

Equality Impact Assessments – Screening Questionnaire (is an EIA required?)

Title:	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) Policy	
Version:	1.0	
Owner:	Brendan Morris	
Date submitted to the Equalities Group:		Aug 2016
Follow up action:		
Date approved by the Equalities Group:		Aug 2016

1.What service or function are you reviewing?	In what way does this policy affect residents or visitors to the borough?
The use of RIPA in the function of investigating matters that call on surveillance to be used.	The council has an obligation to comply with RIPA in conducting such investigations that are for the purpose of the prevention or detection of a crime, or the prevention of disorder. Whilst the process of investigation by its nature involves residents, business or visitors to the borough the policy covers the procedure for authorising and conducting surveillance and the retention of records.
2.Lead Officer	

3a. Is this a new policy? If yes please state its intended outcomes.	No – policy review
3.b If this is an existing policy please show how its outcomes to date have been achieved	Designated officers within the council authorise staff to conduct surveillance. Once authorised internally, authorisation is required from a Magistrate. Records are retained in a central register by the Head of Law and Corporate Governance, who will monitor the content of forms and authorisations to ensure that they are compliant with the act.

4.Does your policy promote community cohesion?	Which of the protected characteristic groups does this affect?
<p>RIPA is a procedure to ensure that surveillance is carried out within the RIPA policy. The policy is intended to authorise surveillance where the council is investigating specific offences that are either punishable, whether on summary conviction or indictment, by a maximum term of at least 6 months imprisonment or are related to the underage sale of alcohol and tobacco, and the use of covert human intelligence sources.</p> <p>The policy protects the rights of the individual and helps in the prevention and detection of crimes and the prevention of disorder.</p>	

5.What consultation have you undertaken in drafting this policy?	<i>Please provide consultation results summary, where appropriate.</i>
None – the regulations ensure that the process of undertaking surveillance is applied for the protection of individuals but does not impact on any protected characteristic group in a positive or negative manner.	However, the Policy has been considered by an OSC (Office of Surveillance Commissioners) Inspector, who has commented on it favourably subject to its current amendments.
6.What are the main issues relating to diversity within your policy or service area?	<i>Some things you may wish to consider.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How do you think that your policy or service currently meets the needs of different communities in Erewash?</i> • <i>Do you think that your policy/service specifically contributes to promoting Equality and Diversity in Erewash, please provide data and consultation results.</i> • <i>Do you think that your policy or service presents any barriers to any community or group? If so please provide evidence?</i> • <i>Please list our proposed equality objectives, at this stage, if any?</i>
The process is to secure authorisation to undertake surveillance and collect and retain information that may be used as part of an investigation and potential prosecution.	

1. Is the policy, procedure or practice linked directly to providing services to customer's or users?	NO
2. Is there any element of personal judgement by an officer involved in the delivery or implementation of the policy or procedure?	NO
3. If so could one group of people benefit favourably over another?	NO
4. If so could certain groups of people find access to the service difficult or have reduced benefit?	NO
If the answer to any of the last four questions is yes then you have a statutory duty to complete a full Equality Impact Assessment.	