

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th March 2022

1. Title of Item/Report

RIPA Inspection Report

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet noted that legislation requirements, alongside greater access to data matching, transparency, and overt rather than covert law enforcement, had led to local authorities granting far fewer RIPA authorisations of late and this continued to be the case for Stockton. With this in mind and with Covid restrictions in place, the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office had adopted a more flexible approach to inspections of local authorities with the option of a remote assessment and examination of relevant documentation, obviating the need for a site visit by a Surveillance Inspector.

The IPCO notified the Council in November 2021 that it was due its programmed inspection of the use of covert surveillance in accordance with the provisions set out in the Regulatory Inspections Powers Act 2000. The previous inspection was undertaken in September 2018.

Cabinet noted the outcome of the subsequent inspection which was positive with recommendations as follows:

- Ensure that Retention, Review and Destruction (RRD) of gathered data under the covert powers available, is carried out and that the Policy makes clear the RRD requirements, responsibilities and practice within the Council;
- Training scheduled is undertaken and regular training continues to be planned and delivered to ensure continued development and awareness of officers.

The above recommendations were already in progress and would be monitored through the Councils RIPA Steering Group and Corporate Governance group. Planned training had also been undertaken this month and a programme of additional training was in place.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet note the report and outcome;
2. Cabinet approve the recommendations from the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office detailed within the report.
3. Reasons for the Decision

To receive details of the inspection arrangements and outcome of a recent programmed inspection of the use of covert and directed surveillance in accordance with the provisions of the RIPA Act 2000.
4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None
5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None
6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A
7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight - Friday 25th March 2022

Proper Officer
21 March 2022