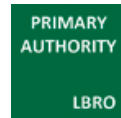


## Primary Authority: Success for Local Authorities



imPAct Partnerships  
"where simplicity meets success"

Primary Authority provides local authorities with a new way to regulate businesses that operate across council boundaries. Primary authorities are able to share information efficiently with all local authorities, and receive feedback on how the policies and procedures of businesses work in practice across the UK.

### **Giving Authoritative Advice and Ensuring Consistency**

Regulations are increasingly principles-based, rather than specific in their requirements. This creates a more flexible approach to regulation, but introduces the risk of inconsistency. Many businesses perceive inconsistency to be a significant problem and are consequently less likely to invest in compliance. Primary authorities are giving their partner businesses confidence to invest as well as giving local inspectors confidence that they are following a consistent approach.

The Government is clear in its view that regulators must provide advice. This requirement is set out in the Regulators' Compliance Code, and the importance of advice was underlined in the Anderson Review. Primary Authorities can give advice, confident that it will be respected by all local regulators. This enhances the credibility of local regulators, and gives business the incentive to invest in compliance.

### **Improved Efficiency and Effectiveness through Better Information**

Duplication of effort by regulators is an inefficient use of limited resources, and in practice it is hard to check everything. Inspectors need to know what the key risks are for a business and what systems are in place to deal with them. Primary authorities make this information available to inspectors before they leave the office, based on feedback from interventions nationally. The result is that local inspectors arrive at premises well briefed and confident about what they will find. This helps them, and makes them more effective.

### **More Proportionate Decision Making**

The Regulators' Compliance Code and local enforcement policies require inspectors to be proportionate in their response to non-compliance. Without a detailed knowledge of the business and its track record this can be difficult. Efficiency can be reduced by selecting an inappropriate response, for example attempting to deliver improvements through a mechanism that has previously proved to be ineffective for that business.

Primary authorities have the full record of all proposed enforcement action for the business. They have feedback on what has been checked, and on what non-compliances have been identified. The decision on what action to take will always lie with the enforcing authority, but the primary authority is there to help provide a national perspective.

## **Local Authority Feedback**

*“This is really about sensible risk management: making sure that the things most likely to cause injury or work-related ill-health are prioritized and dealt with in a comprehensive, planned way.”*

Steve Wood, Service Manager, Leeds City Council

*“We are happy to work with any organization that believes good health is good business, and is committed to continuous improvement.”*

Councillor Berni Turner, Executive Member responsible for Health and Safety, Liverpool City Council

*“We can see many benefits of this partnership – not least being able to work closely with businesses, support economic prosperity and protect our communities by ensuring public health and safety is as good as it should be.”*

Peter Box, Leader, Wakefield Council

*“We feel this much more efficient way of working is beneficial to consumers, business and local authorities alike, and will help save millions of pounds in the process.”*

Steve Harrison, Operational Director – Premises Management, Westminster City Council

More information is available at [www.lbro.org.uk](http://www.lbro.org.uk) or by contacting: Duncan Johnson on 0121 226 4000 or at [duncan.johnson@lbro.org.uk](mailto:duncan.johnson@lbro.org.uk)