

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

29th April 2026

Annual Review of RIPA Policy 2026

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report the outcome of the annual review of the RIPA Policy and Procedure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That subject to Members' comments and relevant officers' comments, the RIPA policy is approved.
2. That delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director of Governance to amend the Policy following any comments received from Members or Officers.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

It is a requirement to have such a Policy and the Register that goes with it and to review these annually. However like many Councils, this Council hasn't used the procedure for many years.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	None directly
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
<p>Stage 1 screening undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	Yes, for previous review.
<p>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Details: Standards Committee</p>

Links to Council Plan priorities;

- **A great place that cares for the environment**
- **A great place to live well**
- **A great place to work**
- **A great place to access good public services**

Indirectly all.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and amending legislation covers the public sector's use of directed covert surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS). It also covers access to a limited amount of communications data. This latter has never been used by this Council.
- 1.2 The only purpose for which the powers can be used by a Council are for the prevention or detection of crime where the sanction on conviction would be greater than 6 months. It is not relevant to any kind of overt surveillance or to anything done in relation to administrative/private matters such as employment matters.
- 1.3 The policy was last reviewed in 2025 and an annual review is good practice.
- 1.4 The guidance on the use of social media in investigations is now included within the Policy itself.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Changes made to the policy reflect changes in legislation and oversight. There are no fundamental changes.
- 2.2 Members may recall that online training was being produced in addition to the two yearly in person training. This is now at an advanced stage and we are waiting for the final version.
- 2.3 in relation to the use of social media in investigations, there is guidance within the policy itself together with forms to monitor its use. This is to aid managers in ensuring that social media use does not go beyond the acceptable and become something for which a RIPA authorisation is required. In addition to this, relevant managers have been asked to confirm for the year 2025/6 that they have monitored its use and no use has required a RIPA authorisation. I have had confirmation from Community Safety and await a response from Environmental Health and Planning.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To ensure there is an up to date policy and procedures in place, should the Council wish to use these investigative tools.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 There is no alternative to reviewing the Policy.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	The draft RIPA Policy 2026
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	