

ABOUT NWL LEGAL

NWL Legal was born out of the in-house legal services team of North West Leicestershire District Council. We now provide legal advice to a range of organisations, including other local authorities and external clients in the further education sector, and our success can be measured by the continued growth of our client base.

We have held Lexcel accreditation – the Law Society’s practice management quality mark – since 2009, and are proud to have retained the accreditation since. We operate a highly effective and fully secure practice management system, which means client data is at our fingertips and we can provide you with the most up to date position on your project in seconds.

Our lawyers are rightly proud of their ability to help clients achieve their desired outcomes, and in their drive to find new and innovative ways to support that work. Clients find us to be approachable and professional, and you will find we complete your project on time, in a friendly and efficient manner.

As well as a commitment to providing quality advice to our clients, we strive to be a responsible legal services provider that contributes to the local community.

The next generation

As part of our commitment to our community, we have provided placements to students of Stephenson College in Coalville, giving them valuable hands-on experience of the world of work and local government.

Team members have participated in the mentoring of post graduate law students at De Montfort University and regularly provide pro-bono supervision of the student law clinics.

Through our work with the university, we have a permanent internship on offer to current students. The placement provides practical legal experience in a commercial environment and helps students apply their academic learning to the real world.

We have also provided work experience placements for other employees within the council who are considering a career in the law, as well as providing similar opportunities for lawyers in private practice firms to gain an insight into public sector law on a day to day basis.



THE NWL WAY

EFFICIENT
AFFORDABLE
APPROACHABLE



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With extensive experience in local government, further education and beyond, we cover real estate and planning, procurement, governance, compliance and more.

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Our team is ready to help.

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Our Green Footprint

Since 2010, we have operated a paper-light office, thanks to the implementation of our secure electronic case management system and our Lexcel accreditation. Efficiency is at the heart of all that we do and we are proud that 80% of our files are now electronic.

Working innovatively with private practice law firms

We know there are benefits to be gained from working with colleagues in the private sector, and the team has formed close working relationships with several private firms in the midlands. All have gained real tangible benefits from this relationship.

Combining our public sector knowledge with the commercial drive of the private sector, we have a team able to offer practical commercial advice, tailored to the needs of our public sector clients. The outcome of this working relationship is that work is done where specialist advice is most cost-effective with NWL lawyers advising on their areas expertise and seamlessly bringing in private practice knowledge in discrete specialist areas. This hybrid approach has been particularly successful in complex procurements with a variety of elements including contracts, TUPE, Pensions and Real Estate.

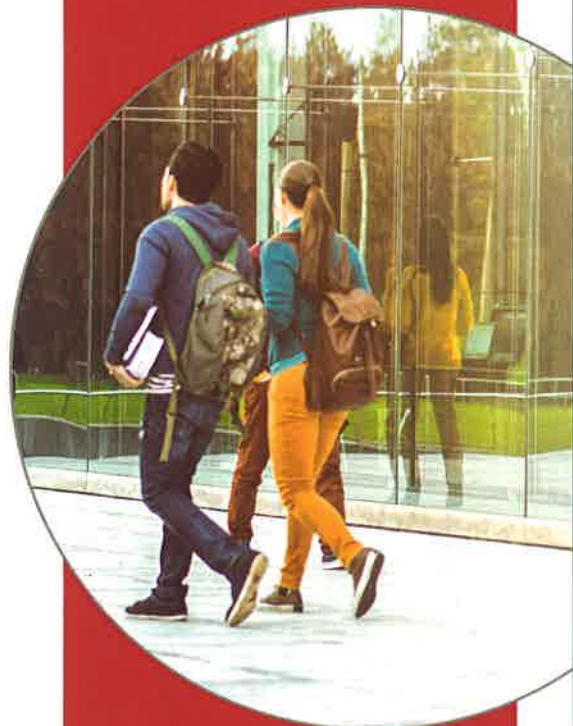
“The result is an office which, in my opinion, has much more of an independent legal practice feel about it rather than that of a local government department, which in my long experience of acting for many local authorities, is a rare commodity indeed.”

Simon Stanion

Partner, Shakespeare Martineau LLP

NWL Legal

“In a survey, 100 per cent of our clients rated the overall quality and value of our services as good or excellent.”



