

# 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:** November 2013 – May 2014.....

**Name:** James Hunt.....

**Position held:** Conservative Lead Member for Children & Young People.....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

- Work with the two other lead members for CYP, the Director of Children, Adults and Health and appropriate officers to formulate policies, budgets and addressing appropriate responses to issues as they arise.
- Represent the committee at times of celebration and confrontation.
- Ensuring decisions and policies come forward which are fair and reflect the needs of the residents of South Gloucestershire.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

- Consulting with the public around the council budget leading to a further council tax freeze.
- Securing major capital investment in South Glos schools.
- Developed plans for the Grange School to become a Studio School after it fell into difficulties following a poor OFSED report.
- Responding to the Education Commissions report into failing levels of attainment in South Glos secondary schools.
- Creation of a Schools Advisory body to focus on raising attainment in schools.
- Review in to school areas of prime responsibility and responding to concerns.

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

- I have acted as one of the three main points of contact between residents and the CYP department.
- I have been able to represent the various communities of South Gloucestershire when working with officers to ensure that decisions are fair and in the best interests of all.
- I have been able to bring my experience and commitment to the department to ensure decisions and policy are in the best interests of residents and best value for money.

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

- The progression on the transformation program and the delivery of the required savings allow the Council to concentrate more on core services and delivery a fair and balanced budget.
- Proper planning and scrutiny at the decision formulation stage has encouraged strong positive decisions to be put before the committee for final decision.
- Quick and full engagement with officers and the public allows the Council to be efficient and effective in its actions.

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

- CYP directly contributes to the economy through raising the education and opportunities for the youth that pass through South Glos schools.
- CYP directly contributes to South Glos communities by providing Early Years support for families and targeted intervention to maximise outcomes for all.
- CYP directly contributes to health by providing children with access to exercise and providing a robust response for children who are at risk of harm.