



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 11TH JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

REPORT BY: INTERIM 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 year 1st April, 2013 to 31st March, 2014. There have been no RIPA operations undertaken in the period 1st April, 2014 to the date of this Report.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note the outcome of the RIPA operations undertaken by the Authority for 2013/14 are to be reported to the Regeneration & Scrutiny Committee on 1st July, 2014 as part of the Public Protection Enforcement Review Report 2013/14.

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