

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: John Goddard

Position held: Chair of Resources Sub Committee.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

As Chairman I take the lead in a close working relationship with the Director of Corporate Resources, I also Chair some other related Sub Committees such as, Appointments & Employment panel and sub-committee. I am the virtual Vice Chair of Policy and Resources as Joint deputy leader of the Council. I liaise, with all corporate and finance functions of the council and attend regular briefings with the Director and Heads of Service, prior to either Resources sub Committee or Policy and Resources and to receive in depth information and current and future outturns regarding the council's budget and all aspects of The "Chief Executive & Corporate Resources" (CECR) section which is a very important part of the council and comprises the following departments:-Finance & Customer Services; Emergency Planning; Health & safety; Human Resources; ICT; Information Governance; Internal Audit; Legal & Democratic Services, Property Services; Service Planning & Performance; Support for staff going through change; and the Transformation Programme. The pressure and demand on the property services department of the council is an area where there is more and more demand on the time and expertise of the Chair of the sub-committee, similarly the Traded Services Division of the council now called "Integra" an arm's length Ltd. Company came under corporate control of the corporate division, the Chair of Resources Sub is as part of the job a fully engaged unpaid Director of the company and again has put more responsibility and engaged time of the Chair.

The Vision still is "To improve Services to Customers by Championing change through Staff and Partners" Although this is becoming a more daunting task in the light of ever more reductions in council funds. The Councils Saving plan is of paramount importance to the council balancing its budget and needs to be monitored and adjusted all throughout the year, this is also part of the Chair's responsibility to keep up to speed with day to day contact and by asking questions to make sure that the council is on track.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Reviews of CECR Fees and Charges – Annual Performance Report – Review of Policy regarding Discretionary Discounts – New Property Framework policy – Future of Council Estate Properties – Dept. service plan – Annual CECR Report – Procurement Route policy – Policy on Disposal of Major properties – Disposal of Care home sites & other disposals

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

By putting in more of my time to advise senior officers regarding policy and situations, which have been formulated by a series of discussions and debates with my Leader and our group who are since the last election the administration of the council, also taking information and ideas from other senior Officers, our MP's and Central Government who currently have the major influence over our councils saving plan to achieve through our medium term financial plan a sustainable and balanced annual budget. This statement still holds good for this current year

The above exercise together with the Sub committees meeting programme inevitably has saved time and money and other costs by reducing the number of large committee meetings which would be needed. The Chair & Director briefings take place, these briefings are fairly frequent and are then cascaded to Lead Members who are kept up to date with developments.

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

I am sure it has because of the skills and expertise that I bring to the table, which were gained from my previous experience as an executive member together with training such as the Leadership Academy scheme, as well as many other training courses that have been made available to me. I have endeavoured to use these skills and knowledge to work in the best way that I can and know to the benefit of the council and its residents.

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

I am sure my previous statement still holds good “through working with the other Lead Members, the Group Leaders and Council Directors and other senior Officers, the Core objectives and a more strategic vision is possible, which gives more clarity, direction and impetus for me to always have in mind the core objectives. This council has and still does have an excellent record of Member Officer working relationships, which are paramount to the future success of this council.” As my Special Responsibility Allowance was reduced after an appeal to the board I believe the Council was even better supported as it was at less cost to the council.