



## AUDIT COMMITTEE - 5TH MARCH 2014

**SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

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### **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 December to end of January 2014.
- 3.5 Following comments from the members of the Committee at an earlier meeting officers can confirm that the outcomes of the surveillance operations undertaken by Trading Standards under RIPA will be included in the Report on Enforcement Actions reported to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.

### **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 POWERS**

10.1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

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Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Details of RIPA Operations