

# 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: 2017-2018** .....

**Name: MICHAEL BELL** .....

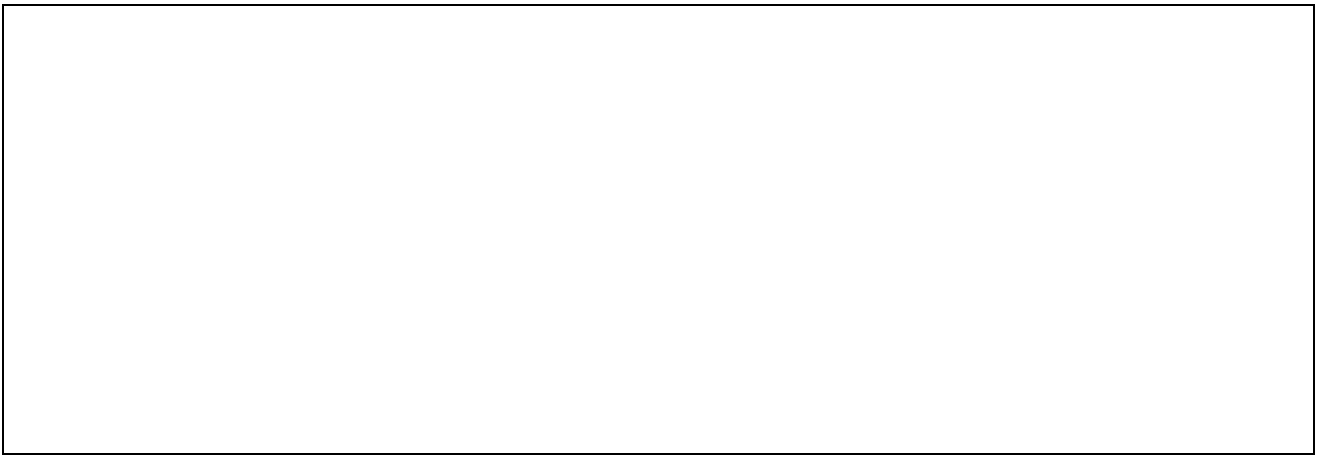
**Position held: LABOUR GROUP LEAD MEMBER – DC EAST** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

In my role I am the Lead Member for the 3 Labour Councillors who belong to the Development Control East Committee. I therefore attend all monthly Agenda Meetings with Officers and Lead Members for the other 2 Political Parties. Prior to the actual Decision Meeting I give any feedback from the Agenda Committee to my fellow Councillors and give advice on all the Applications being held on this day. Every quarter there is a combined DC meeting with Officers and DC West Lead members. I also make sure that I always attend any relevant Training Days, and also keep myself up to date on any law changes etc. I am always available to give advice to my fellow Ward Councillors who do not sit on the DC Committees.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

I have personally held numerous meetings with both residents and Cotswold Homes on their application to build 21 homes on the site of the Mangotsfield C of E School. Although there was a nostalgic wish amongst locals to retain the school as a Community Centre this was not possible. However I did develop sympathetic help from Cotswold Homes and they have now donated up to £10000 to have some sort of memory artwork of the school built into the Development.



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

I regularly give advice to residents in respect of Planning Applications that affect them. This is in the form of helping them understand the various Planning Procedures which can be quite complex to the general public. I try to visit them in their homes, and not rely on lengthy exchanges of e-mails.

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

In my Lead Member role, I act as a liaison between Officers and my fellow Labour Group Councillors. I regularly contact Officers for detailed information and to clarify any issue that may occur. I have a good working relationship with all Council Planning Officers which can certainly help it to be more effective

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

Providing a Planning Control Service is one of the Statutory Obligations of the Council. My role as Lead member contributes to it fulfilling these obligations.