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COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE

LEGAL SUPPORT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS INCLUDING COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

At NWL Legal, we support you to navigate through a wide range of regulatory and compliance matters including:

- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Constitutional matters
- Council member disputes, complaints and code of conduct matters
- Providing support to client departments
- Processes and procedures
- Enforcing contracts
- Contract disputes and settlement agreements

We also provide legal support in Information Governance:

- Freedom of Information
- Subject Access Requests
- Data Protection, including GDPR compliance

A few examples include:

- Negotiating out of a contract breach and saving the client 85% of the amount sought
- Delivering training on the process of Assets of Community Value
- Advising on clawing back grant money where the recipient defaulted on terms
- Delivering transformation to GDPR compliance
- Various member matters

Training and Advice

With the ever increasing list of regulations and compliance requirements, staff need appropriate training. NWL Legal offers a range of training services, from avoiding disputes and litigation to explaining how regulations work and the steps required to ensure compliance.

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

SPECIALIST EXPERTISE IN PROPERTY MATTERS FROM LAND ACQUISITION TO MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSAL

Property and real estate transactions require specialist legal expertise, and the NWL Legal team has the experience you need.

We are adept at dealing with a wide range of matters around acquisition, maintenance and disposal of land.

Having developed our team as part of a public sector organisation, we're particularly knowledgeable about the special requirements of the public sector. That gives us insight (and a good deal of empathy) into the environment in which the public sector operates, including pressure on budgets. We aim to ensure our clients maximise receipts and revenues from their land assets.

Our experience covers

- Acquisition of development land
- Commercial leases
- Landlord and tenant
- Right to Buy disposals
- Social housing matters, including management and tenancy agreements
- Licensing arrangements

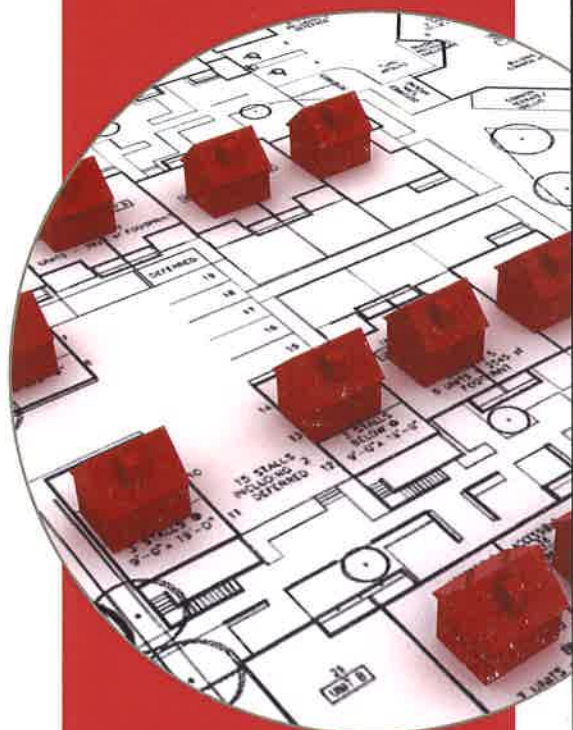
Our specific public sector experience covers

- Setting up housing companies
- Regeneration projects
- Assets of community value
- Development structures and regeneration

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PROCUREMENT SERVICES

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AS LEGAL ADVISER TO A PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTION, TRUSTED BY CLIENTS NATIONWIDE

At NWL Legal, our specialist background of providing legal advice to the public sector is highly valued by our clients. In the sphere of procurement, you can depend on us to provide sound advice based on longstanding, in-depth, hands-on experience of a range of procurement exercises.

Our starting point is a thorough understanding of local government constitutions and standing orders that underpin each authority's procurement practices. Because the process required can vary from project to project (depending on value, for example), our in-depth knowledge of the processes can be invaluable and include ICT and hardware contracts, outsourcing, construction and regeneration, leisure services and large-scale housing stock renovation projects.

We advise clients on compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the use of proper procurement techniques including:

- Competitive dialogue, including leisure and ICT services
- Restricted procedure, including building services
- Open procedure, including goods purchasing
- Frameworks, including running mini-competitions for construction and ICT services

Our team's broad experience of working within the public and private sectors adds to our ability to advise local authorities on complex procurement and alternative delivery methods. It also means we are particularly well placed to provide commercial legal advice to the public sector.

