

Reading Borough Council Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill is promoted by Reading Borough Council (“the Council”), which is the district council for the borough of Reading.

The Bill relates to street trading and touting. For areas in England and Wales outside London street trading is governed by section 3 of and Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (“the 1982 Act”). Section 3 enables local authorities to adopt the licensing regime set out in Schedule 4. The Council has adopted the regime.

The Bill has six main purposes, namely—

- (1) to extend the scope of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act so that it enables the Council to regulate the provision of services on the street as well as the sale of articles;
- (2) to alter the exemption enjoyed by the holders of a pedlar’s certificate from the street trading regime contained in the 1982 Act;
- (3) to empower council officers, constables or police community support officers to seize articles, receptacles or equipment, in cases where they believe a street trading offence has been committed;
- (4) to allow the court to order the forfeiture of any article, receptacle or equipment which is shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence;
- (5) to allow the Council to regulate touting;
- (6) to enable council officers, constables or community support officers to serve fixed penalty notices in cases where they have reason to believe that street trading offences or touting offences have been committed.

Clause 1 of the Bill deals with citation, and *Clause 2* with interpretation.

Clause 3 provides that the Bill shall apply for so long as any resolution of the Council under section 3 of the 1982 Act remains in force, in other words, for so long as the street trading regime of the 1982 Act applies in the area of the Council.

Clause 4 alters the effect of the 1982 Act as it applies in the area of the Council, by altering the definition of “street trading” and hence the type of activity which would be subject to regulation under Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act. Currently, the definition extends to the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street. The alteration of the definition would bring within the scope of the Schedule the supplying of or offering to supply any service in a street and the purchasing of or offering to purchase any ticket.

Clause 5 alters the exemption from the street trading regime enjoyed by holders of a pedlar's certificate. It limits the exemption to persons trading by house to house visits. They will continue to enjoy the protection of the 1982 Act. All other holders of pedlars' certificates will, on the coming into force of the Bill, have to be licensed by or have the consent of the Council under Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act if they wish to carry on street trading, and will be subject to the controls that the schedule puts in place.

The existing exception is given to persons who trade and by doing so are acting as a pedlar under the authority of a pedlars' certificate granted under the Pedlars Act 1871 ("the 1871 Act"). The 1871 Act itself defines a pedlar as "a person who, without any horse or other beast, travels and trades on foot from town to town carrying to sell or exposing for sale any goods, wares or merchandise or procuring orders for the same, or selling or offering for sale his skill and handicraft". The fees for pedlars' certificates are considerably lower than those for a street trading licence, and pedlars are not subject to the extensive controls placed on holders of street trading licences. Pedlars' certificates are granted by the police, and the conditions for the grant of a pedlar's certificate are that the applicant has lived in the police area for a month, is over 17 and is of good character. A pedlar's certificate, once granted, entitles the holder to act under its authority anywhere in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for a period of one year.

Clause 6 empowers an authorised officer of the Council or a constable to seize articles, receptacles or equipment in cases where a person is reasonably suspected of committing a street trading offence under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act or an offence of aiding abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of such an offence. Seizure is only permitted where the article may be required to be used in evidence in any proceedings in respect of the suspected offence, or where it may be the subject of forfeiture by the Court under *Clause 9*. The clause provides that a certificate must be issued by the Council to the person from whom the article was seized.

Clause 7 makes special provision about what should happen when perishable items are seized. *Clause 7* provides for the giving of a document to the person from whom the items were seized, provides that perishable items must be stored at an appropriate temperature, and that perishable items which are seized may be disposed of within 48 hours of seizure.

Clause 8 provides for the return or disposal of items seized under *Clause 6*. Items must be returned to the person from whom they were seized following the conclusion of proceedings in respect of the suspected offence, unless the court orders them to be forfeited under *Clause 9*.

Seized items would also have to be returned at the end of the period of 56 days beginning with the date of seizure if no proceedings had been instituted, or any proceedings that had been instituted had been discontinued or were discontinued at any time during or after the end of that 56 day period.

Seized items do not have to be returned where it is not possible to identify or ascertain the address of the person from whom they were seized. In such a case the Council or Chief Constable must apply to the magistrates' court for an order as to the manner in which the items should be dealt with.

