AUDIT COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE, 2016

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 Members are advised that for the period February to April inclusive, there has been one RIPA operation undertaken, details of which are set out in Appendix 1.

3.5

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None, the report is for information only.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None, the report is for information only.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None, the report is for information only.

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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Appendix 1   Details of RIPA operations