



Issue 5
Nov 2009

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

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LBRO NEWS

Three more on board for Primary Authority

The announcement of three new Primary Authority agreements was a highlight of LBRO's annual conference in London, attended by 150 delegates from local government, business and the regulatory community. Key note speaker, Ian Lucas, the Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform, announced the agreements between Asda, the first major supermarket to sign up, and Wakefield Council; TK Maxx and Watford Council; and Bright Star Fireworks and North Yorkshire County Council.

Firms can do more to help themselves

LBRO is urging businesses to do more to help themselves when it comes to cutting red tape following a National Audit Office survey that found over a third of businesses (37 per cent) believe it's taking more time than ever to comply with the rules. Business people can help themselves by engaging with initiatives such as Primary Authority and Trading Places that will improve their relationships with local regulators and make a significant reduction in time and costs associated with compliance.

www.lbro.org.uk/news-news-1.html

Knowing your business inside out

Professionals in any walk of life pride themselves on knowing their subject inside out – and for regulators that means knowing the ins and outs of the businesses they regulate. That's where Trading Places comes in – a 'getting to know you' exercise in which enforcement officers see how firms operate, and the impact of their decisions at the business end of things. This valuable learning experience is described in our leaflet.

www.lbro.org.uk/docs/trading-places-overview-2.pdf

Getting better all the time

LBRO's Coalition for Better Regulation, established to build consensus and frameworks to simplify the regulatory system, has taken another step forward. With vital input from LBRO's Local Authority Reference Panel, the coalition will consider a common competency framework at its next meeting. The excellence framework is also well advanced and due for launch early in 2010. Our leaflet highlights various areas within the programme of activity.

www.lbro.org.uk/docs/coalition-for-better-regulation.pdf

Sharing pays dividends

With growing financial pressures, local authorities will find it hard to make further savings without adopting more radical solutions. Integrating or sharing services locally can provide significant benefits. Our help sheet contains key points worth considering at the outset.

www.lbro.org.uk/docs/shared-services-local-authority-help-sheet.pdf

Food for thought

The importance of effective regulation to economic prosperity and community protection is clear. Better Local Regulation - New Approaches to Securing Compliance is a collection of essays to prompt discussion and debate, drawing on the personal and professional perspectives of regulators and the regulated.

www.lbro.org.uk/docs/thought-leadership-pamphlet.pdf

Making an impact

Don't forget, our step by step guide to assessing the impacts and outcomes of regulatory services operations, and proving their worth, is freely available. Based on detailed interviews and workshops with regulatory services, and builds on current best practice.

www.lbro.org.uk/lbro-projects-impacts-and-outcomes-toolkit.html

Publications in the pipeline include a number of reports: National Threats – how local councils deal with national threats such as foot and mouth; data burdens – looking at reducing the burden on local authorities; and our Mapping report will provide an overview of the regulatory landscape in Britain.

COMING SOON:

Improving the local regulation of business by environmental health, fire safety, licensing and trading standards services