to and think of their patients as residents first, recognising that to change behaviours, that BHRUT would need to make residents as part of the solution by making them key stakeholders in the upcoming changes. The ICE stated that he would take on board the Committee's comments and they would be reflected in BHRUT's engagement plans for this Strategy over the coming months.

### **Where to go for Urgent Care**

In the first meeting of 2020, the Head of Communications and Engagement (HCE) for BHR CCGs delivered a presentation to update the Health Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken to communicate changes to urgent care services and the winter communications campaign.

The Committee were strongly of the view that local NHS services and partners needed to be much clearer on what was meant by 'urgent care' to ensure residents went to the right services and did not go to A&E when it was not the most appropriate service for their needs. The HCE confirmed this was already identified as a key element on ongoing communications and engagement work on urgent care.

Furthermore, Members felt that residents did not always obtain a straightforward answer from the NHS 111 service, as the professionals frequently advised the parents to take their children to A&E if they felt there was a need to. The HCE stated that she acknowledged this, adding that the NHS had to be very risk averse when it came to unwell children. However, the NHS 111 service had introduced a 'fast-track' process which meant parents of young children will talk to a GP or other health professional who could give them direct advice.

### **Social Prescribing in Barking and Dagenham**

The Head of Service (HoS), Community Solutions presented a report on 'social prescribing' in the Borough, a process whereby healthcare professionals may refer their patients to local, non-clinical services to meet their wellbeing needs. Local

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) had received funding for developing their social prescribing programme and had agreed to fund the Council to provide their social prescribing service following a six-month pilot. Under the scheme, GPs may refer residents to the programme under the categories below; however, if other needs were identified, additional support could be put into place:

- Healthy lifestyles.
- Housing.
- Money and debt.
- Employment and further education.
- Social isolation.
- Family support.
- Substance misuse.
- Mental health; and
- Domestic abuse.

The Committee felt that this model was a new and exciting way forward, which showed that PCNs had faith in the Council to deliver an excellent service. The Committee strongly supported the service which would encourage GPs to think about the potential non-medical causes behind their patient's symptoms, as drugs would not always be the best solution, and residents would also be helped out of situations which were contributing negatively to their general wellbeing.

### **Using the Borough Data Explorer and Social Progress Index**

The Council's Head of Insight and Innovation (HII) demonstrated to Members how to use the 'Borough Data Explorer', an online tool which allowed the user to compare the Borough's performance to the rest of London and, where data was available, to also visualise performance within the Borough's 17 wards.

The Committee commended the Appt Health trial as it enabled early diagnosis, leading to significant improvements in health outcomes and savings for services.

### **Progress Report - Scrutiny Review - System-wide Review into Childhood Obesity**

The Council's Health Improvement Advanced Practitioner (HIAP) presented a report to update the Committee on the progress made in implementing recommendations arising from a scrutiny review the Committee completed in 2018/19 on childhood obesity.

The Committee were pleased to note the progress made against its recommendations to help tackle childhood obesity in the Borough. Of particular note was the progress against the recommendation that a whole systems approach be taken to address childhood obesity, and the work undertaken as a result to establish a pilot in the Marks Gate and Heath wards, with community engagement and new partnerships emerging to create a more holistic response to childhood obesity.

## **Performance of Mental Health Services**

North East London Foundation Trust's (NELFT) Director of Integrated Care (DIC) presented a report on the 'Performance of Mental Health Services' in relation to adults and children and young people in Barking and Dagenham.

The Committee asked questions relating to the perception that the Borough's residents had lower levels of access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), and comparable local access rates. The DIC stated that no referral to the service was deemed inappropriate, as all young people referred would receive the appropriate level of support for their need. For low level mental health issues, this could be self-help material, online advice or a brief intervention package. Where there was clearly a higher level of need, the patient would be assessed and if deemed appropriate, put on a specialist clinical pathway.

In response to further questions, the DIC stated that NELFT had undertaken a significant amount of work with the Council on improving mental health support for looked after children, to address all the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted, including:

- Investment into the post of a Mental Health Looked after Children Social Worker.
- A CAMHS "Hot Clinic" that worked in collaboration with the LBBD Social Care Team.
- Actions to improve completion of Initial Health Assessments of looked after children.
- Establishing arrangements for looked after children who were living outside of the Borough; and
- Establishing a transition group for looked after children.

## **Healthwatch Reports**

During the February 2020 meeting, the Healthwatch Barking and Dagenham representative outlined a report describing two of Healthwatch's key projects from the past year: 'The NHS Long Term Plan – The People's Perspective' and 'Accessing GP Services.'

The Committee thanked the representative for their report and praised Healthwatch adding that their reporting greatly assisted the Committee in meeting its objectives.

