

14 June 2012

This record relates to Agenda Item 10

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY SURVEILLANCE REPORT
JUNE 2012

AUTHOR: JO PLAYER

THE DECISION

- (1) That the continued use of covert surveillance and the accessing of communications data as an enforcement tool to prevent and detect all crime and disorder investigated by its officers, providing the necessity and proportionality rules are stringently applied be approved; and
- (2) That the surveillance activity undertaken by the authority since the last report to Cabinet in March 2012 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

It is essential that officers are able to use the RIPA powers where necessary within the new threshold, but only after excluding all other methods of enforcement. An authorisation will only be given by the relevant 'Authorising Officer' following vetting by the 'gatekeeper'; therefore, it is unlikely that these powers will be abused.

The implementation of the Annual review and quarterly oversight has made the whole process transparent and demonstrates to the public that the correct procedures are followed.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The only alternative is to curtail the use of RIPA, but this is not considered an appropriate step.

Proper Officer:

Date: 15 June 2012

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the meeting at which the decision was taken subject to:

- (i) any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision or,
- (ii) the decision being called in for review by 5 Members from two or more Groups represented on the Council.