

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 Ben Stokes

Position held: Chair of Adults and Housing Committee

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Beyond my normal duties as Councillor, I have attended regularised meetings with:

1. Merlin CEO and Chairman to discuss issues around our relationship with Merlin
2. Brian Glasson and Karen Ross and other housing dept officers to discuss strategic housing issues
3. Attended briefings and inputted to the West of England Planning, Housing and Communities Board meetings and had role of Vice Chair for the first 6 months. Role was to represent the Council on Housing matters until Cabinet was formed in May.
4. Attended the SACRE Group meetings as the representative of the Council.
5. Member of LEP Infrastructure and Place Group (IPG)
6. WoE Nature Partnership Vice-Chair
7. Adult Services Lead Member Forum Meetings (more recently as Chairman)
8. Health & Wellbeing Board
9. Safeguarding Adults Board
10. Children, Adults, Housing and Public Health Vice-Chair (including Chairs brief and Group Leaders' Briefing)
12. LDPB Chair
13. Appointments & Employment Sub Committee
14. PSP Members Working Group

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

I was pleased to be invited and elected by my other Local Authority peers to Chair the South West Adult Social Care Lead Member meetings.

I felt that I represented the Council well at the West of England Planning, Housing and Communities Board meetings until May.

I HAVE BEEN VERY GLAD TO chair THE Learning Difficulties Partnership Board which I feel has made good progress as a group under my Chairmanship.

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

I have been better informed for my Ward casework.
I have been able to provide challenge to officers, providers and colleagues at meetings and outside of meetings to deliver quality and value for residents and the Council.

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

These duties have given me better access to information through specific briefings and papers. I have then brought my experience to bear when discussing and informing the council’s policies and decisions. I think this has enabled me to provide challenge and new ideas to our decisions and discussion.

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

My responsibilities have facilitated the council participation in discussion and engagement with our neighbouring authorities and partners at Member level. I have also added my views and decision to policies which have benefitted the lives of our residents.