



**Coming together
in challenging times**



**working for
a better future**

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**PLUS
INFO ON
COST OF LIVING
SUPPORT AND
SAFER B&D**

Our B&D, Our Future



Dear resident,

After years of poor growth, we all recognise the challenge the new government faces in kickstarting the economy.

For us, attracting new jobs, creating more training opportunities, and building new homes are still our top priorities. This year we opened the doors of London's largest film studio in Dagenham - the second of two film studios now in the borough. This will offer hundreds of skilled jobs and opportunities. CU London has gone from strength to strength and our Adult College is supporting people to gain vital new qualifications. We also remain London's number one affordable house builder.

2025 is the first time in years the core funding we receive from the government has risen. But this does not make up for the lack of funding since 2010/11. In real terms, we receive 40% less funding than 15 years ago and barely 17% of our funding comes from council tax paid by residents.

Like many other councils we are caught in a perfect storm. Funding for local services has not kept up pace with demand or the cost of providing services which has risen sharply. Local authorities up and down the country face a similar crunch. This year alone we have made £17m worth of savings just to balance our books. Other London Boroughs are being forced to make even tougher decisions.

We do not shy away from a challenge when it comes to finding better ways of doing things and achieving better outcomes for our residents. For example, in the last few years we have worked with our schools to remodel Special Educational Needs provision and create several hundred more local specialist places

so that more of our children can go to a local school. This is now seen as a model for mainstream schools in the rest of the country.

We have always been a hugely proud borough, and our community spirit remains our strength. We are also a young and growing borough - almost 1 in 4 of our residents are under 16 years old and 26,000 more people call Barking and Dagenham home than 10 years ago. But we remain committed to providing good services for everyone.

Private renting is the fastest-growing housing tenure in the borough, making up nearly a third of all homes. Our landlord licensing schemes allow us to inspect and make sure that landlords are providing good, quality homes.

We are also tackling those who dump rubbish and expect the rest of us to pick up the bill.

We continue to work closely with the Police. A key part of this is our Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which help us tackle antisocial behaviour in hot spot areas. In November we launched four new PSPOs in Barking Town Centre, Dagenham Heathway, Broad Street and Gale Street.

You will find more information about this and more in our newsletter.

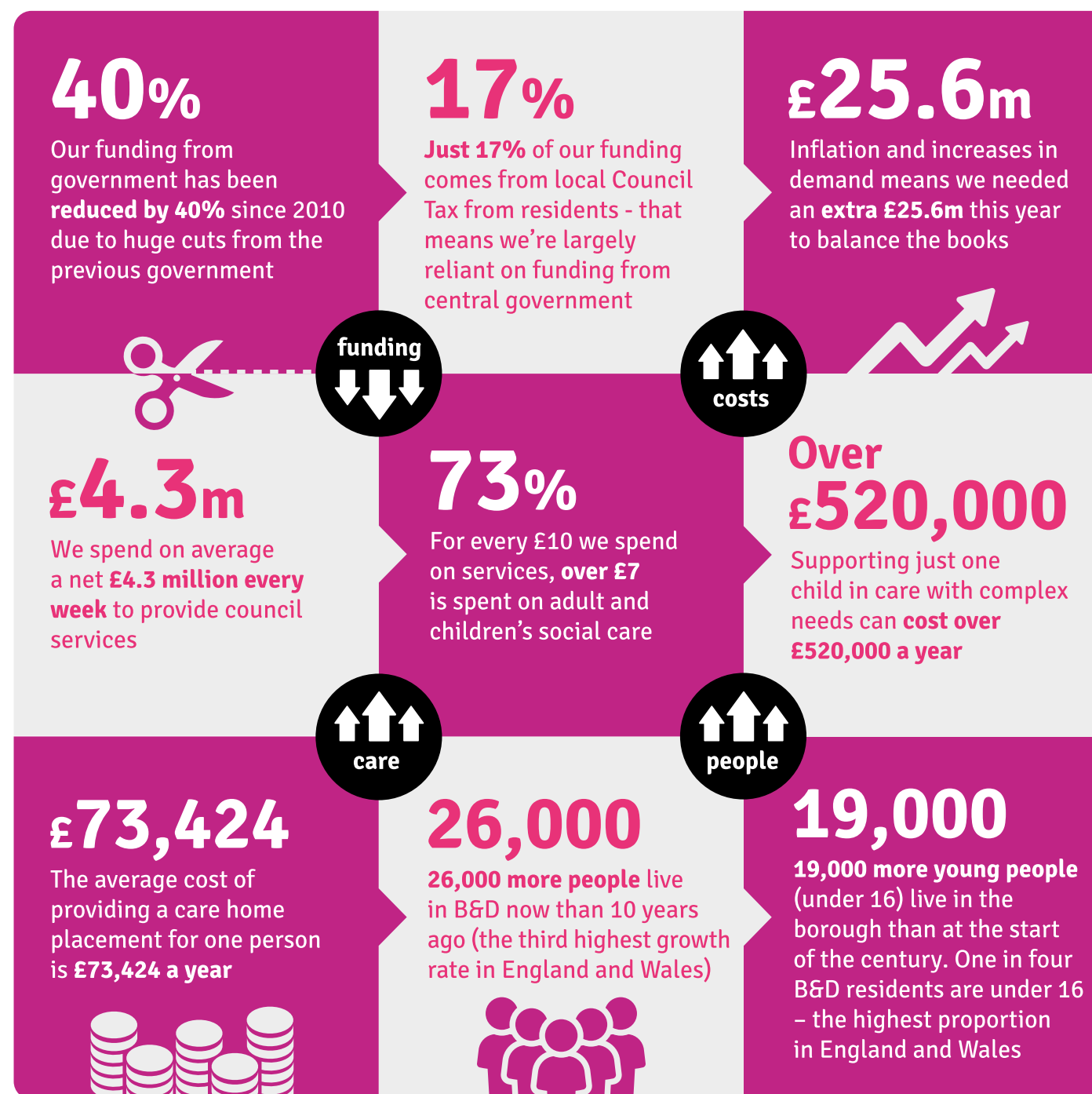
Councillor Dominic Twomey
Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council

