

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: 2015/16

Name: Pat Hockey

Position held: Liberal Democrat Lead Member for PTSE

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Read the Draft Agenda Papers for PTSE meetings and attend the agenda meetings.
Prepare a briefing note on the agenda items for the Liberal Democrat Group and respond to any queries or points the Group members make on any of them.
Act as the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on PTSE issues.
Receive Officer briefing notes, attend briefing meetings and respond when consulted.
Carefully read the strategic planning and transport documents from the West of England and brief Liberal Democrat members on them.
Prepare draft responses from the Liberal Democrat Group.
Keep abreast of Government policies and statements on planning and transport issues and seek information from other Authorities.
Give advice to Group members on planning and transport issues that they need to deal with in their casework.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The revised Draft Policies Sites and Places are now under consultation for submission to the Inspector incorporating several of my contributions.
The comprehensive planning for the major Cribbs/Patchway New Neighbourhood has moved forward.

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

I have been able to alert local people to the strategic planning and transport consultations taking place and advise them on responding. I have been able to assist interested local people in understanding the relationship between the South Gloucestershire PSP SPD consultation and the West of England JSP and JTP consultations.

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

I believe so.

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

The planning and transport policies and the way they are implemented are key to achieving the Council’s objectives.
The qualities of the new developments are very important in maintaining the attractiveness of South Gloucestershire as a place to live and work and establishing vibrant communities.
The transport policies are most important in reducing carbon emissions and promoting healthy lifestyles.
With so much new development taking place our planning policies are also geared to protecting the remaining countryside, biodiversity and heritage.