

Annual Report – Special Responsibilities

(Under the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Members' Allowances, certain councillors who perform significant responsibilities over and above those of other councillors are entitled to receive additional allowances to recognise those extra responsibilities. The Scheme requires councillors in receipt of such allowances to report on their actions. This report is published on the Council's website).

Report for period: 2016-17

Name: Councillor Erica Williams

Position held: Chair of Council.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Chair all meetings of Full Council in accordance with the constitution

Preside over meetings of the Council in order for business to be carried out democratically & with efficiency, ensuring that the rights of councillors and the interests of the community are at the forefront of fairness and equality.

Promote public involvement in the Council's activities and be the conscience of the Council

To chair or host other meetings and forums on behalf of the Council or other organisations

Act as an ambassador for the Council and the South Gloucestershire community
Undertake approximately 100 civic/ceremonial engagements during term in office

Attend regular Citizenship ceremonies and officially welcome citizens and their families officially to the ever growing community.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

106 engagements carried out on behalf of the Council and organisations across the area
Working in partnership with neighbouring authorities
Community Awards – to highlight and share the success of some of the many volunteers who are so selfless.

Walking with the LGBT community in the Pride of Bristol parade, meeting with people from all walks of life and sharing a colourful day to endorse SGC diversity and equality.

Congratulating those businesses within South Gloucestershire who have received the Queen's Awards, demonstrating the growth of business and opportunity that continues to bring revenue and employment to the whole area

What “added value” to the local community have you been able to achieve through your special responsibilities?

Encouragement and acknowledgement for achievements that have been gained through the various reading challenges supported by our library service.

Supporting the work of volunteers, carers and young people’s organisations to encourage them to carry on with their good work and using the media to highlight events and attainment.

Raising awareness of the heritage sites and the groups who are the guardians of some of the most beautiful areas in South Gloucestershire.

Maintaining the proud traditions that we all hold dear in South Gloucestershire ; Armed Forces Day, Flag Raising for the Merchant Seamen and Remembrance Sunday

Supporting and enjoying the successes of my two charities, Wild Place Project who have a new Giraffe House and Avon Valley Railway who held a recreation of the train scene from The Railway Children and continue to deliver many services to our community and visitors.

How have your special responsibilities enabled the Council to be more effective?

In what ways has the exercise of your special responsibilities supported the core objectives of the Council?

All the events that I have had the privilege to attend demonstrate how diverse the community in South Gloucestershire has become even in the last year of office.

I hope that I have been able to show how we celebrate and value the efforts of all those who strive to enhance the communities in which we live.

Throughout my term of office tears have been shed (Remembrance Day/Armed Forces Day) and tears of laughter (Concorde Book Awards, Science week at Filton Library)
Above all, I hope that I have brought communities together and a welcome for everyone within South Gloucestershire.