Clause 9 permits a court before which a person is convicted of a street trading offence to order forfeiture of items. Items may only be forfeited if shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to a street trading offence. Also, the court may not order the forfeiture of an item where a person claiming to be the owner of the item or to have an interest in it applies to be heard by the court, unless he has been given an opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made. In considering whether to make an order for forfeiture, the court must consider the value of the item and the likely financial and other effects on the offender of forfeiting the item.

Clause 10 provides for compensation to be paid to anyone who at the time of seizure had a legal interest in the item, where the seizure was unlawful. Compensation is also payable where not less than six months have passed since the date of seizure and no proceedings have been brought against the person from whom the item was seized, or where proceedings have been brought but the person has been acquitted, or where the proceedings have been withdrawn or failed for want of prosecution.

Clause 11 empowers the Council to designate parts of the borough as areas where touting shall not be permitted. It would be an offence to tout in a designated area. The clause sets out the procedural steps that the Council must take before making a designation.

Clause 12 empowers an authorised officer of the Council, a constable or a community support officer to serve a fixed penalty notice on a person who he has reason to believe has committed a street trading offence under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act, a touting offence under *Clause 11*, or an offence of aiding abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of such offences. The fixed penalty notice gives the person on whom it is served the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

Clause 13 makes further provision about the procedure to be followed in relation to the giving of fixed penalty notices. It provides that no criminal proceedings may be instituted in respect of the offence in question until 14 days have expired after the giving of the fixed penalty notice, and that the recipient must not be convicted of the offence if he has paid the fixed penalty within that period. The clause also makes provision about the information which must be contained in the fixed penalty notice, the methods of payment allowed and the form of the fixed penalty notice. It also provides that fixed penalties are payable to the Council.

Clause 14 provides that the Council must fix the levels of fixed penalties. In doing so the council must have regard to the reasonable costs incurred by them in administering the street trading regime under Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act, the costs of enforcing the provisions of Schedule 4 and the administration and enforcement costs under *Clause 11*. The Council must also publish the levels of fixed penalties in a local newspaper.

Clause 15 provides the Secretary of State with reserve powers in respect of the levels of fixed penalty which may be fixed by the Council under *Clause 14*. He may reduce such levels where he considers them to be excessive.

Clause 16 makes provision about the accounting and the application of fixed penalty receipts. Any surplus in the accounts may be applied to purposes connected with the improvement of the amenity of the area of the Council. The Council must report annually to the Secretary of State on any action taken by them in relation to any deficit or surplus in the account.

Clause 17 makes it an offence to fail to furnish a name, or to furnish a false name or a false address to an authorised officer, or a community support officer when that information is requested for the service of a summons or fixed penalty notice in respect of street trading offences and offences under the bill.

Clause 18 empowers a community support officer to give a fixed penalty notice to any person who he has reason to believe has committed a relevant offence or an offence under *Clause 11*. Subsection (2) of *Clause 18* provides that a designation may apply a constable's powers under *Clause 6(1)* to a community support officer and that *Clauses 6, 7, 8 and 10* shall apply as though the reference to constable includes community support officer.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In the view of Reading Borough Council the provisions of the Reading Borough Council Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

Reading Borough Council Bill

CONTENTS

Introductory

- 1 Citation
- 2 Interpretation
- 3 Application

Application of 1982 Act

- 4 Meaning of “street trading”
- 5 Pedlars

Seizure and forfeiture

- 6 Seizure
- 7 Seizure of perishable items
- 8 Return and disposal of seized items
- 9 Forfeiture of seized items
- 10 Compensation where seizure unlawful
- 11 Touting

Fixed penalties

- 12 Fixed penalty offences
- 13 Fixed penalty notices
- 14 Levels of fixed penalties
- 15 Fixed penalties: reserve powers of Secretary of State
- 16 Financial provisions

Provision of information

- 17 Provision of information to authorised officer
- 18 Powers of community support officers

A

B I L L

To confer powers on Reading Borough Council for the better control of street trading and touting in the borough of Reading.

