

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 2019 – May 2020
(Returned from Maternity Leave in Feb 2020)

Name: Cllr Rachael Hunt

Position held: Executive Member for Communities & Tourism

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

This portfolio oversees the management and direction of areas such as recycling and waste, cultural services, parks and open spaces, sports and leisure facilities responsibilities, relationships with and support for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector area, community safety and trading standards.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Since my return from Maternity Leave in February 2020, my main focus has been leading the response of the services in my portfolio to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included significant changes to the delivery of the waste services and the re-deployment of staff in various service areas where they have been needed. My focus was to ensure that services continued to be provided in as safe a way as possible for both residents and staff through an unprecedented period.

Alongside this, decisions have been taken forward to support delivering investment to improve open spaces through the allocation of Section 106 Funding and to support organisations in our communities through the distribution of Area Wide Grants.

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

Alongside contributions to formal decision-making meetings such as Cabinet, working closely with officers and partners to ensure vital services were maintained during the first COVID-19 lockdown and working to find the best solutions to support residents, VCSE groups and businesses with existing and new needs in this unprecedented time.

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

As mentioned above, alongside contributions to formal decision-making meetings such as Cabinet, working closely with officers and partners to ensure vital services were maintained during the first COVID-19 lockdown and working to find the best solutions to support residents, VCSE groups and businesses with existing and new needs in this unprecedented time.

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

The aims, goals and vision of the Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy were supported through exercising my special responsibilities to ensure vital services remained accessible to and in service of our local community in South Gloucestershire during unprecedented times.