

LLG ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE 2024

Day 1: The Met Hotel, Leeds, 7 June 2024 (Hybrid event)

Two programmes will run throughout the day with the plenary programme available to both in person and remote attendees via zoom. The breakout programme will be available to the in-person attendees only.

Day 2: Online workshops 14 June 2024

The second day of the conference will be online via Zoom on Friday 14 June.

DAY 1: FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024: PLENARY PROGRAMME, HYBRID ATTENDANCE

09.30 - 09.50 Welcome to the LLG Spring Conference in West Yorkshire

Aneeka Muneer, LLG President and special guests

09.50 - 10.30 Keynote session: The launch of the Code of Practice on Good Governance for Statutory Officers

The Code of Practice on Good Governance developed jointly by LLG, SOLACE & CIPFA for Statutory Officers represents a huge step forwards in defining the roles and responsibilities of those working within the golden triangle. The session offers an overview of the best practice principles for positive working arrangements within your local authority, with commentary from the professional bodies.

Chair: Helen Bradley, Director of Legal & Democratic Services, Durham County Council

Speakers: Philip McCourt, Bevan Brittan
Andrew Burns, CIPFA
Graeme McDonald, SOLACE

10.30 - 11.15 Refreshment Break

11.15 - 12.15 Bridging the Funding Gap: A panel session offering some bright ideas and positive thinking on steps lawyers can take to help balance local authority finances in an environment of underfunding

Chair: Deborah Evans, CEO LLG

Top tips for tackling service redesign: restructuring services to deliver at less cost

Speakers: Claire Ward, Anthony Collins
Debbie Carter-Hughes, Birmingham City Council
Julia Lynch, Birmingham City Council

How building a shared service model can make better use of resources and save money: Estelle will provide a whistle-stop tour of her personal experience of managing a multi-authority legal shared service. She will give an overview of the benefits of the model in terms of cost savings and resourcing. She will also consider the viewpoint of those lawyers and people working within a shared legal service and some of the practical issues to consider in setting up a shared service. Finally, from a personal perspective, she will explain some of the unanticipated consequences she experienced of working within a legal shared service.

Speaker: Estelle Culligan, Wilkin Chapman

Generating income from debt recovery

Speakers: Paul Bowden, Wilkin Chapman
Jonathan Woodward, Head of Revenue, Birmingham City Council

12.15 - 13.00 Maximise the potential of the new Procurement Act

Set your council up for success: Learn how to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the new Procurement Act. Our speakers will guide you how to do things differently and better, sharing a roadmap to assist you and your council in your preparations and prioritisation.

Chair: John Purvis, LLG Director

Speakers: Rebecca Rees, Trowers & Hamlins
Julie Lorraine, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

13.00 - 13.50 Lunch Break

13.50 - 14.50 Burn-out - A comedy about emotional exhaustion and how to avoid it

Becky Walsh brings you into her comedy kitchen to cook up some vibrant life force. Explaining how you can create spoonfuls of energy, avoid the stress juice cocktail and to know when the spinning plates need smashing.

Burn-out is a humorous and insightful exploration of the topic of burnout and the challenges of balancing a busy lifestyle. Becky Walsh engages the audience with witty anecdotes and relatable experiences. With engaging storytelling and relatable observations make the audience reflect on their own lives and consider strategies for maintaining balance and avoiding burnout.

Chair: Rachel McKoy, LLG Past President

Speaker: Becky Walsh, Comedian and Communications Specialist

14.50 - 15.30 Refreshment Break

15.30 - 16.10 The practical use of AI in legal services

Would you like to hear more about how AI can assist the delivery of legal services? Do you understand the opportunity presented by Microsoft Co-Pilot, or know the risks with ChatGPT? Do you want to know more about how legal knowledge platforms will embrace AI to improve your experience?

Speakers: Ben Wickerson, Norfolk Council
 Fiona Antony, Norfolk Council
 Thomson Reuters

16.10 – 17.00 What’s hot in the environment?: As Climate Change initiatives gather pace, what does your authority need to know? Where should your focus be? Biodiversity net gain and decarbonisation are key themes where lawyers can make a meaningful contribution.

Delivering biodiversity net gain: What local authorities need to do We will explore the challenges and opportunities of BNG from a local authority perspective.

Decarbonisation joint ventures: Helping to deliver public sector net gain We will explore how joint ventures can be utilised by local authorities to deliver their net zero goals including models available and procurement routes.

Chair: Anita Bradley, LLG Director

Speakers: Kelly Dawson, North Yorkshire Council
 Helen Robinson, WBD
 Andrew Hirst, WBD

17.00 The General Election: Coming soon

With the date set for the general election what could the various manifestos mean for local authority nationally, and what could be the impact to you and your authority.