WHEREAS—

- (1) The borough of Reading (hereinafter called “the borough”) is a district under the management and local government of Reading Borough Council (hereinafter called “the council”):
- (2) Certain powers relating to street trading in the borough are exercisable by the council under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (c. 30) and for their better enforcement it is expedient to amend that Act in its application to Reading and supplement those powers: 5
- (3) It is expedient to make better provision with respect to touting in the borough:
- (4) The objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament: 10
- (5) In relation to the promotion of the Bill for this Act the requirements of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70) have been observed:

May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:— 15

Introductory

1 Citation

This Act may be cited as the Reading Borough Council Act 2008.

2 Interpretation

- In this Act—
- “the 1982 Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (c. 30);
 - “authorised officer” means an officer of the council authorised by the council in writing to act for the purposes of this Act;
 - “the borough” means the borough of Reading;
 - “the chief constable” means the Chief Constable of the Thames Valley police force;
 - “community support officer” means a person designated by the chief officer of police as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (c. 30) (police powers for police authority employees);
 - “the council” means the Reading Borough Council;
 - “equipment” means equipment used for the purposes of street trading;
 - “perishable item” means an item which is of a perishable nature;
 - “the police” means the Thames Valley police force;
 - “proper officer” has the same meaning as in section 270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70);
 - “receptacle” includes—
 - (a) any vehicle, trailer or barrow; and
 - (b) any basket, bag, box, vessel, stall, stand, easel, board, tray or other thing,
 which is used (whether or not constructed or adapted for such use) as a container for or for the display of any article;
 - “a relevant offence” means an offence—
 - (a) under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act; or
 - (b) of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of an offence under that paragraph,
 committed on or after the day on which this Act came into force;
 - “street” has the same meaning as in Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act.

3 Application

This Act applies so long as any resolution by the council under section 3 of the 1982 Act remains in force.

Application of 1982 Act

4 Meaning of “street trading”

5

- (1) In their application to the borough, the provisions of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act shall apply with the following modifications.
- (2) In paragraph 1(1), for the definition of “street trading”, there is substituted—
 - ““street trading” means, subject to sub-paragraph (2) below—
 - (a) the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street; or
 - (b) the purchasing of or offering to purchase any ticket for gain or reward; or
 - (c) the supplying of or offering to supply any service in a street for gain or reward; and”.
- (3) In paragraph 3(2)(c) after “articles” in both places where it appears there is inserted “or services”.
- (4) In paragraph 3(6)(b) after “goods” there is inserted “or services”.
- (5) In paragraph 3(7)(b) after “goods” there is inserted “or services”.
- (6) In paragraph 4(1)(b) after “articles” there is inserted “or services”.
- (7) In paragraph 5(2)(b) after “goods” there is inserted “or services”.
- (8) In paragraph 9(2)(c) after “articles” there is inserted “or services”.

5 Pedlars

In their application to the borough, the provisions of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act shall apply as if in paragraph 1(2)(a) of that Schedule there were inserted, after the reference to the Pedlars Act 1871 (c. 96), the words “, if the trading is carried out only by means of visits from house to house”.

Seizure and forfeiture

6 Seizure

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, if an authorised officer or a constable has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has committed a relevant offence, the authorised officer or constable may seize—
 - (a) any article in relation to which he suspects such an offence has been committed and which is being offered or exposed for sale or displayed; or
 - (b) any other article which—
 - (i) is in the possession of or under the control of any person who is offering or exposing for sale or displaying an article; and

- (ii) is of a similar nature to the article being offered or exposed for sale or displayed, as the case may be; or
 - (c) any receptacle or equipment being used by that person.
- (2) No article, receptacle or equipment shall be seized under subsection (1) unless the conditions of subsection (3) apply. 5
- (3) The conditions are that the article, receptacle or equipment may be—
 - (a) required to be used in evidence in any proceedings in respect of the suspected offence; or
 - (b) the subject of forfeiture under **section 9**.
- (4) An authorised officer shall produce his authority if required to do so by the person having care or control of anything seized in pursuance of the powers in subsection (1). 10
- (5) An authorised officer or a constable shall, forthwith after seizing any article, receptacle or equipment under subsection (1), give to the person from whom the article, receptacle or equipment was seized a document containing the following information— 15
 - (a) the name and address of the person who the authorised officer or constable suspects has committed the suspected offence;
 - (b) if different from the name and address of the person mentioned in paragraph (a), the name and address of the owner of the article, receptacle or equipment; 20
 - (c) the type of article, receptacle or equipment seized; and
 - (d) information about **section 9(2)**.
- (6) If an authorised officer or constable is unable, after reasonable enquiry of the person who he suspects has committed the suspected offence, to ascertain the name or address of— 25
 - (a) that person; or
 - (b) the owner of the article, receptacle or equipment,
 or has reasonable cause to suspect that a name or address provided to him is incorrect, he need not comply with paragraph (a) or (b), as the case may be, of subsection (5). 30
- (7) The authorised officer or constable shall, before the end of the period of 14 days beginning with the date of seizure, give or serve a copy of the document to or on any person who is named on the document under subsection (5)(b) at the address shown on the document. 35

