



# THE SLCC LEGAL DIRECTORY

Helping you to make informed choices  
when engaging legal help.

# INTRODUCTION

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SLCC understands that when local councils require legal advice or representation, it can be difficult to know who might be best placed to undertake the work. With an increase in micro-devolution between principal and local councils, together with a myriad of proposals for change and wider devolution by the government, it is increasingly important to ensure that those instructed to undertake your work are familiar with both the context and legal environment of the local government legal sector.

In order to assist our members, SLCC has created the SLCC Legal Directory in order to provide options which you may wish to consider when needing to engage solicitors. Firms who appear here consented to inclusion and have been assessed against a series of criteria, which in the view of SLCC demonstrated understanding of the local government legal sector and aptitude to undertake work which may arise from our members.

It is our intention that the directory provides a useful starting point for our members and includes helpful information to inform decision making to help you best support your council and community.

I wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

**Rob Smith**

Chief Executive

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## Disclaimer

Please note that whilst SLCC has taken steps to ensure the content of this guide is accurate at the time of compilation, readers should exercise their own due diligence and independent decision-making.

Each legal firm featured has submitted their entry in their own words and in their own style. Councils are encouraged to review the entries and choose representation based on the contributions made. SLCC cannot be held responsible for misrepresenting any of the firms listed, as all content has been provided directly by the firms themselves.

Information contained within the guide is for general information purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal or professional advice.

SLCC makes no warranties, representations, undertakings or guarantees, whether express or implied, regarding the content of this guide.

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(Entries appear in alphabetical order)



"Anthony Collins is a thriving specialist law firm with a national reputation for advising councils throughout the UK, ranked as Tier 1 in the West Midlands and Tier 2 in London in the Legal 500 and Band-2 (UK-wide) in Chambers and Partners legal directories.

For over 50 years, we've been successfully combining market-leading legal expertise, with a commitment to excellence and long-term relationships underpinned by our core purpose – to improve lives, communities and society.

Our social purpose has been recognised with a prestigious B Corp accreditation, meaning our advice, culture and commitments, align with the work and aspirations of our clients.

**Working with us: -**

Our multi-disciplinary local government team has a national reputation for advising across a range of disciplines including governance, planning, procurement, employment, pensions and regeneration.

We're entrenched in the public sector and have first-hand experience of the challenges and opportunities facing councils as some team members have previously held roles within legal teams and wider management (e.g. Monitoring Officer, Director of Law and Governance, Deputy CEO) within local authorities.

Our ethos, ethics, and desire to help transform communities into thriving places, ideally place us to support and understand our 100+ council clients, including town, parish and community councils.

To discuss how we can assist you, please contact Matthew Gregson, our local government sector lead".

**Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -**

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Litigation
Planning	

**Local Authority Experience: -**

Unitary	Borough
Combined	Parish
Metropolitan	Town
London Borough	City
County	Community
District	Fire or Police Authority

**Framework Membership: -**

EM Lawshare  
LBLA  
YPO (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation)

**Geographical Locations: -**

Offices in the Midlands; Birmingham, Manchester, Macclesfield and Wolverhampton.



## Contact

**Matthew Gregson**

**Email:** [matthew.gregson@anthonicollins.com](mailto:matthew.gregson@anthonicollins.com)

**Tel:** 0121 2127430

**Website:** [www.anthonycollins.com/](http://www.anthonycollins.com/)

"With extensive experience working within the public sector and across all local government service areas, Browne Jacobson's legal experts act as an extension of your team and have an unrivalled understanding of the environment in which you operate. We'll support you in a collaborative, impactful way to make the complex simple and to deliver your ever-evolving roles and objectives."

With bases in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Exeter, Cardiff, Dublin and our founding city of Nottingham, and links across Scotland, Northern Ireland and the rest of the world, we are a national law firm with international reach.

