



Senior Solicitor – Land & Regeneration

Reports to	Head of Legal - Development
Department	General Counsel's Office
Directorate	Chief Operating Officer
Location	Multiple locations – Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, London (Canary Wharf), Manchester, Newcastle, Northstowe
Direct Reports	None
Grade	17
Post Reference	B0467N

Job purpose

To support the Head of Legal Development in providing a proactive, professional legal service to Homes England in relation to land and property law, compulsory purchase, planning law and related transactional documents in support of delivering Homes England's mission and objectives.

Key relationships

Chief Development Officer, Development Directorate, Markets Partners and Places Directorate, Centres of Excellence, Land Risk team, Central Procurement, Contingent Assets and Liabilities, external Legal Panel firms, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities Legal team, other public/private sector organisations and their legal advisers, members of the public and their legal advisers.

Key accountabilities and responsibilities

- Providing professional services in relation to all aspects of the agency's remit with emphasis on:
 - Land & Property: including acquisitions, disposals, site assembly and title investigation, statutory transfers, landlord & tenant, infrastructure agreements and regeneration;
 - Planning: including compulsory purchase and s106 agreements;
 - Grant Agreements: to public and private sector organisations
- Provision of legal advice and support to transactions and ongoing portfolio management of Homes England's sites relating to:
 - Markets, Partners and Places directorate and being part of operational teams to review the sift of opportunities as part of working a new scheme up on the go/ no go decision; and where a new scheme is given the go ahead then at the request of your line manager to be part of the mini project team to help work up;
 - the broad basis of the scheme Structuring bulk due diligence/title investigation/mapping exercises, managing the operation of data rooms and creation of electronic transfer schedules.
 - the disposal of legacy land (commercial sites and non-housing) for the Legacy team (former CAL) more expeditiously. To support that team with legacy advice and structuring of deals and disposals;
 - Development agreements and building leases;

- Advising on, negotiating and preparing legal documentation including Heads of Terms, land transfers, bulk transfer documentation, statutory transfer schemes, deeds relating to rights and easements, disposal documents, contracts (including framework agreements and call off contracts) and grant agreements – identifying and providing commentary and advice on risk (legal, commercial, and financial).
- Undertaking the process for acquiring, via statutory transfers, surplus public sector land from other public bodies including due diligence in accordance with agreed time scales.
- Advising where appropriate on statutory, governance matters and new legislative areas of relevance to the agency
- To support Head of Legal - Development as required.
- Homes England’s remit requires that staff should act flexibly and undertake other duties and responsibilities commensurate with the post as directed by the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer or General Counsel. This will include working on a variety of different projects.

Key skills, knowledge and experience

Essential:

- Solicitor with current practising certificate and substantial post-qualification experience in the following areas of law - land, property, planning, CPO and contract.

Essential:

- Experience of identifying and managing legal, commercial and financial risk.
- Understanding the role of an in-house lawyer.
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills with the ability to adapt communication styles by audience and influence senior stakeholders.
- Expert draftsman able to produce effective and accurate drafting of legal documentation and reports.
- Ability to explain legal issues in land, property, contract, planning and CPO clearly.

The role will also advise on the following areas of law: Subsidy Control, Public Procurement and Freedom of Information. Experience in these areas whilst beneficial is not essential – training will be provided.

Values and key behaviours

Homes England colleagues are expected to be flexible in undertaking duties and responsibilities commensurate with the general character of the role and level of responsibility.