7 Seizure of perishable items

- (1) No perishable item shall be seized under **section 6** unless the authorised officer or constable gives a document under subsection (2) to the person from whom the item is seized.
- (2) Where a perishable item is seized under **section 6**, the person from whom it is seized must be given a document— 40
 - (a) stating the effect of subsection (4) and of **section 9(2)** and (3);
 - (b) giving the address from which the item may be collected;

- (c) informing the recipient that if he is not the owner of the item, then he should give the owner the information referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (3) The council or the police shall store any perishable item seized under **section 6** at an appropriate temperature. 5
- (4) If the person from whom a perishable item was so seized fails to collect it within 48 hours of the seizure the council or the police may dispose of it.
- (5) When any perishable item is so disposed of by the council under subsection (4), the council shall have a duty to secure the best possible price which can reasonably be obtained for it. 10
- (6) **Section 8**(1) and (2), and **section 9**(1), (2) and (3) shall apply to perishable items seized under **section 6**(1) only in cases where the item concerned has not been disposed of by the council prior to the conclusion of the proceedings in respect of the alleged offence in relation to which the item was seized.
- (7) **Section 8**(3) and (5) shall apply to perishable items seized under **section 6**(1) only in cases where the item concerned has not been disposed of by the council at the expiration of the period mentioned in **section 8**(3)(b); otherwise subsections (9) to (12) shall apply. 15
- (8) **Section 10** shall apply with the omission of subsection (3) in respect of perishable items seized under that section only in cases where the item concerned has not been disposed of by the council by the time the circumstances mentioned in **section 10**(1)(b) arise; otherwise subsections (9) to (12) shall apply. 20
- (9) Subsection (12) shall have effect where the council have disposed of a perishable item under subsection (4) and any of the following conditions apply. 25
- (10) The first condition is that no proceedings in respect of the alleged offence in relation to which the item was seized are instituted before the expiration of a period of 28 days beginning with the date of seizure of the item, or any such proceedings instituted within that period are discontinued.
- (11) The second condition is that— 30
- (a) not less than six months have passed since the date of the seizure and no information has been laid against any person for a relevant offence in respect of the acts or circumstances which occasioned the seizure; or
- (b) proceedings for such an offence have been brought and either the person charged has been acquitted (whether or not on appeal) and the time for appealing against or challenging the acquittal (where applicable) has expired without an appeal or challenge being brought, or the proceedings (including any appeal) have been withdrawn by, or have failed for want of prosecution by, the person by whom the original proceedings were brought. 35
- (12) Where this subsection has effect a person who has or at the time of seizure had a legal interest in the item seized may recover compensation from the borough council or (where it is seized by a constable) the chief constable by civil action in the county court in respect of any loss suffered by him as a result of the seizure. 40

- (13) The court may only make an order for compensation under subsection (11)(b) if satisfied that seizure was not lawful under **section 6**.

