

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

7th April 2015

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) QUARTERLY REPORT

Report of the Director for Resources

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| STRATEGIC AIM: | All |
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) was enacted to provide a framework within which a public authority may use covert investigation for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime or of preventing disorder.
- 1.2 The codes of practice issued by the Home Office in relation to Part II of RIPA recommend that elected members have oversight of the Council's use of these provisions. The Audit and Risk Committee's terms of reference enable the Committee to receive reports on the Council's use of covert investigations under RIPA.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Audit and Risk Committee note the content of this report, which covers quarter 4 of 2014/2015. No further action is required.**

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has broad statutory functions and takes appropriate enforcement action in relation to those functions. There may be circumstances in the discharge of its statutory functions in which it is necessary for the Council to use RIPA for the purpose of preventing crime or disorder.
- 3.2 To date, the Council has made infrequent use of RIPA and recognises that there are usually less intrusive methods of obtaining information. The Council will continue to adopt this approach where possible.
- 3.3 To this end, during the period 1st January to 31st March 2015 no applications were made for the authorisation of RIPA.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

| RISK | IMPACT | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Time | Low | Report for information only. |
| Viability | Low | As above. |
| Finance | Low | There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. |
| Profile | Low | There may be some public interest in the content but this is unlikely to be significant. |
| Equality and Diversity | Low | No impact assessment has been carried out as there are no direct implications. |

Background Papers

None.

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.