

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	16 September 2015
Subject:	Regulation Of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Six Monthly Report		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member For Performance And Resources		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the contents of the report be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) came into force in 2000. Both the legislation and Home Office Codes of Practice strictly prescribe the situations in which and the conditions under which councils can use their RIPA powers. All authorities are required to have a RIPA policy and procedure that they adhere to in using their RIPA powers.
- 3.2 The Council reviewed and updated its RIPA policy and procedure on 25 September 2014. The procedure requires the use of RIPA powers to be reported to Cabinet on a six monthly basis.
- 3.3 Since the last report to Cabinet, the Council has not used its RIPA powers and there are no further actions to report at this stage.
- 3.4 In July 2015, the Office of Surveillance Commissioners carried out their annual inspection and we are still awaiting their final report. However, at the time of their visit they advised that they had not identified any issues.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 There are no alternative options relevant to this matter.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 No action is required and the recommendation is therefore for Council to note the Council's use of its RIPA powers.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 The annual review of the Council's RIPA policy will be due in the latter half of 2015 and a report with any recommendations being made will be brought to Council in due course. This will include any recommendations that arise from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners inspection.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The legal implications are set out in the main body of the report.

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 9.1 Reporting on the Council's use of its RIPA policy and procedure helps to ensure that the Council's use of its powers remain appropriate.

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 10.1 The RIPA legislation requires the Council to give substantial consideration to the people impact of using its RIPA powers each and every time a RIPA application is authorised.
- 10.2 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 11.1 The use of RIPA powers by the Council can contribute to ensuring community safety.

Sustainability

- 11.2 There are no sustainability implications arising out of this report.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 11.3 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

Press Release drafted/approved

11.4 Not applicable for this report.

Background Documents:

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Gloucester City Council Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Procedural Guide