8 Return and disposal of seized items

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect where any article, receptacle or equipment is seized under **section 6(1)** and references in those provisions to proceedings are to proceedings in respect of the alleged offence in relation to which the article, receptacle or equipment is seized. 5
- (2) Subject to subsections (3) to (5), following the conclusion of the proceedings the article, receptacle or equipment shall be returned to the person from whom it was seized unless the court orders it to be forfeited under **section 9**. 10
- (3) If—
- (a) a fixed penalty notice has been given to a person under **section 12** in respect of the alleged offence and the fixed penalty is paid before the expiration of the period mentioned in **section 13(2)**; or
 - (b) at the end of the period of 56 days beginning with the date of seizure— 15
 - (i) no proceedings have been instituted; or
 - (ii) any proceedings instituted within that period have been discontinued; or
 - (c) at any time after the end of that period any such proceedings are discontinued, 20
- the article, receptacle or equipment shall, at the appropriate time, be returned to the person from whom it was seized unless it has not proved possible, after reasonable enquiry, to identify that person and ascertain his address.
- (4) In subsection (3), “the appropriate time” means—
- (a) in the case of paragraph (a), as soon as practicable after the date on which the fixed penalty is paid; 25
 - (b) in the case of paragraph (b), the end of the period of 56 days mentioned in that paragraph;
 - (c) in the case of paragraph (c), the time when proceedings are discontinued. 30
- (5) Where the article, receptacle or equipment is not returned because it has not proved possible to identify the person from whom it was seized and ascertain his address, the council or the chief constable (whether the article or thing was seized by an authorised officer or a constable) may apply to a magistrates’ court for an order as to the manner in which it should be dealt with. 35

9 Forfeiture of seized items

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the court by or before which a person is convicted of a relevant offence may order any article, receptacle or equipment—
- (a) produced to the court; and
 - (b) shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence, 40
- to be forfeited and dealt with in such a manner as the court may order.

- (2) The court shall not order any article, receptacle or equipment to be forfeited under subsection (1) where a person claiming to be the owner of or otherwise interested in it applies to be heard by the court, unless an opportunity has been given to him to show cause why the order should not be made.
- (3) In considering whether to make an order under subsection (1) a court shall have regard— 5
- (a) to the value of the article, receptacle or equipment; and
 - (b) to the likely financial and other effects on—
 - (i) the offender; or
 - (ii) the owner of the article, receptacle or equipment, 10
 of the making of the order (taken together with any other order that the court contemplates making).

10 Compensation where seizure unlawful

- (1) Subsection (2) shall have effect where— 15
- (a) any article, receptacle or equipment is seized under **section 6(1)**; and
 - (b) any of the following applies—
 - (i) not less than six months have passed since the date of the seizure, no information has been laid against any person for a relevant offence in respect of the act or circumstances which occasioned the seizure and, in the case where a fixed penalty notice was given under **section 12** in respect of such an offence, no fixed penalty has been paid in accordance with the notice; 20
 - (ii) proceedings for a relevant offence have been brought and the person charged has been acquitted (whether or not on appeal) and the time for appealing against or challenging the acquittal (where applicable) has expired without an appeal or challenge being brought; 25
 - (iii) proceedings for a relevant offence have been brought and the proceedings (including any appeal) have been withdrawn by, or have failed for want of prosecution by, the person by whom the proceedings were brought. 30
- (2) Where this subsection has effect a person who has or at the time of seizure had a legal interest in the article, receptacle or equipment seized may recover compensation from the council or (where it is seized by a constable) the chief constable by civil action in the county court in respect of any loss suffered by him as a result of the seizure. 35
- (3) The court may only make an order for compensation under subsection (2) if satisfied that seizure was not lawful under **section 6**.

11 Touting

- (1) The council may designate, in accordance with subsection (3), any of the following places, or any part of such places, in the borough as places to which this section applies for any of the purposes of subsection (2)— 40

- (a) a public off-street car park, recreation ground, garden or other park, pleasure ground or open space under the management and control of the council;
- (b) a street or esplanade, parade, promenade or way to which the public commonly have access, whether or not as of right. 5
- (2) Any person who, in a place designated under this section, importunes any person by touting for a hotel, lodging house, restaurant or other place of refreshment, for a shop, for a theatre or other place of amusement or recreation, or for a boat or other conveyance shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. 10
- (3) Before designating any place for any of the purposes of subsection (2) the council shall give notice of their proposal by advertisement in a newspaper circulating in the borough, and by posting it in the places to which it relates, stating that objections to the proposal may be made to the proper officer of the council within a time, not less than 28 days after the giving of the notice, specified in the notice. 15
- (4) After taking into consideration any objections made in accordance with subsection (3), the council may by resolution designate as places to which this section applies for any of the purposes of subsection (2) all or any, or any part, of the places specified in the notice given under that subsection. 20
- (5) A resolution under subsection (4) shall come into force on such day as shall be specified by a notice given in the same manner as a notice given under subsection (3), being a day not less than 28 days after the day on which notice is given under this subsection.
- (6) This section shall not prohibit the doing of anything on land by the owner or occupier of the land, or by any person with the consent of the owner or occupier, or the doing of anything on land forming part of a highway by the owner or occupier of land fronting that part. 25

