



MEET THE CANDIDATES STANDING FOR LLG DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT

There are 4 candidates standing for election as follows: -

Asif Ibrahim

Patricia Narebor

Shiraz Sheikh

Nichola Vine

Information about the candidates appear below in order as listed alphabetically.

Asif Ibrahim



I am standing for Deputy Vice President because our profession deserves strong, visible, and credible leadership grounded in real local government experience and committed to championing every member. The role requires strategic vision, excellent communication, and the ability to represent LLG confidently at national level, including with ministers, sector bodies and the press. My career demonstrates these strengths in action.

I have been an active member of LLG throughout my 17 years' experience across six councils, which includes service as Monitoring Officer in multiple authorities. I bring a deep understanding of governance, law, transformation and public service. I currently serve as Director of Legal Services at Manchester City Council, advising senior leadership, overseeing complex legal portfolios, and leading major programmes. I have been involved in delivering major regeneration schemes, managing boundary reviews, leading constitutional reform, and steering high-profile



statutory functions. These roles have required resilience, sound judgement, and the ability to communicate clearly under pressure. In short, I know what it means to be a lawyer in local government!

As an LGA Corporate Peer Reviewer, I have supported councils across the country to strengthen governance, culture and improvement. This national insight directly aligns with the LLG requirement to represent members at all levels, from local practitioners to strategic national partners.

If elected, I will prioritise:

- Championing member interests on capacity, recruitment, professional recognition and development.
- Strengthening LLG's influence with bodies such as the LGA, Law Society, SRA, CIPFA, SOLACE and government departments.
- Promoting excellence in governance, ethical practice, and legal standards across the sector.
- Ensuring every member feels supported, connected and heard.

I bring integrity, strategic leadership, sector-wide experience and a visible commitment to supporting our profession. I will work tirelessly to ensure LLG continues to grow in influence, confidence and impact.

Together, we can strengthen the voice of local government law.

I would be honoured to receive your vote.

Patricia Narebor



KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR: I am a qualified solicitor with over 30 years legal experience (over 20 years post qualified) on the role of Solicitors for England and Wales and a Member of the Law Society and Lawyers in

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Local Government; with qualifications in LL.B (Hons), postgraduate diploma in Legal Practice and the Law Society Diploma in Local Government.

LLG Regional Director London: As regional Director, collaborating with Corporate Partners and convening regional meetings to address key topical issues; creating opportunities for collaboration between lawyers and colleagues from the London authorities.

Monitoring Officer at various Councils; management oversight and responsibility for the budgets for Legal, Democratic Services, Elections and Information Government. (Monitoring Officer and Deputy Director Legal and Democratic Services at London Borough of Bexley (October 2021 to January 2026). Previously Head of Mid Kent Legal Partnership (shared legal services for three authorities to include Swale District Council (Sept 2017 to October 2021)) - undertaking the role of Monitoring Officer at Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone District Councils with differing governance arrangements – Committee and Executive style of governance.

The Constitutions – Reviewing and revising the Council Constitutions within Executive and Committee governance arrangements.

ABILITY TO REPRESENT LLG MEMBERS AT ALL LEVELS

Regular attendance at the LLG Annual Conference, Monitoring Officer Conference, the Property and Regeneration and Monitoring Officer Special Interest Group. As LLG regional director, addressing the queries of lawyers at all levels; bringing managers together to brainstorm eg Mazur implications and the “For Women Scotland” Equality Act implications.

Providing my comments/observations on the Code of Practice on Good Governance at draft stage; making representations regarding changes in law having an impact on Local Government, actively engaged and co-ordinated London Borough of Bexley’s response to the information required for the Covid-19 Public Inquiry, consultation response to Central Government and LGA regarding reforms to the standards regime.

The role of the Monitoring Officer requires strengthening and I aim to contribute to the work of AMO to raise the profile of the role with potential for reviewing a change in legislation to require the role to report to the Head of Paid service, together with the implications. I am particularly interested in engaging with all lawyers and legal officers at all levels with the aspiration of creating greater active participation in the activities of LLG, offering development and mentoring opportunities to members.

I have experience of wholly owned companies of Councils eg Maidstone Property Holding Ltd, Tunbridge Wells Property Holding Ltd and BexleyCo Ltd. Guidance is provided regarding the governance arrangements, directors’ duties and shareholder duties. A key objective will be to provide guidance on the legal implications arising from financial viability of LATCos and the best value duty.

COMMITMENT TO LLG: Actively and positively contributing to LLG, programmes, business plan objectives as a Board Member; identifying training needs and chairing round table discussions with Corporate Partners as Regional Director. Promoting LLG



programmes and interests to the LBLA member group, collaborating to identify key training needs and priorities for London members.

Represented various authorities and the LBLA authorities at all levels eg LGA, LGSCO, CIPFA, SOLACE, ADSO, AEA, RTIP, SRA, The Law Society and Central Government Departments). Liaising with the AEA membership to review the publication date for the Notice of the Election for the 2022 Local Election within London and various other queries, reporting back to the LBLA group to maintain consistency.

CAPACITY TO REPRESENT LLG EFFECTIVELY AND WITH IMPACT AT ALL LEVELS: Representing LLG as a judge for various awards in 2025 and 2026, to include the small team award entries. Meeting with other senior officers to review numerous award entries, final scoring; selecting the LGC award winner and commended authority. Representing LLG to advice lawyers from the MHCLG regarding implications arising from potential changes to legislation relating to by-laws. I have the ability to work across stakeholder groups as demonstrated above and within the network of monitoring officers in Kent County – Kent Secretaries Group. I was part of the sub-group that reviewed the County’s Code of Conduct against the LGA’s Model Code of Conduct to ensure the District Codes are generally consistent with the County’s Code and the LGA Code for better management of complaints relating to dual and triple hatted members.

EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION SKILLS: I have the ability to present complex technical information at Committees, to members and senior officers to enable decisions to be made promptly. I am used to dealing with high profile press enquiries and working with Communication Teams to prepare and clear media responses.

PROFESSIONAL STANDING, REPUTATION AND ACHIEVEMENT: I am a qualified solicitor who has been on the role of Solicitors from 2003 without any adverse referral to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. I have effectively engaged with other Senior Officers and Members in all authorities to deliver the best outcomes for Councils.

STRATEGIC EXPERIENCE AND/OR UNDERSTANDING: Operating at a senior level as part of the Corporate Leadership Team and the Transformation Board, reviewing and providing guidance regarding the framework for transformational change to achieve staff, resident and stakeholder inclusion; guidance on decision making procedures to achieve agile decision making to achieve the transformation agenda. Maintaining political neutrality, discharging the Council’s statutory Monitoring Officer role as described in Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“LGHA 1989”) and accountability for delivering Legal, Electoral Services, Information Governance and Democratic Services; forming strong effective working relationships with the Leaders, CE, Directors and Management Teams at the various authorities and providing strategic input as a member of the Corporate Leadership team at Bexley Council and previous authorities.

STRONG INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES: The role of Monitoring Officer requires acting as the “critical friend”, challenging the lawfulness of



a Council's objectives, decisions and plans to protect the Council's interest and reputation. Guidance is provided to Leaders, Members, senior officers and stakeholders professionally, adding value as Monitoring Officer and through Legal Services by being involved at the inception of policy development eg Corporate Plans, Transformation plans, wholly owned company business plans and associated viability reviews. Examples include advising the Chief Executive at LB Bexley that the Corporate Plan timeframe of four years was too short to achieve meaningful inward investment by partners/Central Gov/GLA and to achieve delivery of major regeneration schemes/transport improvement which led to the "2050 vision" and the Growth Plan. Acting as a critical friend to the Leader of the Council to advise that consultation with residents, businesses and stakeholders must be undertaken in line with the best value duties under the Local Government Act 1999 to effectively prepare and adopt the revised Corporate Plan, a policy framework. The Leader was advised against merely relying on the campaign period and the Manifesto Pledges campaigned upon, since the policies had not been fully formulated.

Shiraz Sheikh



Shiraz Sheikh is an experienced Monitoring Officer and senior local government lawyer with over 20 years' experience across district and unitary councils. As Assistant Director for Law, Governance and Procurement at Cherwell District Council, he leads a wide-ranging portfolio spanning legal, democratic services, elections, information governance and procurement.

Shiraz is known for empowering people, fostering confident leadership and building high-performing teams. A strong and natural networker, he brings people together to drive solutions and strengthen collaboration across the sector. Having completed SOLACE leadership programmes, he brings a modern, forward-looking approach to leadership and organisational development.



Committed to championing the legal and governance profession, Shiraz is passionate about elevating the voice, influence and impact of LLG nationally.

Nichola Vine



Why have I applied for the role of Deputy VP at LLG?

Local government lawyers play a vital role in supporting our councils to make good decisions, uphold strong governance and deliver for communities. I am standing for Deputy Vice President because I care deeply about our profession and want to help ensure that every member of Lawyers in Local Government feels supported, valued and proud to work in this sector.

In my day job, I lead a large and diverse legal and governance service. Like many of you, I see first-hand the pressures we face, from increasing complexity and risk in the work we do, to financial constraints, political changes, and local government reform. All of which is happening alongside real challenges for recruitment, retention and wellbeing. These pressures affect lawyers at every stage of their career, and I believe LLG has a crucial role in helping members navigate them—by providing practical support, professional development, a strong voice for the sector and a sense of community. As a Regional Director for LLG I have seen first-hand both the dedication of the LLG team to ensure that role is delivered on, and the increasing need for that support from members.

I am passionate about local government being seen as an employer of choice for talented lawyers. The skills we develop in this sector are broad, demanding and genuinely unique. We advise at the heart of public service, often in challenging and high-profile circumstances, and that deserves recognition. If we want local government law to thrive, we must continue to invest in people: attracting new talent,



developing confident and capable lawyers, supporting wellbeing, and creating inclusive environments where everyone can succeed. LLG plays a key role in championing that agenda, and I would be proud to help take it forward.

At Warwickshire, I am privileged to lead a committed and highly skilled team of lawyers and governance professionals and developing people has always been central to my approach. —providing high-quality training, mentoring and opportunities, and creating a culture where people feel supported and valued. Seeing colleagues grow in confidence, capability and satisfaction is one of the most rewarding parts of my role. LLG provides that support, development and a safe space to us all on a national scale. If I can be a part of making sure that is available to future generations of lawyers, it would be a privilege.

LLG has had a significant impact on my own professional development. Being part of the organisation—and serving on the Board—has exposed me to different perspectives across the sector and reinforced the importance of LLG as a trusted professional home for local government lawyers. As the sector continues to change, LLG must continue to evolve too: staying relevant, accessible and focused on delivering real value for members. I bring experience from both the public and private sectors, a strong understanding of the local government landscape, and a commitment to ensuring we continue to innovate and improve to be the best we can be for our members.

If elected as Deputy Vice President, I will work hard to represent members, listen to your experiences, and support LLG in continuing to provide high-quality training, guidance, leadership and advocacy. I will be a strong, approachable voice for the profession and a committed champion for local government lawyers and governance professionals at every stage of their career.

I would be grateful for your support.

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