

**REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)
ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY & QUARTERLY/ANNUAL UPDATE ON USE OF RIPA**

Purpose

1. To update on the use of RIPA powers in the last quarter, note the use of RIPA powers over the last year and as part of an annual review of the Council's policy to make a minor amendment to the appendix of authorising officers.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Corporate Governance Committee:
 - (a) **AGREE** the recommendation for an amendment to the Appendix to the Council's RIPA policy marked using track changes at Appendix A;
 - (b) **NOTE** the information contained in the report about the council's use of surveillance powers in the period July to September 2013 and the annual summary of RIPA usage.

Background

3. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 regulates covert investigations by a number of bodies, including local authorities. It was introduced to ensure that individuals' rights are protected while also ensuring that law enforcement and security agencies have the powers they need to do their job effectively.
4. Following a Home Office Review into counter-terrorism and security powers the passing of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 was passed on 1st May 2012 with the effect that from 1st November 2012 all local authority surveillance authorised under RIPA will have to be approved by a Magistrate.

Considerations

Annual Review of Policy

5. The Council comprehensively reviewed and updated its policy in September 2012 and it is not considered that any further updating or amending to the policy document is necessary at this stage.
6. A minor amendment is necessary to the appendix which lists nominated officers which is marked using track changes.

The council's use of RIPA in Quarter 4 2013

7. The information in the table below outlines the authorisations granted by the council during the fourth quarter of the year 2012/13.

Quarter	Directed surveillance	CHIS	Total	Purpose
July - Sept 2013	0	0	0	

Annual summary of the Council's use of RIPA (September 2012 – September 2013)

8. The information in the table below summarises all the authorisations granted by the council in the last year, from September 2012 to September 2013.

Quarter	Directed surveillance	CHIS	Total	Purpose
October 2012 – December 2012/Jan 2013	2	0	2	1)Benefit Fraud (Joint investigation with DWP) – Willingham Sufficient evidence obtained to proceed to prosecution 2) Flytipping st Uttons Drove, Swavesey – authorisation successfully obtained from Cambridge Magistrates (first RIPA application in Cambs). Concluded – no further flytipping has taken place
January 2013 – March 2013	0		0	
April 2013 – June 2013	0		0	
July 2013 – September 2013	0		0	

Implications

9. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, it is considered there are no significant implications.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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