Fixed penalties

- 12 Fixed penalty offences** 30
- (1) Where on any occasion an authorised officer, constable or (by virtue of **section 18(1)**) a community support officer finds a person who he has reason to believe has on that occasion committed in the borough a relevant offence or an offence under **section 11** the officer, constable or community support officer may give that person a notice offering him the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty. 35
- (2) **Section 13** shall apply in respect of fixed penalty notices under this section.
- (3) An authorised officer, constable or (by virtue of **section 18(1)**) a community support officer may not exercise the powers under subsection (1) and **section 13** shall have no effect until the levels of fixed penalties set by the council in accordance with **section 14** have come into force for the first time in accordance with **section 15**. 40

13 Fixed penalty notices

- (1) The provisions of this section shall have effect in relation to notices (in this section referred to as “fixed penalty notices”) which may be given under **section 12** by an authorised officer, a constable or (by virtue of **section 18(1)**) a community support officer in respect of a relevant offence. 5
- (2) Where a person is given a fixed penalty notice in respect of a relevant offence—
 - (a) no proceedings shall be instituted for that offence before the expiration of 14 days following the date of the notice; and
 - (b) he shall not be convicted of that offence if he pays the fixed penalty before the expiration of that period. 10
- (3) A notice under this section shall give such particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information about the offence and shall state—
 - (a) the period during which, by virtue of subsection (2), proceedings will not be taken for the offence; 15
 - (b) the amount of the fixed penalty; and
 - (c) the name of the person to whom and the address at which the fixed penalty may be paid.
- (4) Without prejudice to payment by any other method, payment of the fixed penalty may be made by pre-paying and posting to that person at that address a letter containing the amount of the penalty (in cash or otherwise). 20
- (5) Where a letter is sent in accordance with subsection (4), payment shall be regarded as having been made at the time at which that letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- (6) The form of notices under this section shall— 25
 - (a) be such as the council shall prescribe; and
 - (b) be in substantially the same form as notices prescribed by the Secretary of State under section 88(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43) (fixed penalty notices for leaving litter).
- (7) The fixed penalty payable in pursuance of a fixed penalty notice under this section shall be paid to the council. 30
- (8) **Section 16** shall have effect with respect to financial provisions relating to fixed penalties payable in pursuance of a fixed penalty notice under this section.
- (9) In any proceedings a certificate which—
 - (a) purports to be signed by or on behalf of the chief finance officer of the council; and 35
 - (b) states that payment of a fixed penalty was or was not received by a date specified in the certificate,shall be evidence of the facts stated.
- (10) In this section, “chief finance officer”, in relation to the council, means the person having responsibility for the financial affairs of the council. 40

14 Levels of fixed penalties

- (1) It shall be the duty of the council to set the levels of fixed penalties payable to them under **section 13**.
- (2) Different levels may be set for different areas in the borough and for different cases or classes of case. 5
- (3) In setting the level of fixed penalty under subsection (1) the council may
 - (a) in respect of relevant offences, take account of—
 - (i) any reasonable costs or expected costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with the administration of the provisions of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act; and 10
 - (ii) the cost or expected cost of enforcing the provisions of that Schedule; or
 - (b) in respect of offences under **section 11**, take account of—
 - (i) any reasonable costs or expected costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with the administration of the provisions of that section; and 15
 - (ii) the cost or expected cost of enforcing the provisions of that section.
- (4) Levels of fixed penalties set by the council in accordance with this section may only come into force in accordance with **section 15**. 20
- (5) The council shall, in a notice in a local newspaper circulating in the borough, publish the levels of fixed penalties which have been set by them in accordance with this section.

