

Item No. 19.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 February 2017	Meeting Name: Audit, governance and standards committee
Report title:		Report on the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Law and Democracy	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the contents of the report and its conclusions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) puts a regulatory framework around a range of investigatory powers used by local authorities. This is done to ensure the powers are used lawfully and in a way that is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. It also requires, in particular, those authorising the use of covert techniques to give proper consideration to whether their use is necessary and proportionate.
3. RIPA legislates for the use by local authorities of covert methods of surveillance and information gathering to assist in the detection and prevention of crime in relation to an authorities core functions.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The council's use of these powers is subject to regular inspection and audit by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner (OSC) in respect of covert surveillance authorisations under RIPA. During these inspections, authorisations and procedures are closely scrutinised and Authorising Officers are interviewed by the inspectors.
5. The council was inspected by HH Brian Barker, Assistant Surveillance Commissioner, on 3 October 2016.
6. The report was sent to the Chief Executive on 18 October 2016 (Appendix 1). The report was positive and no recommendations were made. However officers will update the policy with the amendments suggested in the report and also update the committee references.
7. The report was considered by the Corporate Governance Panel at their meeting on 25 February 2017 and will be considered by the next RIPA overview meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Council's Constitution	http://www.southwark.gov.uk Constitutional Team 2nd floor, PO Box 64529, London SE1P 5LX	Victoria Foreman 020 7525 5485

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Copy of the inspection report

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy		
Report Author	Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team		
Version	Final		
Dated	27 February 2017		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included	
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes	
Director of Finance	No	No	
Cabinet Member	N/A	N/A	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		27 January 2017	