



Responses to Scrutiny Review Recommendations

Report to Overview Committee

Title of the review: Covert Surveillance (RIPA) Policy Scrutiny Follow up review	
Date review completed: July 2013	Date Presented to Cabinet: 8 August 2013
Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Payne	Response due to the Overview Committee (28 days): 7 October 2013
Officer supporting the review Jane Ansell	

Guidance

The final report and recommendations from the above review have been considered by Cabinet and a written response to the recommendations from the responsible Cabinet Member to the Overview Committee is required within twenty eight days of the date the review was presented to Cabinet.

If you need any further assistance in completing this response please contact the Officer that supported the review

Recommendation 1 (of 2)

That the Council continues to apply its' powers to undertake covert directed surveillance in appropriate cases where a 6 month custodial sentence is the likely outcome.

To be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly accepted Do not accept

The Council will continue to apply its' powers to undertake covert directed surveillance in appropriate cases where the criteria in the legislation is met.

The strict conditions under which covert surveillance can be carried out will continue to be complied with. The Council will continue to explore other routes to obtain the necessary evidence before utilising the powers in the legislation.

Recommendation 2 (of 2)

That a report is submitted to the Overview Scrutiny Committee in due course providing details of the cost/benefits of undertaking such surveillance.

To be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

This recommendation has been considered in the context of the final paragraph of the report which states:

“The group was however keen to establish further clarification of the cost of such surveillance against the benefits achieved, particularly with reference to CCTV; to include equipment provision and maintenance, the scope of CCTV monitoring and associated manpower costs.”

The Council has only used the CCTV system on one occasion several years ago for covert surveillance, therefore it is difficult to provide meaningful information about the costs/benefits of undertaking such surveillance using the CCTV system. The CCTV system has been used for covert surveillance by the Police under the authority of RIPA authorisations provided by them.

In terms of costs, there are no additional costs where the CCTV system is used for covert surveillance. The existing cameras are used and are fixed on one spot or moved between the parameters set in the RIPA authorisation. This is covered by the general running costs of the CCTV system, which is provided generally for the prevention and detection of crime and public safety.