



Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

Signed off by	Director of People
Author	Marie Crabtree, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone	01737 276657
Email	marie.crabtree@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
To	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	Thursday, 19 January 2023
Executive Member	Portfolio Holder for Community Partnerships, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Support, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture

Key Decision Required	N
Wards Affected	(All Wards);

Subject	People Portfolio Holders Update
----------------	---------------------------------

Recommendations
To note the Portfolio Holder briefings on the People Portfolios, as set out in this report, and to provide any observations for consideration by Executive Members.
Reasons for Recommendations
To consider the progress of work in the People Portfolio objectives, as of January 2023, including achievements, priorities and challenges.
Executive Summary
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken within the People Portfolio areas in the Municipal Year to date.2. The three People Portfolios are Housing & Support, Leisure & Culture and Community Partnerships.

Key Information

Executive Portfolios

1. Following the Annual Council meeting on 26 May 2022, the Leader of the Council appointed the Members of the Executive for the Municipal Year 2022/23. Each Member of the Executive undertook an area of responsibility, known as a portfolio.
2. For operational purposes, these portfolios are aligned with the three themes of the Council's current and emerging Corporate Plans, these being People, Place and Organisation.
3. The three portfolios aligned with the People theme are Housing & Support, Leisure & Culture and Community Partnerships.
4. The areas of responsibility of these portfolios are as follows:
 - **Housing & Support:** Housing Delivery Strategy, Housing Support, Homelessness, Housing Register, Family Support, Money Support, Refugee Support, Safeguarding, Housing Benefit & Local Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and cost of living payments.
 - **Leisure & Culture:** Leisure Strategy, Leisure Centres, Leisure Activities, Arts & Culture, Harlequin.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Community Centres, Community Safety, Community Development, Health Partnerships, Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.

Portfolio Objectives

5. Following their appointment, Executive Members agreed objectives for their portfolio areas for the Municipal Year.
6. Cost of living pressures directly following the COVID 19 Pandemic and the war in Ukraine are all having an impact on the work of the People Portfolio with services being on the frontline. You will note from the presentation some of the impacts on homelessness and the housing register, and Revenues, Benefits and Fraud assessing applications and issuing payments to households such as the Council Tax energy rebate scheme.
7. Updates including the challenges, highlights and new projects are set out in the presentation slides from each Portfolio Holder to the Committee set out in Annex 1 to this report.

Overview and Scrutiny

8. As part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's role of holding the Executive to account, members of the Executive provide regular briefings to the Committee on their portfolios and key items of business within these areas.
9. To reflect the coordinated approach of Portfolio Holders within the Corporate Plan themes, these briefings are presented by theme.
10. The members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the briefing provided, and to offer any observations to the Portfolio Holders. These observations will then be considered to help inform future activities within these portfolios.

Equalities Implications

11. A substantial proportion of our People Services are focused on supporting our most vulnerable residents, including residents from across all of the protected groups. Our services have equalities considerations at their core, for example:

- The Housing Register & Allocations Policy and the Homeless & Rough Sleeping Strategy is framed to positively support protected groups, recognising and responding to specific housing needs which include age, disability, gender etc. We offer an individual housing advice service tailored to the needs of each client.
- Our community development activities are centred around increasing participation and engagement and have a positive impact on equalities.
- We consider equalities issues in the delivery of community safety services, helping to protect vulnerable residents and communities.

Annex

1. Portfolio Holder presentation slides