Budget Matters

Councils up and down the country are facing unprecedented financial pressures. This is being driven by rising demand for services and their increasing costs, especially social care and children's services.

We need fairer funding to provide the services that our community needs. We're working with the new government to push for our fair share of resources, while getting the best value for money from every penny of public money we spend.

In Barking and Dagenham, we're facing a severe squeeze on our finances. We have a growing population, many residents have complex social care needs and lots of residents are struggling with the cost of living.



OneBorough newsletter – Sign up for more information

For the latest news and information about free events, competitions, ticket giveaways, jobs and training, sign up to our One Borough email newsletter: lbbd.gov.uk/oneborough

Cost of Living support

Where to get support in Barking and Dagenham

If you need help with your finances a range of support is available online to help you get back on track. To find out more visit: lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support

Help with money

Did you know BD Money offers a range of financial support to help you maximise your income? From making sure you're getting the right benefits to helping you get your finances on track. Find out more at: bdmoney.co.uk

Help finding work

If you're looking for the right role for you, that next step in your career, need to refresh your CV or find a free course to boost your skills – there's lots of help we can provide. Find out more at: bdopportunities.org

Council Tax Support

If you need support you can access a range of help online at: lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support

Households could be eligible for council tax support through our Discretionary Council Tax Relief scheme. Check your eligibility and find out more: lbbd.gov.uk/apply-for-discretionary-finance

Community and Family Hubs

Our network of Community and Family Hubs host all kinds of advice, support, activities and events for residents young and old, provided by the council, health bodies and community groups.

Check the map to find your local hub. Or to discover what's going on at each location and access lots of information and advice, visit our new website launching in March: ourhubsbdlondon



Community and Family Hubs

- 1 Barking Learning Centre, IG11 7MB
- 2 Becontree Community Hub, RM8 2QR
- 3 Dagenham Learning Centre, RM10 9QS
- 4 Eastbury Community Hub, IG11 9LL
- 5 Heath Community Hub, RM10 7HX
- 6 Marks Gate Community Hub, RM6 5NJ
- 7 Northbury Community Hub at Al Madina Mosque, IG11 8PY
- 8 Parsloes Community Hub at Kingsley Hall, RM9 5NB
- 9 Thames Community Hub, IG11 0LG
- 10 Village Community Hub, RM10 9XW
- 11 Whalebone Lane Community Hub, RM6 6AS

Help your family with Leeds Credit Union



FAMILY LOAN

We know that times are tough, and every little bit helps. We want to make things easier for your family at Leeds Credit Union, the credit union for Barking and Dagenham. That's why we have the Family Loan.

- ✓ No Credit Check
- ✓ Borrow up to £850 for your first application
- ✓ You just need to receive Child Benefit.

