

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 Heather Goddard

Position held: Chair of ECS Committee

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

As Chair I take the lead in working with the Director and other senior officers. I chair the Environment and Community Services committee which combined the Community Services committee and Planning, Transport and Strategic environment committee which were combined this year. In addition I am Director of Destination Bristol and Chair the Safer and Stronger Strategic partnership (Community Safer Partnership), and this reports to the Local Strategic partnership which gives me membership of this partnership. I also chair the Project Board now the One Public Estate Group looking at Community facilities, Educational facilities as well as Health opportunities in the Thornbury Area. I co-chair the New Work Trust which is providing start up premises for SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). I am a member of the PCP (Police & Crime Panel) which scrutinises the Police and Crime Commissioners office.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The ECS (Environment & Community Services) committee had to make savings amounting to £2,300,000 in the financial year which was achieved in order to contribute part of the overall savings of the council. This included decisions to implement a new waste strategy to 2020. Strategy for Metro Bus delivery route leading to reduction in overspends. Reduction in Library budgets particularly related to a second phase after consultation and community hubs. Looking at community facilities which could be delivered through section 106 monies available. After the abandonment of Safer Stronger groups and Area Forums, new ways of distributing grant monies had to be organised. Member Allocated Funding to all Councillors to cover local grants and we looked at the first stage of implementing Area Wide Grants. We also approved the annual Air Quality Report and refreshed the Climate Change Strategy for South Gloucestershire Council.

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

Ensure that local communities get value for money from their services. The New Waste Strategy which now collects recycling on a weekly basis and encourages more recycling and thus reducing the amount of residual waste going to landfill is a good example of this as well as being good for the environment. The work done in improving transport scheme reduces congestion as well as encouraging people to walk and cycle more helps our communities to lead healthier lives. We have managed to lease many of our sports facilities to local clubs to maintain which reduces council tax to our residents

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

After undertaking more training in Tourism and Sports opportunities – both run by LGA. (Local Government Association) We now have a Sports England Advisor attached to us to help us develop this aspect of our work. Having had a wide experience in Communities the additional responsibility for Planning and Transport and Strategic Environment and the steep learning curve in understanding the intricacies of Metro Bus, bus timetables and electrification of railways and has broadened my understanding of all aspects that affect our residents and their communities

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

The deeper understanding has widened horizons and plans to develop land at Filton and Buckover which will provide the infrastructure and housing requirement for the council. In turn this will provide jobs and security for our residents. Our young people will have enormous opportunities with the new high tech companies coming into the area. It will present challenges too of getting community cohesion right and providing facilities for these new communities to enjoy in their leisure time.