

**Maidstone Borough Council**

**Scrutiny Coordinating Committee**

**Thursday 28 November 2013**

**Visiting Members – Discussion Item**

**Report of:** Christian Scade, Senior Corporate Policy Officer

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 One of the recommendations from the Cabinet and Enhanced Scrutiny Model Report (April, 2013) was that Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen should be encouraged to include Visiting Members at Committee meetings.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the role of Visiting Members, in view of experiences this municipal year, making recommendations as appropriate.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, set out in Part 4 of the Constitution, state:

*"Visiting Members should be allowed to speak as of right at any Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on a given agenda item (for example where they have an interest or expertise in a particular manner) subject to the following conditions:-*

- *that Visiting Members can appear before the Committee but that Visiting Members limit their comments to the specified item or items; and*
- *that Visiting Members are not allowed to vote or to be involved in the general discussion of the Committee."*

- 3.2 Should the Committee decide amendments to the Constitution are required this would require a recommendation to be agreed at full Council.

**4. Background Documents**

- 4.1 None