Imagine: for just £19.53 a week or £85.39 a month, you could borrow £850! (over 12 months).

This can make things like bills, school supplies, or clothes easier to manage.

PERSONAL LOANS

Need more than £850? We also have personal loans for bigger needs, ranging from £250-£25,000.

SAVINGS HELP

Want to save money? We can help with that too. Use our budgeting calculators to make a plan and get your money in order. It's easy and super helpful.

Leeds Credit Union
- here to help you and your family.

Visit: leedscreditunion.co.uk to find out how we can help.



Safer Barking and Dagenham

Community Safety

We continue to work closely with the Police and we're committed to making sure you feel safe when you're out and about in the borough.

A key part of this is our Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) scheme which helps us tackle antisocial behaviour in hot spot areas around Barking and Dagenham.

In November 2024 we launched four new PSPOs in Barking Town Centre, Dagenham Heathway, Broad Street and Gale Street. In these areas none of the below behaviours are allowed:



YOU'RE ENTERING A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER ZONE

If you are caught doing any of the following you will be fined up to £1,000

Begging	Spitting	Urinating
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	Drinking alcohol in public	Sexual harassment
Amplified music and public speaking		

Failure to comply with the order is an offence carrying a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or a fine up to £1,000.

Full details can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/pspo #NoMore

We're clamping down on fly-tipping with the Wall of Shame

We're serious about catching the fly-tippers who think they can treat our borough like their own personal dump. **Too many selfish people mistakenly think they can get away with chucking out their junk on our streets – but not for long!**

The Wall of Shame video series aims to catch fly-tippers by putting footage of them dumping online! And not only that, **we're also sending out letters with images of local fly-tippers to known hotspots.**

The message is clear – if you fly-tip in Barking and Dagenham, be ready to have your face plastered all over the borough!

You can watch the latest episodes of the Wall of Shame on all our social media channels and on our website: lbbd.gov.uk/wallofshame

And if you see fly-tipping when out and about then let our team know, so they can investigate and clear dumped rubbish. Report it here: lbbd.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping

Improving Standards in Private Rented Homes

Everyone in Barking and Dagenham deserves to live in a **safe and decent home**. That's why we have introduced **two new property licensing schemes** to ensure landlords maintain their properties and provide **secure, good-quality housing** for tenants.

The **private rented sector (PRS)** now accounts for nearly a **third of all homes** in the borough. Licensing allows us to **carry out checks** to ensure landlords meet their legal obligations and are deemed **"fit and proper persons."**

Through previous schemes, we have:

- Inspected 8,000 properties
- Identified hazards in more than 50%
- Taken action to improve conditions

From **6 April 2025**, all landlords in the borough must have a **licence** to rent out their properties. These new schemes will operate alongside our **mandatory HMO licensing scheme** for large, shared homes (**five or more people**):

- **Additional HMO Licensing Scheme** – Extends protections to **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)** where **three or four people** share a property.
- **Selective Licensing Scheme** – Covers all **remaining privately rented homes** in Barking and Dagenham, including properties rented to **families, single people, and two unrelated sharers.**

How licensing benefits you

- ✓ **For Tenants** – Ensures **healthier, safer, and better-managed homes**, reducing risks such as **mould and poor insulation.**
- ✓ **For Landlords** – Provides **support, training, and an enhanced reputation**, while ensuring **fair competition** by tackling non-compliant landlords.

To find out more, check if your private rented home is licensed, or report a problem with your property, visit: lbbd.gov.uk/private-sector-housing/property-licensing

Do you need to apply for a Licence?

All private landlords in Barking and Dagenham must be licensed from **6 April 2025**. **Check now** to ensure you're compliant and avoid penalties.

Discounts available:



£200 off for landlords with a satisfactory compliance inspection.



£250 off for accredited landlords with a satisfactory compliance inspection.

Already have a licence?
No need to apply until three months before it expires.



Scan here to check and apply

Barking & Dagenham

ENFORCEMENT



Become a foster carer

Barking & Dagenham

FOSTERING



Local children need you

Open your heart and home, and you'll receive:

- ✓ Round the clock support and access to council social workers
- ✓ Free training courses to help you be the best carer you can be
- ✓ Competitive weekly payments

Find out more:
lbbd.gov.uk/fostering
Or call 020 8227 5988



SCAN ME



FSC
www.fsc.org

MIX

Paper from responsible sources

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