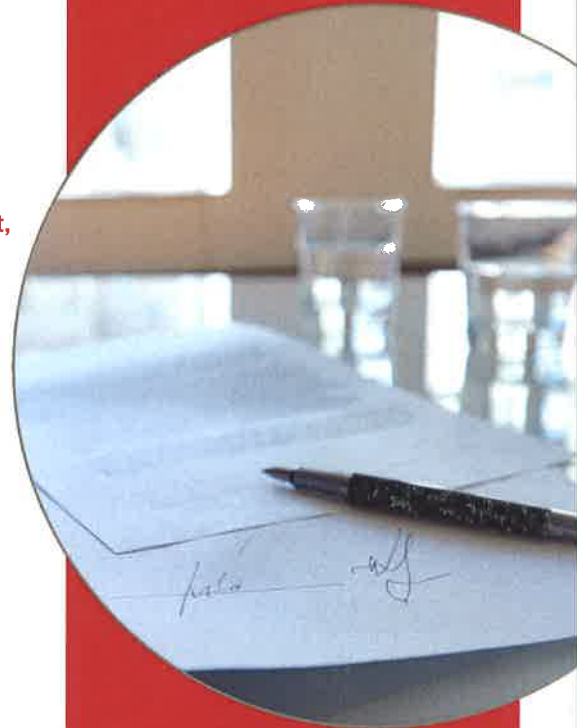
We prepare contractual documents to underpin procurement processes, and we have acted for authorities in the negotiation and refinement of contractual documents in the latter stages of a competitive dialogue process.

We prepare and review procurement documentation such as selection questionnaires and invitations to tender, and we advise on setting evaluation criteria. For legal support with procurement processes, you can depend on NWL Legal for an end-to-end service.



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HOUSING ENFORCEMENT

EXTENSIVE ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE
IN POSSESSION AND RELATED
CLAIMS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR

When it comes to housing matters, our clients rely on us for professional advocacy based on specialist experience. They know that we can guide them through even the most complex cases towards successful outcomes.

We work on possession and related claims that can be caused by a wide range of factors.

- Rent arrears
- Under occupation
- Illegal occupation
- Nuisance
- Criminal activities

The NWL Legal team is highly experienced in dealing with housing litigation cases at the County Court level. We also provide specialist advice relating to housing and immigration matters.

Antisocial Behaviour

We advise on, and assist with, matters relating to a wide range of ASB, from criminal damage to harassment. We have experience in drafting and applying for Injunctions and in committal proceedings for breaches.

We draft and advise on clauses for acceptable behaviour contracts and similar documents.



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LEGAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT

PLANNING AND MANAGING THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF YOUR PROJECT

Most projects include a range of milestones and challenges.

From the earliest stages of your project through to completion, the NWL Legal team provides planning expertise to identify when you are likely to require legal input and the level of input required at each stage.

We have extensive experience of supporting clients, including local authorities and FE colleges, through the legal challenges of a range of projects, including in real estate.

We offer a fixed fee service to can produce a clear plan of the types of advice you may need and at what stages you should be engaging a Solicitor. This will help keep your project to its timetable and your legal spend within budget. You can also utilise our expertise to provide the legal services you need at each stage in the process.



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PLANNING AND REGENERATION

EXPERT, SENSITIVE ADVICE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON PLANNING LAW – FROM SMALL TO MAJOR PROJECTS

For local authorities, it is crucial that planning law is followed throughout the processes of reviewing proposals for new local developments and wider regeneration projects.

The consequences of error and omission can have serious political and financial implications, including resource-draining appeals and judicial reviews. For this reason, local authorities depend on NWL Legal to provide specialist advice and oversight.

Our team's experience covers drafting and negotiating s106 agreements, deeds of variation and s278 agreements. You can rely on us to provide robust advice on a variety of issues:

- Highways including stopping up and diversion
- Planning enforcement
- Listed buildings
- Conservation areas
- Tree preservation orders
- Certificates of lawful use
- Appropriate use of planning conditions and obligations
- Compulsory purchase orders
- Corporate Governance including reviewing reports and attending committee meetings

With in-depth knowledge of the planning appeals process, we have successfully defended appeals with written representations, public hearings and public inquiries.

