

Item 5(h) – Surveillance Policy – Report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner

Performance and Governance Committee’s Recommendation to Council

At its meeting on 16 November 2010 the Performance and Governance Committee considered the matter as follows:

The Chairman welcomed the Legal Services Manager. Members’ attention was drawn to the letter from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner where it stated the Council had a well-structured policy and dedicated officers. He also directed them to the Inspection Report which attributed much of the credit for the policy to the dedication, competence and organisation of the Legal Services Manager.

Members congratulated the Legal Services Manager on his work on the policy.

A Member enquired about the costs of covert surveillance carried out by the Council. The Legal Services Manager stated he knew no costs were incurred from covert surveillance because none had been carried out. However he did not know the total costs of overt surveillance and suggested that to find this out Members would need to gather information from across all departments. The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed it would be very costly to collate this information and that they do not currently have it.

Resolved:

(a) That the report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner be noted;

(b) That the Council be recommended to adopt the revised Surveillance Policy.

The recommendation highlighted in bold are for consideration by the Council.

