



**Better Local
Regulation**

For Business,
Consumers, Workers
and the Environment

LBRO

Local Better Regulation Office

Prosperity and Protection

The better regulation agenda is fundamental to making the UK successful in the 21st century. Our mission is to improve the local regulation of business by environmental health, fire safety, licensing and trading standards services. The aim is to reduce unnecessary red-tape for law-abiding businesses to allow greater focus on targeting the rogue traders who harm vulnerable people and damage our communities.



The ultimate test of our ambitions is to help local authorities make prosperity and protection a reality for their communities. Our basis for action is provided by the powers granted to us under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, and we aim to work closely with our partners to implement the better regulation agenda and provide tangible and significant benefits to businesses and communities.

October 2008

Our Remit

Who checks whether the air is clean, food is fit to eat, workplaces are safe and companies trade fairly? Local authority regulatory services do all this vital work and more, supporting businesses in delivering economic prosperity and protecting consumers from harm and fraud.

We work to make it easier for councils to advise on and apply the rules, and simpler for businesses to understand them. Our mission is to ensure these public services are:



- **Accountable** – activities should be open to public scrutiny, with clear and accessible policies, and fair and efficient complaints procedures.
- **Targeted** – resources should be focused on managing high-risk enterprises, reflecting local need and national priorities.
- **Proportionate** – enforcement action should reflect the level of risk to the public and the penalty should relate to the seriousness of the offence.
- **Consistent** – advice to business should be reliable and robust and applicable in different parts of the country. Services should operate in similar ways in similar circumstances.
- **Transparent** – businesses should be able to understand what is expected from them by local regulators and what they can anticipate in return.

Our Approach

Delivering better local regulation entails more than fine-tuning individual services. National reform of the system is also required. Much good practice already exists, but there is room for significant improvement and a clear need for change.

We have three strategic objectives:

- support the improvement of services
- deliver consistency through the Primary Authority scheme
- enhance the regulatory system



This is a big challenge. Although LBRO has statutory powers, it is a small organization. As a result, engagement is essential. We work closely with national regulators, central and local government, as well as professional and representative bodies.

Our approach will be to encourage change through self-assessment and development. We seek to guide progress, by identifying and promoting best practice, and by providing practical tools to facilitate improvement.



OUTCOMES



MISSION WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REGULATORY SERVICES



OBJECTIVES

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

Our Work

Our initiatives are introduced in partnership with local authorities and relevant stakeholders. They are piloted or tested to confirm they are robust, fit for purpose, and capable of meeting changing needs in the years ahead.

Two projects are part of our statutory duties:

- **Primary Authority** – From April 2009, LBRO will be responsible for this new scheme, which ensures that businesses trading across council boundaries are regulated in a consistent way. It gives companies the legal right for the first time to form a partnership with a ‘primary authority’, providing robust and reliable advice on compliance that other councils must take into account, and setting inspection plans to guide and coordinate activity.

- **National Enforcement Priorities** – When considering regulatory service provision – in the light of competing demands on resources – local authorities have to strike a balance between prioritizing the needs of the communities they serve and broader national issues. To clarify what it saw as the most important issues, the Government published the national enforcement priorities in 2007. We update these and support councils in considering them in their decision-making.



Our Structure

LBRO was incorporated as a government-owned limited company in May 2007. Following the commencement of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act on 1 October 2008, we now operate as an executive non-departmental public body, accountable to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform through the Better Regulation Executive.

The organization is governed by an independent Board with extensive experience of business, consumer issues, national regulation, advocacy and local government. Its nine members together provide leadership and act as ambassadors. Our executive, based in central Birmingham, numbers around 25 people, with diverse backgrounds in the public and private sectors. It delivers the Board's vision and strategy, and supplies the information required to inform its decision-making.

While we have a remit that covers the whole of the UK, its extent varies, so we liaise with the devolved administrations to ensure our work in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is appropriate to the unique constitutional position of each. In all cases, we develop partnerships to encourage regulatory services to adopt the better regulation agenda, while having regard to the relevant powers and prerogatives. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, for example, we will work with authorities and businesses to implement the Primary Authority scheme in relation to reserved and non-transferred matters respectively.



For further information on LBRO's activities, please visit www.lbro.org.uk. Alternatively, contact Kate Cross at kate.cross@lbro.org.uk or via our Birmingham office number 0121 226 4000.



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