

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. Background

Since July 2015 the Council has made no use of RIPA powers. This is due to the fact that the main reason for using the powers was in connection with Benefit Fraud, and this function transferred back to the Department of Works and Pensions. Nevertheless, officers are required to undergo regular refresher training. This is covered through the council's e-learning programme as well as through face to face training delivered in-house. It is important for all officers to be aware of the powers under RIPA.

The Policy and Guidance document should be regularly reviewed by members to ensure that it is fit for purpose. It refers to the authorised officers and the senior responsible person.

The Policy and Guidance refers to the authorised officers and the senior responsible person. Following the restructure of the senior management team approved by Council on 27 February 2019 the list of authorised officers needs to be reviewed to include the following: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Monitoring Officer, Head of Public Protection, Head of Housing, Head of Property Services and Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services. The Senior Responsible Person will continue to be the Chief Executive and the RIPA Co-ordinating Officer will be the Head of Legal Services.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the use of RIPA powers and RESOLVE that the Policy and Guidance be amended to include the additional authorised officers.

Background papers

Nil