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REPORT

Subject : Group Membership of Committees
Report to : The Annual Council
Date : Monday 19 May 2008
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Introduction:

Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council has to review annually Group Membership of Committees etc. It also has to undertake a review if there has been a change in the Group strengths upon the Council as a whole for the purpose of the Political Balance Regulations. Group strengths upon the Council are unaltered since last reported - namely:-

Conservatives	22
Liberal Democrats	19
Labour	10
Independents	03
Non Aligned	01

There are a total of 24 seats available for allocation under the political balance rules within the Political Management structure, comprising 12 on the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and 12 on the Planning/Regulatory Panel.

No group is entitled to a majority upon either of these bodies as no group has a majority upon the Council overall.

Consequently, based on the Group strengths upon the Council and applying the usual requisite strict arithmetical approach (rounding up and down) -

The Conservative Group is entitled to 9.6 seats (rounded up to 10)

The Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 8.29 seats (rounded down to 8)

The Labour Group is entitled to 4.36 seats (rounded down to 4)

The Independent Group is entitled to 1.30 seats (rounded down to 1)

The non aligned member is entitled to 0.43 seats (rounded up to 1)

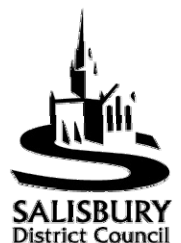


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Consequently as the Conservative Group and the non aligned member have a greater arithmetical justification for rounding up than the other groups, the allocation on the following bodies should, subject to any inter-group agreement, be -

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Conservatives	5
Liberal Democrats	4
Labour	2
Independents	0/1
Non Aligned	0/1

Planning and Regulatory Panel

Conservatives	5
Liberal Democrats	4
Labour	2
Independents	0/1
Non Aligned	0/1

The Independent Group is entitled to 1 seat on one of the bodies and none on the other and the non aligned member is entitled to 1 seat on one of the bodies and none on the other.

Currently the council has allocated the Independent seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and the non aligned seat on Planning and Regulatory Panel.

Recommended:

That having regard to the Group Strengths upon the Council as at 19 May 2008, the Full Council is recommended to determine the composition of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Planning and Regulatory Panel, including the seat allocation between the Independent Group and the non aligned member.

Implications:

Financial	:	None
Legal	:	None
Personnel	:	None
Community Safety	:	None
Environmental	:	None