

EX18. RIPSA

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services on the outcome of an inspection of the use of RIPSA by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO), and the actions required following on from that, including approval of an updated RIPSA Policy which was provided as an appendix to the report.

On a 3 yearly basis, the Council was subject to an inspection on its use of RIPSA powers. The Council was inspected on 28th November 2018 and received a report on that inspection dated 31 January 2019.

The IPCO report concluded that it had been a "good" inspection that demonstrated that the Council had attained a good standard regarding the legislation and Codes of Practice. The inspector was pleased that the policy had been reviewed and kept up-to-date despite the very infrequent use of the powers and also that the recommended forms were used. Three areas for improvement were provided along with the Council's response:-

Recommendation	Response/Progress
Amend policy to clarify which roles are permitted to act as Authorising Officers (AO) and the requirement for prior AO training.	Recommendation accepted. Policy amended.
Ensure that there is an annual report to elected members on the use of RIPSA and for the representatives to set/endorse Council RIPSA policy.	Recommendation accepted in part, as it is not our usual practice to set/endorse policies annually. An Information Bulletin report will be submitted to Council each year on the use of RIPSA, with any policy changes being subject to approval be Executive.
All AOs to make authorisations in line with the requirements of the Code of Practice, ensuring reviews periods are set, cancellations made and that authorisations sufficiently detail why it is necessary, proportionate and what activity or conduct they are specifically authorising.	Recommendation accepted, along with observations on training. The Council will liaise with neighbouring Councils on training plans/content.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the inspection report;**
- (2) approved the amended RIPSA Policy; and**
- (3) noted the single authorisation granted under RIPSA in 2018.**