15 Fixed penalties: reserve powers of Secretary of State

- (1) Where the council set any levels of fixed penalties under **section 14**(1), they shall notify the Secretary of State of the levels of fixed penalties so set. 25
- (2) Where notification of any levels of fixed penalties is required to be given under subsection (1), the levels of fixed penalties shall not come into force until after the expiration of—
 - (a) the period of one month beginning with the day on which the notification is given; or 30
 - (b) such shorter period as the Secretary of State may allow.
- (3) If, before the expiration of that period, the Secretary of State gives notice to the council that he objects to the levels of fixed penalties on the grounds that some or all of them are or may be excessive, those levels of fixed penalties to which he objects shall not come into force unless and until the objection has been withdrawn. 35
- (4) If, at any time before the levels of fixed penalties required to be notified under subsection (1) to the Secretary of State have come into force, the Secretary of State considers that some or all of them are excessive, he may make regulations setting the levels of fixed penalties. 40
- (5) Levels of fixed penalties set under subsection (4) must be no higher than those notified under subsection (1).

- (6) Regulations under subsection (4) are without prejudice to the duty imposed on the council by **section 14(1)**; but where the Secretary of State makes any such regulations the council must not set any further fixed penalties under the said subsection (1) until after the expiration of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which the regulations are made. 5
- (7) The power to make regulations conferred by subsection (4)—
- (a) includes power to make provision in respect of such cases only as may be specified in the regulations and to make different provision for different circumstances; and
 - (b) shall be exercised by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution in either House of Parliament. 10

16 Financial provisions

- (1) The council shall keep an account of their income and expenditure in respect of the administration and enforcement of **sections 12 and 13**.
- (2) At the end of each financial year any deficit in the account shall be made good out of the general rate fund, and (subject to subsection (3)) any surplus shall be applied to purposes connected with the improvement of the amenity of the borough or any part of the borough. 15
- (3) If the council so determine, any amount not applied in any financial year, instead of being or remaining so appropriated, may be carried forward in the account kept under subsection (1) to the next financial year. 20
- (4) The council shall, after each financial year, report to the Secretary of State on any action taken by them, pursuant to subsection (2) or (3), in respect of any deficit or surplus in their account for the year.
- (5) The report under subsection (4) shall be made as soon after the end of the financial year to which it relates as possible. 25

Provision of information

17 Provision of information to authorised officer

- (1) This section applies where an authorised officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a relevant offence or an offence under **section 11** has been committed or attempted, or is being committed or attempted. 30
- (2) If, on being requested by the authorised officer to furnish his name and address for service of a summons or fixed penalty notice, the relevant person—
- (a) fails to furnish a name; or
 - (b) furnishes a false name; or 35
 - (c) furnishes a false address,
- the relevant person shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (3) An authorised officer shall produce his authority if required to do so by the relevant person. 40

- (4) In this section “the relevant person” means any person whom the authorised officer has reasonable grounds to suspect of having committed or having attempted to commit the offence or being in the course of committing or attempting to commit it.

18 Powers of community support officers

5

- (1) Where a designation applies paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the 2002 Act (community support officers: power to issue fixed penalty notices) to any person that person shall have the power of an authorised officer or a constable to give a fixed penalty notice under **section 12(1)** in relation to any individual who he has reason to believe has committed a relevant offence or an offence under **section 11** at a place within the relevant police area. 10
- (2) A designation may apply the powers of a constable under **section 6(1)** to a person, and **sections 6, 7, 8** and **10** shall apply as though the references to “constable” includes references to a person in respect of whom such a designation has been made. 15
- (3) A relevant offence (within the meaning of this Act) and an offence under **section 11** shall be treated as a relevant offence for the purposes of the following provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the 2002 Act (community support officers)—
- (a) paragraph 1A (power to require name and address); 20
 - (b) paragraph 2 (power to detain, etc);
 - (c) paragraph 4 (power to use reasonable force to detain person).
- (4) In this section—
- “the 2002 Act” means the Police Reform Act 2002 (c. 30);
 - “designation” means a designation under section 38 of the 2002 Act. 25

Reading Borough Council Bill

A

B I L L

To confer powers on Reading Borough Council for the better control of street trading and touting in the borough of Reading.

SESSION 2007–08

CHRISTOPHER J BROOKS
Reading Borough Council
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Reading
RG1 7AE
Head of Legal Services

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House
Fulwood Place
London WC1V 6HG
Parliamentary Agents

LONDON: THE STATIONERY OFFICE
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
23.11.07.

(383905)