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Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)
Meeting Date : 28th June 2018 at 10:30am

Agenda Item 10
Late Supplementary Information
Request for Scrutiny – RIPA Environmental Action

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To:
Councillor Barry Anderson
Chair – Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and
Communities)

By Email
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Councillor Kevin Ritchie
Chair
Corporate Governance & Audit
Committee
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Date 27th June 2018

Dear Barry,

At Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on the 26th June we received an annual assurance report on the Council's Decision Making arrangements. Part of that report provided a commentary on the use of powers by the Authority under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. It was reported to us that no applications for use of these powers had been made.

However in the report it was highlighted that it may be possible that Environmental Action may decide to use the powers to acquire communications data in some serious cases and preparations have been made to ensure that should this be the case, the Council will be fully compliant with the RIPA rules and the relevant code of practice. Whilst reassured that any applications would be legally compliant, my committee and I were concerned that perhaps not all available legal powers were being exploited and utilised by Environmental Action, to deal with issues such as fly tipping, in a consistent manner across the City.

Given these concerns around service performance and prioritisation fall more readily within a Scrutiny Board remit; we therefore resolved to ask your Scrutiny Board to consider these matters further. I'm sure the necessary referrals between our two committees will be arranged by officers but thought you would appreciate a personal note too.

Happy to discuss.
Best wishes,

Councillor Kevin Ritchie
Chair

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee