



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 19TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 - INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of the numbers of covert surveillance operations undertaken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

2.1 The Council is under an obligation to comply with legislative requirements – this report helps to achieve that.

3. THE REPORT

3.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) sets out strict controls for public authorities wishing to carry out covert surveillance of individual members of the public as part of their exercise of their statutory functions. In addition to the Act, advice and guidance is found within the Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office.

3.2 The Authority has a corporate policy which provides guidance on how surveillance should be used by the relevant officers.

3.3 Public Authorities undertaking covert surveillance of individual members of the public are subject to inspection by an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner or by a Surveillance Inspector (or in some cases both).

3.4 The Appendix to the Report includes details of the RIPA operations undertaken by the Authority for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013. The Authority has undertaken 20 RIPA operations during this period although one operation covered more than one activity, which, in turn, accounts for the 22 activities listed in the Appendix.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None, the Report is for information only.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None. The report is for information only.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 None. Members note the information provided.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Details of RIPA Investigations