

Committee:	Standards Committee	Agenda Item No.:	11.
Date:	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Category	*
Subject:	RIPA	Status	Open
Report by:	Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer		
Other Officers involved:	Legal and Standards Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer		
Director	N/A		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A		

### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure

By ensuring that covert surveillance is properly authorised.

### **TARGETS**

The subject matter does not contribute directly to any targets specified in the Corporate Plan.

### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

The report does not involve the expenditure of money.

## **THE REPORT**

The RIPA Policy and Procedure has been reviewed and is attached at pages. to .

The Office of the Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) is carrying out an inspection on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. They do this periodically, the last time having been in 2009.

In addition under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, on a date to be announced, the requirements for authorisations will change. Local authorities will no longer be able to authorise their own applications but will also have to seek the consent of a Magistrate. The Magistrate will have to consider whether the application crosses the “seriousness” threshold. If it doesn’t, the application will be refused.

The criteria for assessing the “seriousness” of the matter will restrict applications to those relating to an offence which attracts a maximum custodial sentence of 6 months or more.

This was a change the Coalition Government promised when they came into power.

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Approval of the changes highlighted in the RIPA Policy and Procedure.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial : None  
Legal : As in the Report  
Human Resources : None

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**That members approve the revised RIPA Policy and Procedure.**

ATTACHMENT: **Y – the RIPA Policy and Procedure**  
FILE REFERENCE: **RIPA file**  
SOURCE DOCUMENT: **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act**