

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

28 JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

OFFICE OF SURVEILLANCE COMMISSIONERS – INSPECTION REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the report of His Honour David Hodson, the Assistant Surveillance Commissioner of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners relating to the review of management of covert activities undertaken by Melton Borough Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee note the contents of the report and the suggestions made by the Inspector.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council's policy relating to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) was reviewed and approved by Full Council on 17 July 2013. The use of covert surveillance under the policy and the management of Ripa by the Council is subject to inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner, the latest inspection taking place on the 6 August 2013.
- 3.2 Following the inspection a report was produced (please see Appendix 1). The report was very complementary towards the Council in terms of both the Policy and Guidance Document of the Council and the training given to relevant officers.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council is required to have an up to date policy on Ripa and ensure that Officers have sufficient training in order to prevent misuse of covert surveillance techniques.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific implications for financial and other resources used for the inspection.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 Ensuring compliance with Ripa policy prevents the misuse of covert surveillance techniques.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no community safety issues directly arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no equality issues directly arising from this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks of non-compliance with Ripa legislation can be significantly reduced by a positive inspection result. There are no risks arising from the inspection.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation on the inspection is no a requirement.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are potentially affected.

Contact Officer:	David Riddle
Date:	13-01-2014
Appendices:	appendix 1 Inspection Report
Background Papers:	N/A
Reference:	