

Title	RIPA Policy
For further information about this report please contact	Andrew Jones ext 6830 Andrea Wyatt ext 6831
Wards of the District directly affected	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	
Background Papers	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes/No (If No state why below)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?	Yes	

1.0 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The recent inspection carried out by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners concerning compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2002 (RIPA), highlighted certain actions were required to ensure compliance. These have now been incorporated into the new RIPA policy attached.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That members agree the revised RIPA policy as detailed at Appendix 1 and that the scheme of delegation be amended.

3.0 **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 We are required to have a member approved policy in place.

4.0 **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Council must ensure that its activities are compliant with legislation.

5.0 **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There are no budgetary implications

6.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 No alternative options to consider.

7.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 An inspection of our RIPA activities by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in 2007 and the subsequent re-inspection in 2010 made certain recommendations and these are detailed below.

- 7.2 Recommendation: That a senior responsible officer should be appointed to take responsibility for overseeing all RIPA activities.

Action: This role has is now being undertaken by Andrew Jones, Deputy Chief Executive.

- 7.3 Recommendation: That a monitoring officer be appointed with responsibility for maintaining the RIPA register.

Action: This has been undertaken by Andrea Wyatt, Benefits and Fraud Manager.

- 7.4 Recommendation: That training be arranged for all officers involved in applying for and authorising surveillance

Action: Training has been booked.

- 7.5 Recommendation: To reduce the number of authorising officers to provide better accountability.

Action: To amend the scheme of delegation so as to restrict powers to Chief Executive and two deputy Chief Executives subject to member approval.

- 7.6 Recommendation: To revise the current RIPA policy.

Action: Revised RIPA policy attached for approval.