

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: May 2017-May 2018.....

Name: Ian Boulton

Position held: Co-Chair Scrutiny Commission.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

I am Co-Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Commission has a number of functions, namely:

- agree issues to be considered by the Scrutiny Commission as part of a strategic work plan
- make recommendations to the Executive
- call in decisions
- monitor in year performance and budgets, and
- conduct in-depth reviews of particular issues of relevance through the establishment of informal and focused Task and Finish Groups.

As a Co-Chair I am an ex-officio member on all the Task and Finish Groups. We carry out in-depth, focused, and potentially cross cutting pieces of work, which may take 3/6 months. It is anticipated that are around 5/6 such reviews spread across the year.

I have taken an active role in each Task and Finish Group.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The Scrutiny Commission has been introduced as part of the new governance arrangements in South Gloucestershire after the ruling administration introduced a Cabinet System of working.

In our first year we have developed our Terms of Reference and evolved a way of working to hold the executive to account. This has been from a standing start.

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

Ensuring that the Cabinet is held accountable for the decisions they make in an open, transparent and professional manner.

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

Effective scrutiny is an essential part of the constitutional model of the Council. We provide a public forum which can hold the executive to account.

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

During the past year we have set up the Scrutiny Commission in accordance with the Constitution of the Council.

I have been an ex-officio and active member of each Task and Finish Group. Each group has to demonstrate support for the core objectives of the Council.