



Issue 12 July 2010

News and links for
everyone involved
with the regulation of
business by local
authorities

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LBRO NEWS

Opportunity in local enterprise partnerships

LBRO is working on strategies to help local authority regulators and business get maximum advantage from the planned Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). A Public Bodies Bill will, if passed, see Regional Development Agencies replaced by LEPs led by elected local authority leaders. It will be important that the key role regulators play in supporting business growth is recognised in the LEPs. LBRO is looking for local authorities who already have good links established between regulators and economic support services, and well established links with the local business community. We aim to take this opportunity to establish good models for regulation to support business across the country.

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A solution for staff development

Tough budgets may constrain staff development programmes but LBRO's Trading Places scheme may be part of a solution. Authorities and their trading standards and environmental health officers can benefit from placements arranged with commercial organisations - officers gain career enhancing experience in the commercial world and up to 10 CPD points, and the authority gets can plug knowledge gaps in particular commercial areas. Trading Places is free; email Grahaeme.dodge@lbro.org.uk or go to www.lbro.org.uk/lbro-projects-trading-places.html.

Thumbs up for Peer Challenge

Local councils now have a robust tool for improving their regulatory services, an independent report has concluded. An evaluation of the Regulatory Services Peer Challenge Project found the Excellence Framework and processes of self-assessment and peer challenge were flexible and benefited all types and sizes of councils. The councils who participated felt it would lead to real service improvements, and the peer challenge component was seen as integral to delivering benefits. For further information on the ongoing work contact Lacors Mark.duval@lacors.gov.uk; or LBRO Ffiona.kyte@lbro.org.uk.

Follow Graham's blog

Graham Russell writes a regular blog, hosted on the LBRO website. Visit www.lbro.org.uk for his latest thoughts on better local regulation.