Our 500+ Lexcel and ISO accredited lawyers – including 140+ partners – are bound together by our shared values. Each of us is dedicated to making the complex simple and finding creative solutions. We're excited about what we can achieve together.

We offer a unified service to our clients, no matter where they need us. We have offices or strong connections in all of the major economic regions of the UK, as well as a network of thoroughly and securely vetted partner firms in areas where we are not present. So, even if we don't have an office nearby, we can still meet all of your needs.

We are down-to-earth, collaborative, results-focused lawyers, leading the way by valuing decency, making the complex simple and finding creative solutions.

We have a proven track record of developing dynamic and transformative client relationships. We are deeply embedded in both the public and third sectors, regularly working with central and local government, other governmental bodies and registered providers on the delivery of complex and high value projects.

Our goal is to be an extension of your in-house teams, delivering excellence and focused on assisting you in achieving your vision.

## Talk to us



**Peter Ware**  
Partner

+44 (0)115 976 6242  
peter.ware  
@brownejacobson.com

### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Trusts	Property
Charities	Regeneration
Contracts	Employment
Procurement	Governance
Housing	Company
Planning	

### Local Authority Experience: -

Combined	Metropolitan
Parish	Town
Borough	Community
District	Fire or Police Authority
County	City
London Borough	Unitary

### Framework Membership: -

NWLC	EM Lawshare
YPO	Crown Commercial
LBLA	

### Geographical Locations: -

Nottingham, Birmingham, Exeter, London, Manchester, Cardiff, Dublin



## Contact

**Peter Ware**

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**Website:** www.brownejacobson.com/



"Our specialist local government advice is both cost-effective and strategic, enriched by our team's practical knowledge from working within local authorities. Whether you're looking for an expert to advise powers, governance and subsidy control, looking to update constitutional documents or enter into property or contractual arrangements, or would like some refresher procurement training or support in employment matters / standard investigations.

We are appointed to several public sector frameworks including North West Legal Consortium (NWLC), EM Lawshare (EMLS), North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO), Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and London Borough Legal Alliance (LBLA). Please get in touch with Tiffany Cloynes for further information."

## **Tiffany Cloynes, Partner**

"Tiffany Cloynes is a Partner and Head of Local Government at Capsticks. Tiffany regularly advises on powers, governance, subsidy control, procurement, structures, collaborative arrangements, funding, contract and property matters. Recognised as a leader in her field by clients and the legal press, Tiffany possesses extensive knowledge and practical experience of public and administrative law".

### **Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -**

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Litigation
Planning	Criminal (Regulatory)

### **Local Authority Experience: -**

Unitary	Borough
Combined	Parish
Metropolitan	Town
London Borough	City
County	Community
District	Fire or Police Authority

### **Framework Membership: -**

Crown Commercial	NWLC
EM Lawshare	YPO
LBLA	

### **Geographical Locations: -**

Birmingham, Leeds, London (Wimbledon), Manchester, Winchester.



## Contact

**Tiffany Cloynes**

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"DWF is a leading global provider of integrated legal and business services, operating across eight key sectors in over 30 global locations with over 4,000 people. Our purpose is to deliver positive outcomes with our colleagues, clients and communities."

Our Government and Public Sector team works for over 250 UK central government bodies, regional and local authorities, police authorities, charities, education and healthcare providers. We also work for private sector providers and businesses that work with the public sector such as developers, construction companies, outsourced services providers, inward investors and port and transport authorities. We are at the forefront of your key agendas. We regularly publish key insights and thought leadership and our views are sought at the highest levels (e.g. Select Committees). We work with our clients to deliver the outcomes they are seeking in the most effective manner, balancing efficiency and speed with detail and risk, always with an appreciation of the particular governance, political and prevailing social responsibility context in which the Government and Public Sector operates.

Many of our Government and Public Sector team have worked for sector bodies and they operate through all 12 of our UK offices including Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Belfast."

#### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Charities	Litigation
Contracts	Collaborations and partnerships
Procurement	Judicial reviews
Planning	Litigation
Property	PFI projects
Regeneration	Regulatory and compliance issues
Employment	Social housing
Governance	Strategic planning advice
Company	Vires and governance

#### Local Authority Experience: -

Unitary	City
Combined	Community
Metropolitan	Fire or Police
London Borough	Authority
County	
District	
Borough	
Parish	
Town	

#### Framework Membership: -

Crown Commercial	LBLA
EM Lawshare	NWLC

#### Geographical Locations: -

Birmingham, Bristol, Derby, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield.



## Contact

**Jonathan Branton**

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**Website:** dwfgroup.com

"Freeths is a full-service law firm with 13 offices nationwide. Our experienced public sector team of 120+ lawyers work together to make the future better for people, communities and the environment we all live in. Our size means we can provide flexible resources to meet the varying legal requirements of town, parish and community councils. Nathan Holden leads Freeths' Local Government Practice and is an expert in Local Government Law. To arrange an initial discussion about how Freeths can support you, please get in touch. We offer discounted rates to SLCC members".



*"The team are extremely knowledgeable and personable. They have dealt with numerous queries on the project swiftly, confidently and provided clear..."*

Read more

**The Legal 500, 2025**

#### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Litigation
Planning	

#### Local Authority Experience: -

Unitary	Borough
Combined	Parish
Metropolitan	Town
London Borough	City
County	Fire or Police Authority
District	

#### Framework Membership: -

Crown Commercial	EM Lawshare	NWLC
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## Contact

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**Website:** [www.freeths.co.uk/sectors/public-sector/local-government/](http://www.freeths.co.uk/sectors/public-sector/local-government/)



"There are times when your council needs legal support and assistance - Where better to get that support and assistance than from legal experts in another council, from people who share your world and who know what it is to be a council because they are one.

Our team of 90 specialist lawyers can provide all the legal services you'd expect from a large commercial law firm. What sets us apart is a wealth of experience and expertise gained from advising Hampshire County Council and other public and charitable organisations.

We regularly advise Parish and Town Councils, providing clear and practical legal advice and support, and knowing that when we do we're working together to deliver real benefit to our communities.

We act commercially, but we don't make a profit. Instead, by sharing our resource, overheads and expertise with others involved in delivering public services we are helping to deliver best value from public money."

## **Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -**

Conveyancing  
Charities  
Contracts  
Procurement  
Planning

Property  
Employment  
Governance  
Criminal (Regulatory)  
Litigation

Location  
Hampshire Legal Services is  
located in Winchester.

## **Local Authority Experience: -**

Unitary	Town
London Borough	City
County	Fire or Police Authority
District	
Borough	
Parish	

## **Framework Membership: -**

Crown Commercial;

## **Geographical Locations: -**

Winchester

## Contact

Hampshire Legal Services. Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UJ

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"Muckle LLP is a leading independent law firm based in the North East with a hub in Cumbria. Our specialist public sector team provides advice to public sector organisations, governing bodies and local authorities – from structures, subsidy control and public procurement to highly sensitive employment and dispute matters.

We sit on a number of high-profile public sector frameworks, including NEPO, Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and the North West Legal Consortium (NWLC).

As a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), we're perfectly placed to help you and your organisation reach your goals. We have the depth and breadth of expertise expected of a leading national law firm, but our firm's size, location and culture means that everyone knows one another, so unlike in many larger firms, we are able to respond quickly and flexibly to changing requirements and provide the most suitable solution".

We care deeply about contributing to providing social value, and we're committed to being an ethical business. We're a Certified B Corporation®, the first law firm certified in the North-East and Cumbria and one of only 16 in the UK awarded to organisations that demonstrate high social and environmental performance through a rigorous assessment. We donate 1% of our profits annually to our Muckle Community Fund, which supports charities through grant giving that help people overcome disadvantages, support young people, and improve social mobility. We do this not because we have to but because we want to. In the 22 years that the fund has been active, we've provided 717 grants and donated over £700,000 to almost 500 charities, become B Corporation certified, and achieved Investors in People platinum status.

