

# Prioritising Local Regulatory Services

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# Context: why this, why now

- Hampton review of regulatory inspection and enforcement:
  - Recognised the importance of local regulation- over 80% of all inspections carried out are by LAs
  - Recommended
    - Risk-based enforcement
    - Compliance code
    - A regulatory body to co-ordinate and bolster LA enforcement activity

# Updating Hampton: from enforcement to compliance

- Chancellor published update and made new recommendations to speed the pace of change in Pre-Budget Announcement
  - Establishing LBRO within Cabinet Office
  - Announcing the Rogers Review to recommend around five national priorities for local regulators

# Why the need for priorities?

- Local authorities have been calling for Whitehall to clarify expectations
- Need to raise the profile of regulatory services within local authorities
- EH / TS services are expected to enforce in huge numbers of areas and hundreds of pieces of legislation
- Difficult to plan services or enter into partnerships to target specific areas

# What do the priorities mean?

- The objective of the process is to provide clarity around expectations
- The outcome will help local authorities plan their resources
- The priorities will improve the effectiveness of enforcement locally
- Priorities will allow local authorities to spend less time on some activities, or find alternative ways of fulfilling their obligations

# What do the priorities not mean

- The objectives of the priorities is to allow better resource planning, not to cut resources
- Five priorities do not mean that local authorities can stop meeting the minimum enforcement level set out in domestic or European law for any activity where there is a statutory obligation
- The priorities are not fixed in aspic- the process will be on-going and reviewed regularly

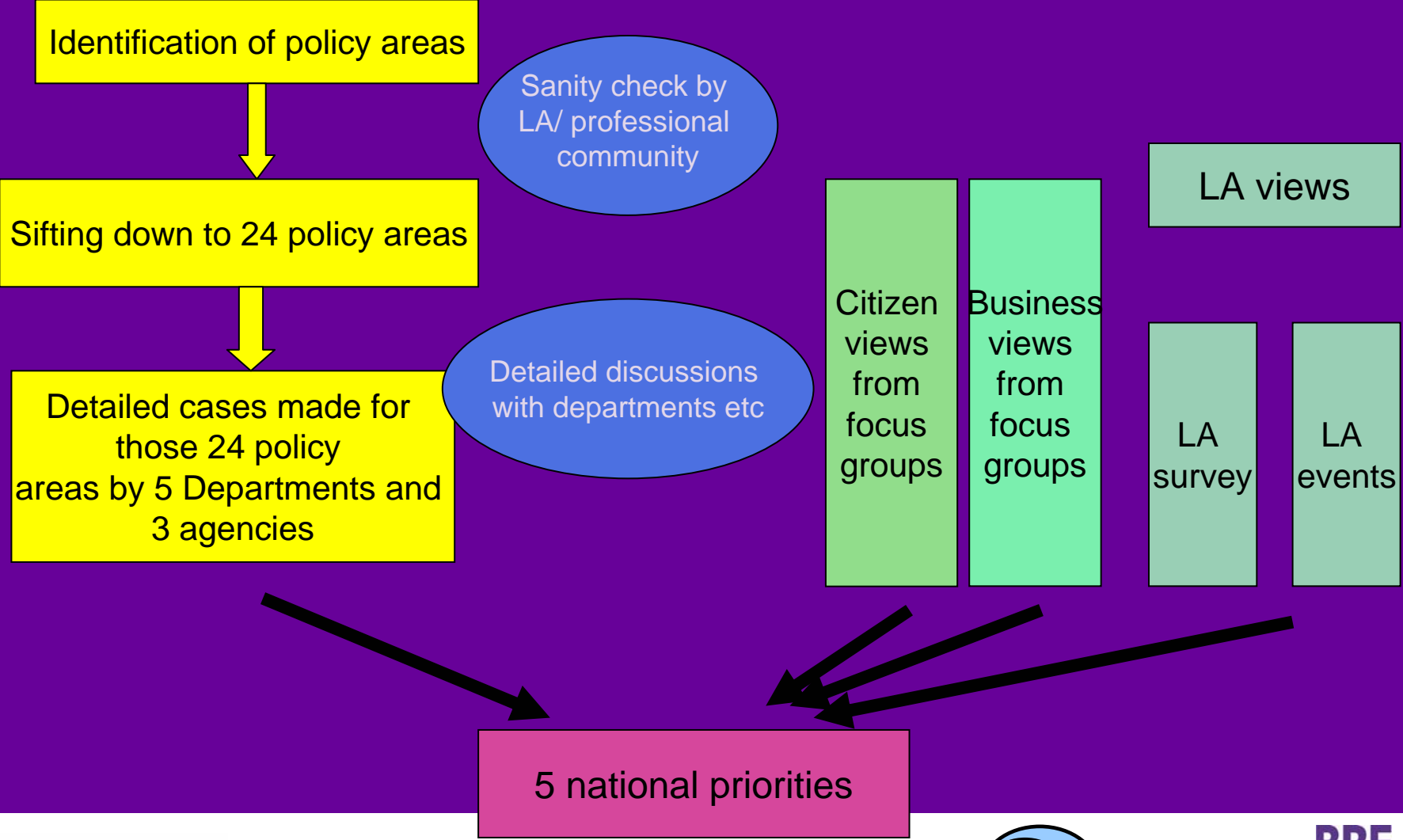
# Terms of Reference

The review will:

- Define the policy areas (and their enforcement mechanisms) that come under the remit of local authority regulatory services,
- Collect and collate the evidence on the relative priority of these policy areas for central government, local citizens and business, and
- Make recommendations on around five policy areas that are central government priorities for local authorities, based on their level of risk, political priority and the perceptions of citizens and business.

In doing this, the review will work with central government departments, independent regulators, local authorities, citizens and businesses, and will report at Budget 2007.

# Process: Getting to five priorities



# On what basis did we sift?

- The level of risk or harm that the enforcement of law aims to prevent
- The number of complaints/ demands for service
- The legal status of the requirement
- The degree of political priority afforded to the area by Whitehall

Air quality, including regulation of pollution from factories and homes
Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing
Animal and public health, animal movements
Approval of food manufacturing premises
Consumer credit (advertising, illegal money)
Contaminated land
Farmed animal welfare and licensing of premises for companion/other animals
Food Standards (labelling)
Hygiene of businesses selling, distributing and manufacturing food and the safety and fitness of food in the premises
Imported foods
Improving health in the workplace
Licensing of houses in multiple occupation

Local environmental quality
Misleading prices
Noise nuisances; prevention and control
Notification/ prevention of infectious diseases
Housing Health and Safety Rating System
Product safety (not subject to specific safety regulations)
Product safety (subject to specific safety regulations)
Safety and wholesomeness of food stuffs
Trade description/ trade marking/ mis-description/ doorstep selling
Underage sales and associated ASB
Work-related safety- preventing accidents from transport and machinery on site and within the delivery chain
Workplace safety- housekeeping, preventing slips, trips and falls

## Moving on from 24 to 5: criteria for selection

- The level of risk or harm that the enforcement of law aims to prevent, and the effectiveness of measures to tackle this harm
- The degree of political priority afforded to the area by Whitehall
- The views of local authorities, business and the public

# Output of the review

- The review will:
    - Recommend 5 national enforcement priorities and
    - Provide LAs with detailed information on the other areas regarding:
      - Risk and its geographical spread
      - Political priority
      - Views of public
- to assist LAs in their own decision-making

For further information:  
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