Chair: Helen McGrath, LLG Executive Director of Policy & Governance

Speaker: Justin Griggs, Head of Policy and Communication, NALC

17.20 Close of plenary conference programme day one

Aneeka Muneer, LLG President

The Friday evening Awards Ceremony will be an evening to network, celebrate and chat with colleagues in a relaxed environment. The evening begins with an evening drinks reception followed by the LLG Awards Ceremony, a 3-course dinner and DJ and dancing till midnight.

**DAY 1: FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024: BREAKOUT PROGRAMME
IN PERSON ATTENDANCE**

Met Room 2

09.55 - 10.30 Junior Lawyers Group: How to keep energised and avoid burning out

In this day and age ‘balance’ seems to be a myth and burn-out a career ambition badge of honour.

We often hit times of overwhelm, burnout or become exhausted from caring for too long. Our energetic life force can get zapped by a number of people and situations not just work.

In this workshop, Becky gives you ways you individually burn your energy, to spot emotional exhaustion before your inner frog becomes ‘boiled’. Giving you ways you can embrace self-care with more than a few candles and a bath.

Chair: Jordan Hulse, LLG Director

Speaker: Becky Walsh, Comedian and Communications Specialist

10.30 - 11.15 Refreshment Break

11.15 - 12.10 Becoming the MO. What skill sets and experience are recruiters really looking for?

Gatenbysanderson will be delivering a session for those aspiring to become a Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, or for those who might be seeking their next career move. We will consider what local authorities are looking for in their senior legal officers and what it might mean to be an MO in a modern local authority.

We will cover the recruitment process, including the engagement of executive search agencies in the appointment process, interacting with ‘headhunters’, the application, interview and appointment process. What do you need to do to make your application count? How to build your networks, how to give yourself the best chance at interview, taking feedback and dealing with bad news/rejection, and the use of psychometrics in recruitment processes. This will be an interactive session so do come along with any questions you may have.

Chair: Helen Bradley, Director of Legal & Democratic Services, Durham County Council

Speakers: Phil Emms and Gary Evans, GatenbySanderson

12.20 - 13.00 EDI – Inclusion and employment: A focus on the lawyers of the future

This relaxed, discursive session looks at the employee lifecycle for trainees, apprentices, paralegals, and interns: covering recruitment, onboarding, development and retention. It stresses the importance of understanding and accommodating difference in young people at the start of their career – covering neurodiversity, anxiety, and mental health in employment.

This session will also sensitively explore the impact of lockdown and how young people may be less 'work ready' due to the significant gap in their socialisation, less confident, and less likely to speak up. Come listen, grow your understanding, and be more inclusive.

Chair: Manisha Patel, Non Executive Director to the LLG Board for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Speaker: Fiona Anthony, Norfolk Council

13.00 - 13.50 Lunch Break

13.50 – 14.50 Junior Lawyer Group: The benefits and opportunities to advance your career in the public sector

This session will discuss the benefits and opportunities of working in the public sector and how to ensure you maximise these to enhance your career development:

- personal development plans
- business development plans
- the skills of networking
- using social media
- career moves between local authorities and public sector associations

Chairs: Jordan Hulse, LLG Junior Director LLG
Jess Lishman, LLG National Lead for Juniors

Speakers: Sara Robinson and Natalie Atherall, Sellick Partnership
Rita Bange, Trowers & Hamlins

14.50 - 15.30 Refreshment Break

15.30 - 16.05 Better working: Monitoring Officers and parish council clerks

Ian Morris explores how an empathetic approach to achieving better understanding of the role of monitoring officer and the role of parish clerk can improve communications and working arrangements. What support can be offered? What cannot be resourced and why? What does good look like?

Chair: Aneeka Muneer, LLG President

Speaker: Ian Morris, Spennymoor Town Council and elected Director and Fellow of SLCC

16.15 - 16.55 Culture & Governance - 2 sides of the same coin. Shared learning from the Fire & Rescue Service

VWV have worked with the public sector, Central Government, Local Government including Fire and Rescue Services for over 30 years. Come and listen to sector experts who are actively engaged in working with the Fire and Rescue Service on the issues it faces in 2024 - a year when the service is consistently hitting the headlines. A handful of examples include;

- "Bosses tolerated sexual harassment, report says"
- "Fire and Rescue Service deemed 'inadequate', report finds"
- "Fire service bosses talked about wanting to 'kill' and harm female colleagues"
- "Fire services are institutionally misogynistic, racist and homophobic, MPs told"

VWV are both providing legal advice on the consequences of poor culture but also how the Authority is part of the answer in improving culture, behaviours and Governance in the Fire Service and how they are two sides of the same coin. Even if you don't work with Fire and Rescue colleagues this is an interesting session looking at culture and governance that can be applied to any area of practice.

Chair: Patricia Narebor, LLG Director

Speakers: Alison Cook, VWV
Lisa Kirkman, VWV

17.00 End of day 1 breakout programme

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