

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: 2016-2017

Name: Councillor Keith Cranney

Position held: Chair of Regulatory Committee

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Chair of Regulatory Committee & Licensing Committee.

The Regulatory Committee has a quasi-legal role within the council to ensure compliance of all the functions of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Regulatory Committee oversee and has a broad role of legal responsibilities associated with Licensing and licensable events of premises under the Licensing Act 2003 e.g. Public Houses, Food takeaways, restaurants, street traders, Gambling premises, Taxi's and Private Hire.

The Regulatory Committee has a legal responsibility to hold licensing subcommittee hearings to deal with objections under the Licensing Act 2003 of license holders or premises designated license holders associated with premises engaged in licensable activities.

The Regulatory Committee has a responsibility to hold licensing subcommittee hearings to deal with Taxi and Private Hire license holders to decide whether a person is a fit and proper person to hold a Taxi / Private Hire Driver's License.

The Regulatory Committee has a responsibility for electoral boundaries and Governance of Parish and Town Council.

The Regulatory Committee is responsible for dealing with Standards complaints and holding a Standard Committee hearing to deal with complaints against council members. The Regulatory Committee has a responsibility for Public Rights of Way and Village Green matters

The Regulatory Committee has responsibility for upholding and updating the Regulatory Investigatory Powers act

The Regulatory Committee has the responsibility to agree the fees and charges for Trading Standards & Licensing following consideration of the responses to consultation on the charges.

The Regulatory Committee has the responsibility to consult on an Annual Review of Hackney Carriage Fares: to determine any potential changes

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The Regulatory Committee has had a very busy year upholding the Licensing Act and ensuring that South Gloucestershire is a safer environment for all its residents.

The Regulatory Committee undertook a consultation with Licensed Taxi / PHV operators and agreed a No increase in fares for a Six month period.

The Regulatory Committee agreed to revise the Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Licensing Policy and this will be brought to a future Regulatory committee to be revisited with the issue of W.A.V. (Including Wheel Chair Access Vehicles)being examined.

In line with current deregulation policy and acknowledging current employment rights members of the Regulatory Committee have dealt with a significant increase in Licence application for Taxi Licenses here in South Gloucestershire which have also meant an increase in Licensing Sub Committee hearings to determine that applicants are fit and proper persons to hold a license and will be suitably licensed to ensure that our travelling public will be safe here in South Gloucestershire.

The Regulatory Committee members agreed that amendments should be made to the Licensing application forms to ensure that the requirements of DBS, Convictions and Cautions, are clearly submitted by any license applicant.

The Regulatory Committee agreed that a new Dual Knowledge Test and Basic Skills Test be agreed to be implemented here in South Gloucestershire,

A Police enforcement officer is now funded by both South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council to ensure enforcement of any breaches in licensing policy and cross border issues such as plying for trade in an area where the Taxi / PHV operators are not licensed to trade.

The Regulatory Committee members agreed that mandatory Safe Guarding training is now included by all licensed operators working here in South Gloucestershire which will greatly re-assure any vulnerable customers and travelling public in our area that it will be safe to travel in a South Gloucestershire licensed vehicle.

Regulatory Committee chair and lead members have continued to liaise with the Taxi / PHV licenced operators and Community Transport and operators including UBER at our regular Taxi Liason Group meetings to ensure that any issues of concern are investigated with members involvement between members of the trade and licensing officers.

The Regulatory Committee members agreed a review of the Street Trading Policy and application guidelines.

The Regulatory committee members have seen an increase in Street Trading applications which have been determined by licensing sub-committees here in South Gloucestershire to ensure that traders are properly licensed an fit and proper persons to trade in South Gloucestershire.

The Regulatory Committee have agreed an increase of the Fees and charges of matters associated with licensing matters here in South Gloucestershire.

The Regulatory Committee have regularly determined @ Standards Committee complaints at hearings throughout the year - complaints appear to have increased against members of Parish / Town / District. Councils and the complaints are investigated to ensure that integrity and the excepted principles of being an elected member are upheld with openness and transparency.

The Regulatory Committee also agreed the appointment of an independent member to assist panel members with an impartial decision at Standards Committees.

Regulatory Committee members have ensured that principles and functions of of Public Rghts of Way and Commons act applications are investigated and agreed by PROW committee.

Regulatory Committee have upheld the responsibilities and principles contained within the Gambling Act and licensing of Family Entertainment Centres.

These functions particularly observe compliance especially as to any illegal gambling in premises and any possibility of money laundering.

The Regulatory Committee have upheld the requirements of licensing of Sex Shops or Sex establishments here within South Gloucestershire.



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

In my role as Chair of Regulatory & Licensing Committee the committee has enabled South Gloucestershire council to maintain a very high standard of enforcement within our area
Which can offer confidence to all our local residents and businesses throughout our area here in South Gloucestershire.

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

As above

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

In my role as Chair of Regulatory & Licensing Committee the committee has enabled South Gloucestershire council to maintain a high standard of enforcement within our area on behalf of residents and businesses.