In 2017, we led a consortium of North-East law firms and established the UK's first regional solicitor apprenticeship scheme; the North East Solicitor Apprenticeship Program (NESA). This provides an alternative route to becoming a qualified lawyer; it's a way to earn and learn without the burden of university fees. This is open to applicants from across the UK. We also offer a wide variety of apprenticeships in our non-legal departments.

Our experience has shown us that a good cultural fit is important to any successful working relationship. We are a value-led organisation and are confident that our own values of Trust, Teamwork, Responsibility and Care align with the values of the public sector.

## Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Litigation

## Local Authority Experience: -

Unitary	Borough
Combined	Parish
Metropolitan	Town
London Borough	City
County	Fire or Police Authority
District	

## Framework Membership: -

Crown Commercial	NWLC
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## Geographical Locations: -

Newcastle (City Centre)
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## Contact

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**Website:** [www.muckle-llp.com](http://www.muckle-llp.com)



"At Weightmans we offer full legal support and defendant litigation services for more than 200 local and public authorities from one of the largest public sector legal teams in the UK. As well as working directly with local authorities, we're on the panel of all major public sector insurers.

With hands-on experience of working in your sector, our lawyers understand the issues and pressures you deal with every day.

Our approach? Put simply, it's solving your legal problems as quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. We're LEXCEL accredited, highly knowledgeable and committed to electronic case management.

We provide a full support service covering every legal issue encountered, including:

- Public authority governance
- Adult social care
- Children's social services
- Complex commercial projects
- Real estate, planning & construction
- Litigation
- Employment, pensions & immigration"

*"Weightmans have a strong local government law pedigree with both experience and expertise to advise on a wide range of local government and public sector issues."*

Chambers & Partners 2024

### Appointing us:

"We are members of numerous large local authority framework agreements, including EM LawShare, the North West Legal Consortium, North East Procurement Organisation and Kent Commercial Services Group. SLCC members might be eligible for rates via these frameworks, otherwise we would offer members a specific discount on our standard local authority rates. Contact us for more information".

#### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Criminal (Regulatory)
Planning	Litigation

#### Local Authority Experience: -

Unitary	District
Combined	Borough
Metropolitan	Parish
London Borough	Fire or Police Authority
County	

#### Framework Membership: -

EM Lawshare	Crown Commercial
NWLC	

#### Geographical Locations: -

Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle.

## Contact

**Website:** [www.weightmans.com/contact/](http://www.weightmans.com/contact/)



**Simon Goacher**

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"Based in our Surrey office, our Town, Parish and Community Council legal service is specifically designed for Town Clerks and key decision makers and committees in public bodies, serving the community for the past 40 years under the Wellers Hedleys banner. We offer expertise in procedure, policy and also the legal and charitable structures in which assets are held.

We have an excellent working relationship with national and county associations, where we complement their advice service.

Our services include:

- Local Government Procedures and Practices
- Governance
- Common Land Footpaths
- Rights of Way
- Village Greens
- Charitable Trusts
- Cemeteries and Burial Grounds
- Allotments
- Acquisition, Disposal, Leases and Transfer of Community Assets
- Contracts of Employment and employment matters
- Contracts and Procurement
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- Judicial Review
- General and Specialist Training

The team is also highly experienced and knowledgeable in restructuring charitable trusts to meet the needs of local communities and local councils.

### Direct access to expertise

Direct access to our senior legal experts allows clients to receive top level expertise from start to finish and build trusted relationships within the context of a proactive and accountable service.

