

# 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: 2018/19** .....

**Name: Toby Savage**.....

**Position held: Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills & Employment** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

This has been my first year in the role of Leader of the Council and leading a new Administration. I continued to also hold the SSE portfolio which continues to provide stronger member focus in driving up standards in early years, primary, secondary and adult education.

During this year, I have been a member of the West of England Combined Authority's Committee and its Skills and Business Advisory Boards.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

During 18/19, we have had some notable achievements:

Prudent financial management despite a challenging backdrop which led to an approx £4m underspend, highly unusual in local government at the current time;

Approval of a record £78m Capital Programme for Schools with investment into new and existing mainstream and special education facilities, including new schools in Frenchay, Frampton Cotterell and Charlton Hayes, expansion of Warmley Park Special School and opening of the new Chase Post-16 facility;

Not only have new SEND facilities been built, but new targeted investment was made including allowing deaf children to take their hearing aids home to continue their learning outside of school;

Bedding in the Local School Standards Board bringing together partners across the local schools system, including Multi-Academy Trusts, Regional Schools Commissioner and Local Authority, which is leading to improved standards;

Completing the purchase of the Bristol & Bath Science Park in partnership with the University of Bath to drive future highly-skilled jobs growth;

Launching the Love Our High Streets project with WECA with a principal focus on

regenerating Kingswood High Street and learning lessons which can be applied to other local High Streets. A £100k fund will support other High Streets with a series of targeted initiatives;

Unlocking new transport funding from WECA, including £800k in a new Community Transport vehicle fleet, feasibility funding to bring forward new major transport projects and earmarking funding to implement transport improvements in the short term;

Supporting the push within waste management to reduce, re-use and recycle and working with our residents to achieve record recycling rates.

### **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, WECA Committee 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 achieving target 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, WECA Committee 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 achieving target outcomes.

### **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 specific service areas that flow from these.