

Report of the Chief Executive

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 20001. Purpose of report

To inform members of the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) powers and to amend the Policy and Guidance document.

2. Detail

The Policy and Guidance document should be regularly reviewed by members to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

The Council has made no use of the RIPA powers since July 2015. This is due to the fact that the only use being made by the Council was in connection with investigations into benefit fraud, and this function transferred back to the Department of Works and Pensions. However, Officers are required to undergo refresher training under the e-learning system to prepare for the possibility of the RIPA powers being used in a new area.

The Policy and Guidance Document refers to two positions which need to be filled. The most senior position is that of Senior Responsible Officer which has up until now been filled by the Director of Legal & Planning Services. It is now proposed that this role will be performed by the Chief Executive and the Policy and Guidance Document requires amending to this effect.

3. Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the use of RIPA powers and RESOLVE that the Policy and Guidance document be amended to name the Chief Executive as the Senior Responsible Officer.

Background papers

Nil