

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**23 April 2026**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Resources and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Paul Rowling**

# **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) inspection outcome and update**

### **Summary**

This report provides Cabinet with the details and outcome of the latest RIPA inspection undertaken by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO). The Council provided assurance to the IPCO which meant that an onsite inspection was not required and that current arrangements demonstrated a high standard of compliance.

The Council has provided its annual submission for 2025 to the IPCO outlining the occasions it has used the powers. The submission was a nil response for the period 1 January – 31 December 2025.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)**

For Members' assurance that RIPA arrangements are being managed appropriately.

### **Recommendations**

1. Cabinet to note the report.

### **Detail**

1. Councils are subject to IPCO inspections in relation to their use of RIPA covert surveillance powers. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that Councils are using powers appropriately, following the correct process for authorisation and have appropriate governance arrangements in place.
2. The Council received notice of an IPCO inspection on 22 April 2025. Officers responded to the IPCO's pre-inspection questions, providing relevant supporting evidence and responses.

3. Following the desktop inspection, it was determined that the Council demonstrated sufficient assurance of ongoing compliance with RIPA, so a full onsite inspection was not deemed necessary.
4. The inspector found that the Council's policies and procedures were comprehensive and in line with legislative developments. The single authorisation which was reviewed was found to be well considered and contributed meaningfully to a specific operation. The inspector made some minor observations relating to the completion of the authorising paperwork which will be considered for any future authorisations.

#### **Annual submission 2025**

5. Every year, the Council must submit details of any covert activities it has carried out that required authorisation under RIPA. The latest submission was provided in January 2026 (covering the period 1 January – 31 December 2025) and was a nil response. The IPCO confirmed it was satisfied with the submission and required no further information from the Council.

#### **Next Steps**

6. The RIPA Steering Group will continue to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place for any RIPA activity undertaken by the Council. The next inspection is expected in 2028.
7. An annual update will be provided to Cabinet covering the details of the next IPCO statistical submission.

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