

# 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 - 2016

**Name:** Cllr Roger Hutchinson

**Position held:** Labour Lead Member on PT&SE

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

I represent the Labour Group of councillors on the PTSE committee and other bodies concerned with the issues of Planning, Transport and Strategic Environment. These include various bodies and working groups that consider not only the various decisions that are taken by the Council but also input into council policies relating to the wide subject area covered by the committee.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Further progress on planning of the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood, in delivery of quality and sustainable housing, high quality employment in support of the important local aerospace industry, a museum for Concorde (which has now commenced construction) and the Bristol Aero Collection in particular. Satisfaction that the new owners of the Filton Airfield site YTL, appear to be recognising the need for some infrastructure being installed up front and a great deal of progress towards delivery of the aero related industry on the industrial part of the site.

Progressing the delivery of the Bus Rapid Transit (Metro Bus) in South Gloucestershire and through to Bristol, Construction of the Hengrove to North Fringe section is well under way and due to start services in 2017. Planning of the metro bus extension to join Cribbs Causeway and Bristol Parkway through the new CPNN Development and seeing this through a difficult consultation stage.

Input into the Joint Spatial Plan and Transport study for the West of England with considerable implications for the North Fringe in particular and South Gloucestershire in general.

Working to achieve the best possible transport connections in all modes to the new Southmead Hospital from across South Gloucestershire, including dealing with ongoing parking issues in my own ward of Filton. Completion of the final parts of the hospital particularly the bus facilities and parking soon to be completed

Continuing to progress towards adoption of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Delivery of a number of major highways schemes following successful bids to Government.

I have supported the reinstatement of the "Henbury loop" which should help with alleviating transport issues in the North Fringe and was pleased to support the decision in the past year to go ahead with the "Spur" having opened the possibility of the full loop coming at a later date. The new Filton North station being a key part of both.

Critical input into the ongoing debate on the "Devolution" offer, on which I have been critical of the democratic issues surrounding the 4 member "combined authority" and the inadequacy of the financial offer which I have maintained to be far too low to allow any real ambition in serious changes to public transport.

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

Continuing progress on major transport infrastructure, whether it is walking, cycling, bus travel, rail travel or road travel is essential to ensure deal with pressures due to congestion, the need for modal shift in the way people travel to affect this. Ensuring that the massive housing developments that South Gloucestershire is expecting and expected to build are designed with a full understanding of the transport infrastructure required and the need for careful planning to achieve a practical and beneficial outcome. I have continued to raise concerns at every opportunity at Government policies that have severely disadvantaged us, requiring viability of sites to ensure developer profit at the expense of local infrastructure requirements, affordable housing in particular.

On a very local basis I have been involved directly in continuing traffic management issues surrounding commuter parking by employees and visitors to the major employers in or surrounding my ward.

I am currently awaiting the results of the modelling of the junction of the A4174 Ring Road and Filton Avenue to see if left and right turns can be accommodated to the benefit of residents who are often trapped in traffic and unable to get a few hundred meters to their homes. Funding was allocated in the last financial year. There are considerable transport issues on my local network with the certainty of 8 - 9000 new houses and approx. 50+ hectares of employment planned to the north and east of the ward.

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

As Lead members for the 3 Political Parties we meet regularly to discuss a range of issues both short and long term to try to ensure that they are considered in depth and comprehensively before reaching an agenda for decision.

We have also continued to meet to review reports that are on committee agendas to ensure that they contain all of the information needed to take informed decisions and ensure that decisions are taken transparently.

I attend, whenever possible, bodies that I don't serve on such as the West of England Joint Transport Executives in order to be aware of and understand decisions that are being taken sub regionally as well as the LGA Public Transport Consortium on which I am one of the Vice Chairs, which covers many national issues and Government policies that need to be considered and affect decisions that are taken locally.

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

I am always aware of the core objectives, whether it is in housing numbers, transport needs, environmental concerns including climate change and the need for renewables and always try through my experience, political beliefs and understanding of the issues to achieve the council's core objectives within my sphere of influence.