

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: Councillor Maggie Tyrrell

Position held: Liberal Democrat Lead Member for Adults and Housing and Co-Chair of Scrutiny Commission

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

In respect of Adults, Housing & Public Health portfolio: lead for Liberal Democrats as opposition at Cabinet and Council meetings.
Research issues that relate to Cabinet and portfolio holder decisions and raise questions at Cabinet meetings.
Attend briefings with senior officers.
Communicate with Liberal Democrat group members to ensure they are informed of issues.
Liaise with other spokespersons over issues of joint interest.
Liaise with departmental officers regarding casework referred by colleagues.
Sit as member of Appointments Panel for senior officers of CAH Dept.
Speak to the media on AH&PH matters on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group when required.
In respect of Co-Chair of Scrutiny Commission: (latter half of year following reshuffle of member responsibilities). Attend all meetings and Chair alternate meetings of Scrutiny Commission and the related agenda setting meetings.
Attend regular briefings with senior officers.
Attend all meetings of Scrutiny Commission sub groups e.g. Task & Finish, Spotlight Reviews etc.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

A Budget Scrutiny group has been established to ensure opposition members are better informed on the issues affecting the Council budget. Continuing pressure to get full information about the Council's savings programme.

Spotlight review of care services in particular in relation to delayed hospital discharge procedures.

Recommendations from Scrutiny Commission on Affordable Housing to Cabinet largely agreed.

Educational standards report to Cabinet agreed.

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

As a lead member of the Scrutiny Commission I influence that agenda and the reports submitted to Cabinet that affect the decisions made by it and portfolio holders

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

I continued to advise colleagues on whether amendments to proposals are required or advisable and I lead the group debating issues at Committee or Council. I offered alternative solutions and tried to minimise the effects of budget cuts on service users by influencing the direction of policy at an early stage, before a formal decision was made at committee.

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

The Conservative Group control Cabinet and Council and their policies and decisions need to be challenged to ensure they have considered the full extent of the effect of those policies on residents in all the communities of South Gloucestershire. The responsibility of a lead member of an opposition party is to ensure that all aspects of the way policies are formulated and implemented are thoroughly scrutinised and in the best interests of the residents. This includes ensuring that residents have a voice and are properly consulted before decisions are made.