## **Contact**

For further information on the Health Scrutiny Committee, or the Council's scrutiny arrangements in general, please contact:

### **Yusuf Olow**

Senior Governance Officer

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## ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

<b>Title:</b> Motions	
<b>Report of the Acting Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Leanna McPherson, Principal Governance Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 2852 E-mail: <a href="mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk">leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance and Acting Deputy Chief Executive	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Claire Symonds, Acting Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>In accordance with paragraph 10 of Part 2, Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution, motions and amendments to motions on issues directly affecting the borough may be submitted to the Assembly to be debated and voted on. For information, attached at <b>Appendix 1</b> is the relevant extract from the Council's Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions with Notice.</p> <p>Three motions have been received in accordance with the Council's procedure rule:</p> <p>Appendix 2: Responsible use of Fireworks Appendix 3: Union Learning Fund Appendix 3: Ending the Cladding Scandal</p> <p>The deadline for amendments to the motions was noon on Friday 15 January 2021.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<p>The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the motions and any amendments proposed.</p>	

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- **Appendix 1** – Extract from the Council Constitution, Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of Part 2, Chapter 4.
- **Appendix 2** – Responsible use of Fireworks

- **Appendix 3** – Union Learning Fund
- **Appendix 4** – Ending the Cladding Scandal



## **10. Motions With Notice**

- 10.1 Written notice of any motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 4.00pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting, except in respect of a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Council for which the process in paragraph 13 applies.
- 10.2 A notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the Council or its area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the Council has a relevant function. There is no limit on the number of motions that a Councillor may submit but the notice of motion must be submitted either by the Councillor who is proposing the motion or via the Group Secretary.
- 10.3 A notice of motion may be in more than one part and contain more than one recommendation, but must all relate to the same subject matter.
- 10.4 The Chief Executive may reject a notice of motion if, in his/her opinion:
  - (a) it is of a vexatious or derogatory nature or otherwise considered improper or inappropriate;
  - (b) is contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council;
  - (c) it does not relate to the business of the Council;
  - (d) is substantially the same as another motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 10.5 Where the Chief Executive rejects a notice of motion on any of the above grounds, he/she shall inform the Chair and the Councillor who submitted the notice of motion as soon as possible. Prior to determining whether to accept or reject a motion, the Chief Executive may seek clarification or propose alternative wording to the Councillor who submitted the motion.
- 10.6 In the event that the Councillor who is proposing the motion is not present at the Assembly meeting, the motion will be withdrawn.
- 10.7 Any motions withdrawn as indicated above, or withdrawn at the request of the Councillor who proposed the motion, either before or during the meeting, may not be resubmitted to the Assembly within a period of six months. This condition will be waived where the Councillor, or a colleague on their behalf, has notified the Chief Executive by 5.00 pm on the day of the meeting of their inability to attend due to their ill health or other reason accepted by the Chief Executive.
- 10.8 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received, save that:
  - (a) where two or more notices of motion are received from a particular Councillor for the same meeting, that Councillor's second notice of motion shall be included after all other Councillors' first notices of motion, that Councillor's third notice of motion shall be included after all other Councillors' second notices of motion, and so on.

- (b) where he/she considers that the notice of motion, statement or consideration of the notice of motion is likely to result in the disclosure of confidential or exempt information, in which case he/she may group such notices of motion together with other items of business which are, in his/her opinion, likely to involve the exclusion of press and public during their consideration.
- 10.9 Written notice of any amendments to motions must be received by the Chief Executive by no later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. The same criteria and actions as described in paragraphs 10.2 - 10.8 will apply in relation to any amendments received.
- 10.10 Any amendments proposed after the time specified in paragraph 10.9 will only be considered for exceptional reasons such as a change in circumstances appertaining to the original motion, in which case the consent of the Chair will be required.
- 10.11 The Assembly shall not debate any motion which could give rise to a significant change to the income or expenditure of the Council or to contract terms unless, in the opinion of the Chief Executive acting on advice from the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Law and Governance as appropriate, the motion is accompanied by a report from the Chief Financial Officer or the Director of Law and Governance, as appropriate, setting out the financial or legal effect of the motion.
- 10.12 Where a motion which would require an accompanying report under Rule 10.11 falls to be moved without such accompanying report being made available to all Councillors, the motion shall stand adjourned without debate to the next available meeting of the Assembly.
- 10.13 Subject to Rule 10.14, if there are other motions or recommendations on the agenda that have not been dealt with by the close of the meeting, they are deemed formally moved and seconded and shall be put to the vote by the Chair without debate.
- 10.14 Where a notice of motion submitted under Rule 10 falls to be dealt with under Rule 10.13, the Councillor giving the notice may either:
  - (a) speak to the motion for not more than three minutes before the motion is put by the Chair without debate; or
  - (b) require that the motion is deferred to the next available meeting.

