

## General Information

**Title:** Understanding the meaning of a participation culture for Barking and Dagenham

**Non-Academic partner:** London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

**Role/Sector:** Public Sector – Local Government

**Location:** Barking Town Hall, 1 Clockhouse Avenue, Barking IG11 7LU

**Placement:** Community Enterprise Team, Strategy and Programmes

**Duration:** 6 months

**Start date:** January 2018

**Full or Part time:** Preferably full time but with some flexibility

## Who are you going to work with

We are London's growth opportunity. Over the centuries we have transitioned time and time again, adapting to local and national changes. Whether fishing, manufacturing or otherwise, industries have come and gone. Over the past 50 years we have experienced unprecedented levels of change. These historic forces of change: loss of industry, population growth, rapid movement of people in and out of the borough and changing demographics have had a range of consequences for our community. People in our borough die earlier, have poorer health, and lower levels of education and skills, than across London. Too many are insufficiently skilled, too many are in low paid work, and too many struggle to find suitable homes that they can afford. Meanwhile, community cohesion remains a challenge as people have seen rapid change in a short space of time. Demand for services is only increasing as our population continues to change and grow as funding from central government reduces. It is within this context – of continuing austerity and doing more with less – that we, the partners of Barking and Dagenham will collaborate to reform public services over the years to come.

## How do you expect to spend your day

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has an ambition to create a local environment that stimulates collaboration. Moving away from council-owned approaches, traditional engagement and consultation, towards a more collaborative approach to support the renewal of civic culture and give voice to marginalised groups and individuals. We are in the process of implementing a series of programmes and initiatives that we hope will enable a 'participation culture' in the borough.

Therefore, we'd like the assistance of an Intern to:

1. To develop a methodology for assessing the political, social, economic and environmental impact of a range of council programmes and initiatives to enable a 'participation culture' in Barking and Dagenham.
2. To apply this methodology to ongoing initiatives for increasing understanding internally on the implications of a participation culture on the role of the council and the delivery of services.
3. To propose recommendations for improving the ability of the Council to embrace an enabling role with stakeholders in the borough.

# CAMBRIDGE SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP – INTERNSHIP PROJECT

The main objectives of this project are:

- Working across the Strategy and Programmes team and closely with the Community Enterprise Team and Corporate Insight Hub.
- Carry out a review of the latest literature on participation, focusing in particular on the role of local authorities.
- Developing a research methodology to assess the impact of participation initiatives in Barking and Dagenham. Provide trainings to Council staff and/or community researchers on participatory research methods and techniques.
- Carry out qualitative research in the borough and collect data
- Facilitate communication and cooperation within the Strategy and Programmes team
- Analyse the data and produce recommendations

## The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

The ideal candidate/s would have a combination of skills and experience including:

- Master's in Social Science or related discipline
- Independent researcher
- Easy going and approachable
- Comfortable working in a community setting and environment
- Passion and interest in the concept of participation
- Understanding of working within a political environment
- Interest in community resilience, social impact and innovation

## Essential skills:

- Ability to develop a methodology from scratch
- Experienced at workshop design and facilitation
- Experience in qualitative research methods and techniques
- Ability to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders with sometimes competing interests and/or values

## Desirable skills:

- Experience in participatory action research methods and techniques

## What are the benefits of Interning at this project

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is going through a period of great change. In the face of such change and significant challenges, comes the environment and aspiration for innovation. This is a very exciting time to work for an organisation that embraces big ideas, creativity and talent to develop, test and deliver solutions to match the scale of the challenges we're facing. The intern will be working in an area where Barking and Dagenham are leading the local government sector in thinking, doing and facilitating around social movements, progress and the role and value of participation in a resilient, thriving and cohesive London community. There are many challenges facing the organisation but we are determined to succeed, delivering more for and with residents and reforming public services to fulfil our community's vision.

# CAMBRIDGE SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP – INTERNSHIP PROJECT

Apply for this role

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed [application form](#) and a CV to [esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk).

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor. The application deadline is **September 20 2017**. Results will be announced early October 2017.