

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: 2015/2016

Name: Matthew Riddle

Position held: Leader of the Council and Leader of the Conservative Group.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

1. Leader of the Council, representing the Council on a range of sub regional, regional and national boards, bodies and organisations. This includes membership of the West of England Strategic Leaders Board and the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership. Work with a range of partners: health, business, and voluntary and community groups.
2. Lead member for Emergency Planning.
3. Holding the Chair of Children Services to account.
4. Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.
5. Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

1. Setting up the new Council after the council elections in May 2015, the first time since 1999-2003 that one party has had an overall majority on the Council.
2. Lobbed the government and local MPs for a better financial deal in December 2015 following an initial financial settlement that was a lot less than could have been reasonably expected.
3. Delivering the council's savings plan. Putting in place a new Committee structure to streamline decision making and reducing the cost of running the Council.
4. Identifying and starting the process of removal of surplus office space and other efficiencies to protect front line services.
5. Negotiating with the other West of England Councils a £1bn Devolution Deal with Government. This involved a number of meetings with cabinet and other government ministers.
6. Production of a new Council Plan 2016-2020 and with our partners, a new Sustainable Community Strategy 2016-2036.

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

1. Making the council assets work harder to reduce the cost of running the council now and in the future. Starting a debate about the use of key council buildings and bringing forward options for major change.
2. Using my skills to develop new committee structures to ensure the council keeps up to date with new challenges and the changing financial situation.
3. Meeting a range of businesses leaders and owners, leaders of voluntary and community groups who either already are based in South Gloucestershire or who are considering locating in South Gloucestershire. Providing encouragement, challenge and building links with these organisations and the Council, and through that promoting the council’s values throughout South Gloucestershire.

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

1. Reducing the cost of running the council and making assets work more efficiently.
2. Delivering, with the Chairs of the Committees, the Council’s Savings Plan.
3. Providing strong leadership of the Council and leadership which is seen and heard.
4. Provided good working relationships with other West of England council, business and education leaders to deliver the West of England £1bn Devolution Deal.

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

1. Looking after the vulnerable - promote personal well-being, reduce health inequalities and deliver high quality physical and mental health and social care services which protect our most vulnerable
2. Sustainable economic growth – working to reduce the attainment gap, a well-trained workforce and sustainable jobs for all. Enhance our natural and built environment, develop low-carbon, integrated communities with a strong sense of place connected by well-planned transport networks
3. Value for money services - using available resources to deliver best value for local people