## **11. Motion to rescind a previous decision**

- 11.1 A motion or amendment to rescind, or which has the effect of rescinding, a decision made at a meeting of the Assembly within the past six months, may not be moved except upon a recommendation from the Cabinet for a variation of the approved Budget or Policy Framework, or where the Monitoring Officer confirms that it is appropriate for the Assembly to reconsider the matter to comply with law, as a result of a change of law or material change of circumstances.

## **12. Rules of Debate**

12.1 The following order / rules of debate shall apply:

- (a) Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.
- (b) The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
- (c) The Chair will invite another Councillor to second the motion.
- (d) If any amendment(s) has been accepted in accordance with paragraphs 10.9 or 10.10, the Chair will invite the relevant Councillor to move the amendment(s) and explain the purpose.
- (e) The Chair will invite another Councillor(s) to second the amendment(s).
- (f) The Chair will then invite Councillors to speak on the motion and any amendments.
- (g) Once all Councillors who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover(s) of the amendment(s) a right of reply followed by the mover of the original motion.
- (h) At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
- (i) If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.
- (j) After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
- (k) If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.

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### Proposed by Cllr Princess Bright

#### Motion – Responsible use of Fireworks

Fireworks are used throughout the year to mark different events. This council welcomes the use of fireworks to celebrate cultural and community events, whilst also recognising the need for regulation in order to support vulnerable people and animals.

The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs<sup>1</sup>, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks<sup>2</sup>. A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period<sup>3</sup>

Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.

This Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.

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<sup>1</sup> Blackwell, E., Bradshaw, J., & Casey, R. (2013). Fear responses to noises in domestic dogs: Prevalence, risk factors and co-occurrence with other fear related behaviour. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 15-25

<sup>2</sup> . Blackwell, E., Casey, R., & Bradshaw, J. (2005). *Firework Fears and Phobias in the Domestic Dog*. Scientific Report for the RSPCA, University of Bristol, UK

<sup>3</sup> Gronqvist, G, Rogers, C. & Gee, E. (2016). The Management of Horses during Fireworks in New Zealand. *Animals* 6(20).

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**Proposed by Councillor Mullane****This council notes:**

1. On Tuesday 6 October, the TUC received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.
2. The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.
3. Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.
4. In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12m. If upheld this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.

**This council understands that:**

1. Union learning reaches people that other DfE programmes do not reach.
2. There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:
  - Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.
  - 47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.
  - Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.
  - Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.
  - One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.
3. The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:
  - For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.
  - The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.
  - The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.

- The £12m government funding levered in an additional £54m from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.
4. The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in three ways:
    - directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation
    - directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills
  5. Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.
  6. ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.

**This council resolves to:**

1. Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund
2. Raise this issue with our local MPs and encourage them to call on the government to reverse its decision



## Proposed by Councillor Cameron Geddes

### Ending the Cladding Scandal

This Council notes:

- The tens of thousands of buildings around the country including those in Barking & Dagenham impacted by the cladding crisis, and millions of leaseholders unable to move and facing crippling bills for removal
- The grassroots campaign led primarily by residents affected by fire and building safety issues: including Grenfell United and the London Cladding Action group of affected leaseholders.
- The calls for urgent and nation-wide action from the Government to fix cladding issues which came to light following the Grenfell tower tragedy.
- The impact this has had on leaseholders across the country who now live in homes declared to be unsafe, due to unsafe cladding or other safety defects.
- That these costs mean that leaseholders are unable to sell their homes – leaving them effectively trapped.
- The campaign asks central Government to take responsibility and fund necessary works, reclaiming the costs from those responsible or by a levy on future developments.

This council also notes:

- The campaign has ten asks of Government, which can be summarised by the following actions:
  - Homes to be made safe as quickly as possible
  - Protection and support for those living in unsafe homes
  - Actions to unlock the market and allow people to move on with their lives

This council resolves to:

- Support the *End our Cladding Scandal* campaign and sign up to the 10-point plan to tackle the national cladding scandal which would mean:
  1. The government must lead an urgent national effort to remove all dangerous cladding from buildings by June 2022, including the prioritisation of blocks most at risk
  2. The Building Safety Fund must cover all buildings, regardless of height, and a range of internal and external fire safety defects, not just cladding

3. The government should provide the money up front and then seek to recover it from any responsible parties or via a temporary levy on development
4. Social housing providers must have full and equal access to the fund
5. The government must compel building owners or managers to be honest with residents about fire safety defects
6. The government should cover the cost of interim safety measures
7. The government should act as an insurer of last resort and underwrite insurance where premiums have soared
8. A fairer, faster process is needed to replace EWS and funding is necessary to ensure all buildings that require a form are surveyed within 12 months
9. Mental health support must be offered to affected residents
10. Protecting residents from historic and future costs must be a key commitment of new building safety legislation