



To: Service Manager (Communities)

**Statement of individual Cabinet Member's decision**

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor John Burden		
Portfolio	Leader of the Executive		
Delegation authority (usually the delegated powers in annex 1.6 and 1.7)	Annex 1.6 of the Constitution		
Cabinet decision date	N/A	Minute No	N/A

Declaration of Interests (if any):

Of the Cabinet Member making the decision

None

Of any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision

N/A

Topic Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Policy Review

Decision To approve the updated Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Policy for the council.

Reasons for the decision The council does currently have a RIPA Policy, which was last formally reviewed and updated in 2015.

Whilst there have not been any significant changes to statute since 2015, it is recognised that the intervening period has seen an increased use of the internet and social media in surveillance activity. Additionally, opportunity has been taken to refresh the policy to increase alignment with the arrangements at Medway Council (where appropriate and relevant to the shared Legal Service).

The RIPA Policy has been considered by the Information Governance Strategy Group of the council and has been endorsed by the council's Management Team.

Other options considered N/A  
(if any)

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I confirm that this decision is:

- Please mark/tick
- In accordance with the council's Policy Framework
  - Within the council's approved budget
  - In compliance with the council's contract procedure rules
  - In compliance with the council's financial procedure rules
  - In accordance with the protocol for Cabinet member decisions

Background papers used (if any) Report to Leader of the Executive dated 08/12/23 - Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Policy

Signature(s)

Date 13.12.2023

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Countersigned by Executive  
Leader if a Key Decision

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All decisions must be made in accordance with the decision-making rules laid down in the constitution and must be in compliance with the policy framework, the approved budget, contract procedure rules and financial procedure rules.

The allocations of areas of responsibility to Lead Members and their delegated powers are laid out in annex 1.6 and 1.7 and may only be exercised accordingly. The Executive Leader is entitled to change the allocation of portfolios to Lead Members at any time.

In addition to the above, further delegations may be made from time to time.

Key decisions may not be made by individual Cabinet Members other than the Executive Leader. In the case of a Key Decision recommended by a Cabinet Member, the Executive Leader's countersignature will be required in order to effect the decision.

The Chief Executive was given delegated authority to respond to consultation documents on behalf of the Cabinet in consultation with the appropriate portfolio holder at the Cabinet meeting on 7 March 2011.

**This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.**

**If the decision has been made under the special urgency provisions then it cannot be called in.**