

# 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 2013 to May 2014** .....

**Name: Pat Hockey** .....

**Position held: Liberal Democrat Lead Member for Planning Transport & Strategic Environment (PTSE)** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Along with the Conservative and Labour Lead Members for PTSE I oversee the agendas for the PTSE Committee meetings, advise Officers on delegated decisions such as responses to Government consultations and seek and receive briefings on local and national issues within the portfolio. I serve on a number of associated working groups and policy advisory groups: Core Strategy, Policies Sites & Places Development Plan Document, Street Lighting, Self Build, Residential Parking Standards, CIL, Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood etc. I also serve on the Major Transport Schemes Sub-Committee.

The Chair of the PTSE Committee is the Conservative Lead Member. He represents the Council on the West of England bodies, Joint Transport Executive Committee (JTEC) and Planning, Housing and Communities Board He takes forward the views on the agendas of the 3 Lead Members so we study the papers and discuss them prior their meetings.

If the Chair is not present at the PTSE meeting I take the chair and if required deputise for media interviews. I attend the Cycle Forum and the Cribbs Patchway Liaison Group, meeting with City Councillors and Developer representatives.

I act as spokes person for the Liberal Democrat Group on Planning and Transport issues, keeping Group members informed of relevant issues and seeking their views on key decisions.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The Core Strategy was finally accepted by the Inspector and adopted by the Council. The South Gloucestershire element of the MetroBus project received its next phase of Government approval.

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

I have been able to assist and advise the local action groups on opposing a major housing development. This involved explaining to them the process for making representations on the Draft Core Strategy.

I have also been able to help local people understand how to get involved in the opportunities offered by the consultations on the Sites Policies and Places DPD.

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

I hope so. I have been able to play a part in putting together the major strategic planning document for the Council’s area which is very important if the unwelcome consequences of major development are to be minimised and Council control maximised.

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

**Good planning is key to providing a good quality of life and an attractive working environment. Together with transport policies it contributes to healthy lifestyles and sustainability and protection of the natural environment and heritage.**

