

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	LEAD PRINCIPAL LAWYER – REGENERATION, PLANNING AND PROPERTY
GRADE	EPO21
REPORTING TO	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE
JD REF	CSUP0121P

PURPOSE

To direct, lead and manage the provision of high quality, professional legal services within the areas of regeneration, planning and property, ensuring the delivery of constructive legal and constitutional advice and assistance to Council, Committees/Panels, Elected Members and senior management across the organisation. The post holder will be leading in-house and external services across regeneration, planning and property legal services, including high value, high profile, complex matters in all areas of these fields, ensuring the Council's objectives are at the heart of the service. A key focus will be to directly support the Monitoring Officer and Senior Leadership Team to ensure the success of the large-scale regeneration activity and economic growth ambitions for Wirral, delivered through the post-holder's direct advice and involvement, their role as intelligent-client and general counsel and as manager of the in-house service.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the Head of Legal Services and Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to provide assurance to Members and the Senior Leadership Team of Wirral Council and its partners and deliver a set of legal services that are commercially aware, appropriately risk managed to deliver the desired benefits and legally compliant across the framework of programmes for regeneration, planning and property.
- Be the lead lawyer and business partner in the development of strategic plans, operational delivery plans and objectives to deliver successful outcomes in the areas of regeneration, planning and property.
- Lead and manage the teams responsible for the delivery of regeneration, planning and property legal advice to the organisation, both directly and as intelligent-client.



- Provide high quality, constructive legal, constitutional and procedural advice and assistance to Council, Council Committees/Panels, Elected Members and senior management, ensuring legal problems and challenges are solved effectively and efficiently.
- Attend Council, Council Committee/Panel meetings as required to present legal and constitutional advice in relation to all matters of regeneration, planning and property law and associated activity.
- Carry out advocacy on the Council's behalf at all courts and tribunals as appropriate.
- Protect and promote the Council's interests in the course of all advice, drafting, negotiations and advocacy; and to ensure that all deadlines are met, and all procedures followed correctly.
- Provide high-quality intelligence led legal advice and discussion papers to clients on emerging trends, legal thinking, and risks and opportunities in all areas of regeneration, planning and property.
- Embed, drive and maintain a discipline and rhythm to service demand for legal advice in the areas of regeneration, property and planning; ensuring a focus is maintained on performance, accountability and transparency.
- Lead high value, high profile and complex legal matters including significant negotiation, drafting and litigation in relation to the specialist area of regeneration, planning and property.
- Proactively advise on policy and policy development in line with changing law, legislation and best practice; and to recognise the need for change and to adapt appropriately.
- Ensure proper procedures are in place for the authorisation of covert surveillance under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).
- Pro-actively manage working practices and workloads to ensure the provision of an effective legal service.
- Build effective working relationships with relevant clients and stakeholders to deliver an efficient, effective and customer-centric approach to dealing with all legal matters related to regeneration, planning and property across the business.
- Act as an ambassador for Wirral by engaging internal and external stakeholders in working collaboratively to meet the strategic vision of the Council.



- Foster a high performing culture within the service, ensuring a customer focussed approach and a drive for continuous improvement, best practice and value for money.
- Embed a commercial approach for the legal team in the delivery of legal advice, ensuring all internal and external factors, legal implications, financial implications and risks and opportunities are evaluated and communicated.
- As a member of the Corporate Management Team, proactively engage in enhancing the business of the Council by challenging the norm and identifying innovative solutions for improvement.
- To carry out all such other legal and quasi legal tasks that may from time to time be allocated by Head of Legal Services.
- Undertake other reasonable duties commensurate with the job role as directed by the Director.

ROLE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Qualified and practising barrister, solicitor, legal executive (Fellow) or equivalent (subject to or awaiting QLTS).
- Significant post qualification experience in relation to regeneration, property and/or planning matters.
- Continued professional development which will include regulation, case law and best practice.
- Sound knowledge, awareness and application of ethical, professional and capability standards and requirements.
- Knowledge of local government legislation and guidance with an awareness of current local government issues including governance arrangements, decision making and corporate governance.
- Experience of line management and managing legally qualified staff, mentoring or providing support.
- Extensive experience of having conduct of, dealing with, drafting and/or advising on the area or areas of Regeneration, Planning and/or Property.
- Experience of dealing with complex matters within relevant areas of law, having provided advice, guidance, and support in a wide variety of cases.
- Experience of communicating, negotiating and influencing with credibility and confidence.



- Experience of effectively managing varied and competing workloads to tight deadlines whilst maintaining a high-quality service.
- Experience of considering a range of complex internal and external factors, financial implications, risks and opportunities in evaluating and communicating options and making decisions.
- Tact, diplomacy, empathy and politically awareness with resilience in dealing with competing and demanding pressures and potentially emotionally difficult situations and information.
- Commitment to consistently delivering high standards of customer care.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Experience of working in a political environment or local government.
- Deal with major projects in an innovative, pragmatic and customer-focused manner.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Required to work outside of normal office hours/flexible working patterns inherent part of the post.
- Able to travel around the Borough using public or private transport.
- Ability to work remotely.
- This post is politically restricted.

DATE OF APPROVAL: 22/10/2020

APPROVED BY: PHILIP MCCOURT – DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE
(MONITORING OFFICER)

