

Item No	Referred from:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
6B	Date:	24 March 2026
	Title of item:	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act ('RIPA') Annual Review
To be considered alongside agenda item:		Agenda Item 11

The report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 24 March 2026 can be found here: [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 24th March, 2026, 7.30 pm | North Herts Council](#)

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: The adoption of the amended RIPA Policy (Appendix A).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) The Council is required to ensure it has an up-to-date, compliant and operationally usable RIPA framework that reflects current legislation and codes of practice and supports effective governance and assurance.
- (2) Approval of the updated policy reduces legal, regulatory and reputational risk, supports lawful enforcement activity where required, and strengthens transparency and democratic oversight.

Audio recording – 2 hours 5 minutes 21 seconds

Councillor Daniel Allen, as Executive Member for Governance, presented the report entitled 'Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act ('RIPA') Update and Annual Review' and advised that:

- The report provided the annual update on the use of powers by the Council under the RIPA, along with the latest outcome of the policy review.
- The Council had not used any of the RIPA powers in the last year, which reflected the cautious approach they took to only use them in exceptional circumstances.
- The amended policy gave several clarifications and updates on Member and Officer roles and responsibilities, guidance on online investigations into social media, and other areas, which were detailed in the report.

Councillor Paul Ward highlighted a formatting error with the flow chart on page 141 of the report.

Councillor Jon Clayden proposed and Councillor Paul Ward seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the content of the report.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: The adoption of the amended RIPA Policy (Appendix A).

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