

TITLE: ANNUAL REVIEW OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (“RIPA”) POLICIES

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 26 March 2026

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Report number: AA173

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1.0 Issue

To update Members on the annual review of the RIPA Policies and provide Members with a report on the use of RIPA powers by the Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1. Members are requested to note the report.

3.0 Background/Options

3.1. Members may recall that a report was brought to Finance & Assets Committee on 30th March 2023 with a new Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”) Policy & Guidance and a new Covert Human Intelligence Sources (“CHIS”) Policy & Guidance on 30th March 2023. It was agreed that both policies should be reviewed annually in line with guidance received from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office (“IPCO”).

3.2. Members approved amendments to both Policies on 28th March 2024, which included recommendations in relation to staff training. The Director Legal & Monitoring Officer and Digital Services & Information Manager have reviewed both policies and report that no amendments are necessary.

3.3. The IPCO guidance also sets out that Members should review the Council’s use of the legislation at least once a year. The Legal Department retains a confidential Central Register for applications and the RIPA Coordinating Officer is responsible for the administration of the Central Register. The Central Register records that there has been no applications for Directed Surveillance since the RIPA Policies since a report was brought to committee in March 2025.

3.4. Staff training It has been noted that it has been nearly 3 years since key staff received training and therefore the Director Legal & Monitoring Officer will arrange for this to take place during 2026.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

4.1. No new guidance or legislation has been issued to require any amendments to the Policies and therefore the Policies do not need any amendments at this stage.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

None.

7.0 Background documents

Report to Finance & Assets Committee – 28th March 2024 – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 200 (“RIPA”) Policy & Guidance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources (“CHIS”) Policy & Guidance