

## AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2014

### REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

#### REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

##### **Purpose**

The Council's Code of Practice for carrying out surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) specifies that quarterly reports will be taken to Audit & Governance Committee to demonstrate to elected members that the Council is complying with its own Code of Practice when using RIPA.

On 13 December 2012, the Council re-adopted the RIPA policy and agreed that quarterly reports on the use of RIPA powers be submitted to Audit & Governance Committee.

##### **Recommendation**

**That Audit and Governance Committee endorse the quarterly RIPA monitoring report.**

##### **Background Information**

The RIPA Code of Practice produced by the Home Office in April 2010 introduced the requirement to produce quarterly reports to elected members to demonstrate that the Council is using its RIPA powers appropriately and complying with its own Code of Practice when carrying out covert surveillance. This requirement relates to the use of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources (CHIS).

The table below shows the Council's use of directed surveillance in the current financial year to provide an indication of the level of use of covert surveillance at the Council. There have been no applications under RIPA in the period from 1 October 2013 to 31 December 2013.

The table outlines the number of times RIPA has been used for directed surveillance, the month of use, the service authorising the surveillance and a general description of the reasons for the surveillance. Where and investigation is ongoing at the end of a quarterly period it will not be reported

until the authorisation has been cancelled. At the end of the current quarterly period there are no outstanding authorisations.

There have been no authorisations for the use of CHIS.

Steps are being undertaken to compile a list of all equipment in use by the Council that could be used in surveillance. The list will ensure that equipment is stored and used properly this avoiding any breaches of the Code of Practice or legislation.

In January 2014 officers under went training in RIPA practice and procedure and a workshop will be arranged for officers later in the year.

### **Financial year 2013/14**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Reason</b>
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No applications

### **Background papers**

None

*"If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting please contact Jane M Hackett Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer on Ext.258"*