

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 4 October 2007

**Subject: ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL – Membership**

Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley, Ext. 4532

SCRUTINY



Recommendation:

To review the membership of this Panel following the resignation of Councillor Mrs A Cooper from the Conservative Group.

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) Councillor Mrs A Cooper has given notice of resignation from the Conservative Group of the Council. She has also advised that she does not intend to join another political group and that she wishes to be referred to as an "Independent Member".

Mrs Cooper is currently a member of the Environment and Planning Services Standing Scrutiny Panel on the nomination of the Conservative Group.

The Council has agreed that pro rata apply to Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panels. The Overview and Scrutiny Rules provide that membership of these Panels must reflect pro rata requirements with the lowest number of members required to achieve cross party representation whilst allowing the inclusion of members who are not members of a political group or are not members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As a result of these requirements, Standing Panels for 2007/08 have 11 members. In accordance with pro rata, political group entitlement to places on Standing Panels is as follows:

Conservatives – 6 places
Liberal Democrats – 2 places
LRA Group – 1 place
Independent Group – 1 place
BNP Group – 1 place

Prior to Mrs Cooper's resignation from the Conservative Group, the Environment and Planning Services Panel was made up of:

Conservatives – 6
Liberal Democrats – 2
LRA Group – 1
Independent Group – 1
BNP Group – 1

The Committee is invited to review membership of this Panel.