In an increasingly complex regulatory environment, our team has the in-depth up-to-date knowledge to advise you with confidence in areas such as the National Planning Policy Framework, the National Planning Policy Guidance, local authority development plan policies and procedures, and neighbourhood planning matters.

To ensure that applications are decided in accordance with the council's development plan as well as government guidance and legislation, our solicitors provide straightforward practical advice to officers and members of planning committees.

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APPRENTICESHIP SERVICES

SPECIALIST ADVICE AND ACCESS TO A SUITE OF CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in spring 2018, the legal requirements have had to change to adapt. Control is now in the hands of employers with training providers competing with each other to provide schemes funded through the levy.

Our background of work in the FE sector makes us well placed to advise colleges and universities on the legal implications of the new regime. We've been at the forefront of devising new legal structures, working with the Association of Colleges and the University Vocational Awards Council. That has resulted in a suite of contractual documents that colleges and universities can use to govern their agreements with employers, subcontractors and assessment organisations.

We have already worked with several FE institutions to support the implementation of new contractual structures and to develop a more commercial approach to the provision of training.

We understand the added pressure on FE institutions to compete commercially with private sector training organisations, and we have provided staff training to clients to enable them to implement the new contractual requirements successfully.

When colleges and universities are contracting with large public and private sector organisations, they will likely be faced with the other party's contract wording. Our experience is that these are frequently inappropriate for the purpose of an apprenticeships agreement, and we advise clients about the implications. Ensuring this is managed effectively is crucial as failure to do so could jeopardise payment for services provided by the university or college to the employer.



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REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT

EXPERT ADVICE ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION FROM LICENSING OFFENCES TO ENVIRO-CRIME

You can rely on NWL Legal for professional support and advice with criminal investigations and litigation.

We regularly deal with the prosecution of individuals and businesses for criminal offences through the Magistrates Court, and because of our strong links with Chambers, we can also support you with cases in the Crown Court.

Our experience covers a wide range of criminal offences including

- Licensing
- Food hygiene including
 - Securing Food Hygiene Prohibition Orders (FHPOs) to prevent individuals from participating in the management of food businesses
 - Registering FHPOs with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- Enviro-crimes, from fly-tipping to the unauthorised felling of trees covered by preservation orders
- Fraud, including benefit fraud

Antisocial Behaviour

For organisations challenged with tackling ASB, we provide advice and assistance with dealing with issues ranging from criminal damage to harassment. When it comes to drafting and applying for injunctions or navigating committal proceedings for breaches, our clients know they can rely on us to see the case through successfully.

We can also help you to draft clauses for acceptable behaviour contracts and similar documents.

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LEGAL SERVICES FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

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How can we help you?

As local authority lawyers we are well versed in understanding the challenges faced by Parish Councils, Parish Councillors and Clerks

In addition as the free services we provide to you including: -

- Ethics and standards, registration of interests, codes of conduct
- Governance and procedure, meetings, minutes and voting

We can also support you in matters as diverse as: -

- Footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way
- Procurement
- Contracts
- Allotments, common lands and open spaces
- Acquisitions, disposals, leases and grants of rights over land
- FOI and GDPR Compliance
- Planning



THE NW WAY

EFFICIENT

AFFORDABLE

APPROACHABLE



What do we charge?

We offer town and parish councils a subscription service that offers excellent value for money. For an annual charge of £495 plus VAT, NWL-Legal will provide you with up to ten hours of advice and assistance. The subscription runs from the date upon which the service is agreed and there is no limit to the matters that you can refer to us during that year. If the ten hour limit on advice and assistance is reached during the subscription year, we will notify you and provide a quote for any further work that you may refer to us. Matters likely to be covered by the subscription service include:

- Advising you by telephone, email or letter on issues that may arise
- Writing letter or emails to third parties on your behalf

More complex matters which might exceed the ten hour limit may include for example planning objections. Of course if we feel that the time spent on any such matter is likely to exceed the remaining time under the subscription service we will notify you at the outset.

For more complex matters or if you would prefer not to use our subscription service then we are able to charge on a fixed fee basis or hourly rate. We offer highly competitive rates but are flexible in our charging arrangements and will negotiate with you to find an arrangement that is within the constraints of your budget where able to.

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