

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 ("RIPA")

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the use of RIPA over the past year and to allow for the review of the Council's RIPA policy, making any amendments should this be required.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On the 8 March 2011, Members of the Review Committee agreed to provide a strategic overview of the Council's use of RIPA powers in terms of reviewing the policy and considering quarterly and annual statistical reports on usage.
- 2.2 On 12 July 2011 the Committee agreed that in the interests of saving resources, it would consider statistics and review the Council's policy on an annual rather than quarterly basis.

3 ANNUAL STATISTICS ON THE COUNCIL'S USE OF RIPA POWERS

6 March 2011 – 6th March 2012

| Authorisation Date | Nature of Authorisation | Expiry date / Review Date(s)/ Cancellation Date |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| NIL | | |

- 3.1 Members will note that the Council is a sparing user of RIPA powers, the last authorisation having been made on 8 February 2011, brief details of which were provided in the 6 March 2011 report to this committee.

4 ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW

- 4.1 The Council's RIPA policy appended to this report was updated in March 2011 to take account of various developments and changes to the law. Since that time the position has not changed in any significant way which would necessitate further changes to the document. However, should Members decide to amend the policy, this would be by way of recommendation to full Council.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The improper or disproportionate use of RIPA powers could lead to adverse publicity in the media and serious reputational damage

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Use of RIPA powers in an appropriate and proportionate manner can assist in the prevention and detection of crime.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Failure to comply with RIPA legislation may mean that covert surveillance evidence will not be accepted in court and there may be issues of privacy/human rights contraventions.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the Council's annual usage of RIPA powers and having reviewed the policy, proposes no changes are required.

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Background Papers:-

None

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