



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

# Enterprise Bill: Extension and Simplification of Primary Authority

## Issue:

Primary Authority allows businesses to be involved in their own regulation. It enables them to form a partnership with one local authority which then provides robust and reliable advice that other local authorities must take into account when carrying out inspections or addressing non-compliance. Primary Authority began in April 2009 and has doubled in size every year since its first anniversary. The government is committed to doing more to simplify and extend the way that Primary Authority enables businesses to receive advice that they can rely on.

## Measure:

The measures will:

- widen access to more small businesses by opening up the scheme to pre start up enterprises and those regulated by only one local authority;
- simplify access to advice for groups of businesses such as members of a franchise or trade association;
- enable national regulators to support Primary Authority partnerships by supporting local authorities who are primary authorities to develop and issue advice, guidance and inspection plans to businesses;
- introduce the power to include other regulators within the scope of the scheme; ensuring that advice provided, by the Primary Authority, is relevant across the sector
- streamline the administrative processes of the scheme for businesses, local authorities and the government.

## **Aims and Impact:**

The measures will:

- help businesses by removing regulatory burdens, reducing compliance costs through improved regulatory advice and reducing time and costs caused by inconsistent enforcement;
- provide small businesses with easier access to tailored advice with reduced administration;
- increase the efficiency of regulatory enforcement; and
- enable existing and aspirational businesses to receive specialist regulatory advice about innovative business technologies even before they start trading.