Report of the Director of Governance and Partnerships

Decision to be taken after: 20 July 2020

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE CABINET MEMBER

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) INSPECTION FINDINGS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the findings of the recent Inspection carried out by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO) in relation to the Council's RIPA procedures and practices.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The RIPA legislation provides a framework which allows Local Authorities to conduct surveillance activities lawfully. The process involves authorisations being reviewed and approved by the Magistrates Court.

2.2 The Director of Governance and Partnerships is the Senior Responsible Officer for RIPA and the process is overseen and managed within Legal Services.

2.3 IPCO are the body responsible for ensuring Local Authorities are applying the RIPA provisions correctly and this is carried out in the form of Inspections.

2.3 An Inspection was conducted on 1st July 2020 by way of a formal, professional discussion with the officers involved within the RIPA process. The Inspection found the information provided "*demonstrated a good level of compliance that removes, for the present, the need for physical inspection"*

2.4 The Inspection found that the recommendations made at the previous Inspection had all been fully addressed and discharged and was pleased to note that RIPA considerations are built into the decision making procedure utilised by managers when making operational decisions.

2.5 The Inspector emphasised the importance of the Council continuing with its good practices and stated the Inspection was found to be a positive one.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 This Report is for information purposes only.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Not applicable as the Report is for information purposes only.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 The RIPA process is managed within existing resources.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Appropriate use of RIPA supports the reduction of crime and supports the Council's commitment to keep people and communities safe.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No conflicts of interest have been identified in the production of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the findings of the recent Inspection are noted.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Date: 9th July 2020

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – RIPA Inspection report 6 July 2020.