

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: 2017/18

Name: Toby Savage.....

Position held: Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills & Employment

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

This has been the first year of the new Cabinet system and this is a brand new portfolio which provides stronger member focus in driving up standards in early years, primary, secondary and adult education.

As part of this role, I have been a member of the West of England Combined Authority's (WECA) Skills Advisory Board, which has been set up over the course of this year.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

During 17/18, we have achieved:

Creation of the Local School Standards Board bringing together partners across the local schools system, including Multi-Academy Trusts, Regional Schools Commissioner and Local Authority. This body forms the foundation for future improvements;
Approval of a Capital Programme and a multi-million pound investment into new and existing mainstream and special education facilities, including new schools in Frenchay, Frampton Cotterell and Charlton Hayes and expansion of Warmley Park Special School;
A successful bid to acquire the Bristol & Bath Science Park in partnership with the University of Bath to drive future highly-skilled jobs growth;
Creation of the Skills Advisory Board (part of WECA) and influencing the devolution of the Adult Education Budget and making interventions into improving skills across the sub-region;

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

As well as the formal decision-making performed during Cabinet meetings and through individual Cabinet Member decisions, it is my behind-the-scenes informal discussions with partners and developing strong relationships that ensure continued progress towards improving education standards and outcomes.

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

As mentioned above, as well as the formal decision-making performed during Cabinet meetings and through individual Cabinet Member decisions, it is my behind-the-scenes informal discussions with partners and developing strong relationships that ensure continued progress towards improving education standards and outcomes.

My special responsibilities coupled with my previous experience as a council officer for 6 years has enabled me to hit the ground running.

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

Exercising my special responsibilities supports the aims and goals of the Council Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy and the associated strategies around education, skills and economic development that flow from these.