### Trusted relationships

We have served the Town and Parish Council community for over 40 years under the Wellers Hedleys banner

### Positive Impact

We are committed to conducting business which is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable

#### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Employment
Charities	Governance
Contracts	Company
Procurement	Litigation

#### Local Authority Experience: -

Parish	City
Town	Community

#### Geographical Locations: -

Great Bookham, Surrey, Effingham

## Contact

**Email:** [enquiries@wellerslawgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@wellerslawgroup.com)

**Tel:** 01372 750100

**Website:** [www.wellerslawgroup.com](http://www.wellerslawgroup.com)

Wellers. Butler House, Guildford Road

Great Bookham, Leatherhead Surrey.

KT23 4HB

"Based in Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire but with a national local government and public sector client base, Wilkin Chapman is one of the UK's top 200 law firms. With over 400 partners and staff located across a network of offices in Grimsby, Lincoln, Beverley and Louth, we provide a unique balance of trusted legal and insolvency advice to public, private and commercial clients based locally, nationally and internationally.

We are listed by the Legal 500 directory as a tier 2 firm for local government in the East Midlands and by Chambers and Partners as a band 4 firm for local government throughout the UK.

We have a long history of acting for town and parish councils as well as district, county and unitary local authorities and internal drainage boards. We have been national legal advisers to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd and the Association of Drainage Authorities.

We have worked with and for Lawyers in Local Government and the Local Government Association. We wrote the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Boards, revised Local Councils Explained for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and helped SLCC with the Clerks' Manual.

From Jackie Weaver to the Ledbury case, we've been involved in and really know local government at grass roots level.

Let us help you with: -

- **Staffing and employment**
- **Governance and standards**
- **Information governance**
- **Complaint handling**
- **Disputes**
- **Village halls and community centres**
- **Cemeteries, burial grounds and closed church yards**
- **Markets**
- **Heraldic arms**
- **Land and the environment**
- **Allotments**

## Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property	Criminal (Regulatory)
Charities	Employment	Planning
Contracts	Governance	Trusts
Procurement	Company	Regeneration
Housing	Litigation	

## Framework Membership: -

LBLA

## Geographical Locations: -

Grimsby, Lincoln, Beverley, Louth

## Local Authority Experience: -

Unitary	County	Town
Combined	District	City
Metropolitan	Borough	Fire or Police Authority
London Borough	Parish	

## Contact

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**Estelle Culligan**

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**Tel:** 01472 262614



## About Us

Womble Bond Dickinson has long-standing experience of advising organisations in all tiers of local government on a broad range of contentious and transactional matters. Our public sector and local government team has expertise in the following areas:

- general duties and powers;
- meetings and administration;
- byelaws and enforcement;
- land management, including parks, open spaces, allotments and recreational facilities;
- regulatory matters, including health and safety; and
- highways, commons, and village greens.

## Our Experts

Our team comprises experts in the fields of local authority law and practice, including solicitors with hands-on Monitoring Officer and in-house local government experience. Areas of expertise include property, planning, highways, procurement, grant funding and subsidy control, employment and pensions, regulatory and civil dispute resolution, and information law and governance.

## Our Rates

We are appointed to a number of public sector frameworks, including the Crown Commercial Service Public Sector Framework (RM6240: Lots 1a and 2a) which enables local councils to award contracts for legal services either directly, or by a mini competition.

We can provide details of our framework rates on request and can also assist clients to complete the administrative steps in connection with the framework.

### Legal Areas Relevant to Local Authority: -

Conveyancing	Property
Trusts	Regeneration
Charities	Employment
Contracts	Governance
Procurement	Company
Housing	Criminal (Regulatory)
Planning	Litigation

### Geographical Locations: -

Newcastle, Leeds, Plymouth, Bristol, Southampton, Teeside, London.

### Local Authority Experience: -

City	County
Town	London Borough
Parish	Metropolitan
Borough	Combined
District	Unitary

### Framework Membership: -

Crown Commercial	Organisation)
NEPO (Northeast	KCS (now Kent
Procurement	Procurement Services).

## Contact

**Website:** [www.womblebonddickinson.com/uk](http://www.womblebonddickinson.com/uk)



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**Sian Ballingall**

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