

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 Andy Perkins

Position held: Labour Lead Member for Adults and Housing

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

To act as the Labour Group's Lead member on issues relating to Adults Social Services, Housing (not strategic) and Public Health
To act as spokesperson / representative for the Group on the above
To be the Groups point of contact when working with the Director of CAH
To work with other Groups' Lead members within the Council.
To co-ordinate a Group response on issues relating to the above when the Group feels that a group-level response is required.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The work we undertake as Lead members requires us to read a lot of paperwork, attend meetings, keep Group colleagues abreast of emerging issues (providing we are told about them in a timely manner), and generally take a lead and support my Group colleagues on the committee.

The most significant issue during the reporting Period was the very poor Ofsted report on the Council's Children's Services department. I worked with my Labour group colleagues on co-ordinating our response to this.

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

I commented in last year’s report that questions like this are probably best answered by someone else as I was unsure sure whether this is about what I think I have achieved in itself or whether it means what I think I have achieved over and above what someone else in the same role could have achieved.

As the question remains the same this year, so does my response:

I would like to think that my contribution as Lead member has ensured an appropriate degree of challenge has been offered to the decisions made by the ruling party. I would like to think I have kept my Group abreast of department developments – and thus enabled the Group, where it wanted to, as a whole to get involved on behalf of the wider community. I would like to think I have supported my colleagues on the committee to enable them to “add value” to the local community as well.

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

Again this is a question which has carried over from last year and which I feel is probably one that others should answer. I feel I have carried out the role to my best ability and provided challenge and/or support where I felt it was needed. Has that ultimately enabled the Council to be more effective? I don’t know.

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

The over-riding core objective of the Council is to serve the residents of South Gloucestershire. I believe I have carried out this role to the best of my ability and with the best interests of SG residents in mind.