



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 9 July 2009**

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**Subject: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)**

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### **1. Purpose of this Report**

To obtain approval for amendment to the Council's RIPA Policy and Procedure following the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) inspection of the Councils RIPA policies and procedures.

### **2. Background**

The Council's current RIPA Policy and Procedure was adopted by Cabinet, on 2 March 2006.

Amendments were made to the Policy and Procedure in July 2006 following recommendations made by the OSC's Inspector.

A new Procedures and Guidance document was issued by the OSC in December 2008 and for the first time made available to public authorities. Cabinet approved the inclusion of this document as an Appendix to the Council's RIPA policy and procedure document on 28 May 2009.

On 10 June 2009 the Council were inspected by the OSC and the results of that Inspection were forwarded to the Chief Executive in the form of a report.

The report was very positive and complimentary about the Council's policies and procedures and confirmed that the Council maintain high standards in respect of its RIPA procedures.

The Inspector has made some verbal recommendations about the Council's policy document and suggested some minor changes to it. Those changes have been implemented and a copy of the Amended Policy document is attached at Appendix 1, the Appendices are not included.

In order to improve its processes the Inspector has recommended that the Council adopt a new RIPA cancellation form, which requests details of what happens to any product (eg CCTV footage) that is obtained from an investigation, following a RIPA cancellation. A copy of the new form is attached at Appendix 2. All RIPA forms are appended to the RIPA policy document.

Further recommendations made by the OSC are being implemented, they do not however involve a change in policy and procedure and are being implemented through work done by relevant officers.

3. **Resource Implications**

None

4. **Recommendations**

The Policy and Procedure attached at **Appendix 1** be adopted by the Council.

The amended cancellation form be approved by Cabinet and appended to the Policy document.