



LLG DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE AGM 2026

Contents

Presidents Foreword	2-4
Chief Executives Comment	4-7
Board Directors	7
Testament to Stephen Turner	8
Testament to Stephen Taylor	8-9
MO National Lead	10
National Lead Director	11
National Leads (served or severing since last AGM)	12
LLG Strategy 2024-2027	12
Training Delivery & Events	13-21
Membership Events (National Leads, Regions & Webinars)	21-28
LLG Award Winners 2025	28-29
Press	29-30
The Local Government Legal Society Trust	31
Our Corporate Partners	31

Please note the [LLG and LLGE Accounts are available on the LLG Website](#)



President's Foreword



Paul Turner

LLG President (2025-2026)

It has been a real privilege to serve as President of Lawyers in Local Government over the past year. The Presidential Team has worked together exceptionally well, and I would like to begin by thanking Helen and Anita Bradley for their ongoing support and sound judgement throughout my term.

I have tried to approach the role in a collaborative spirit, and I am particularly grateful to Helen for the many conversations we have shared, often while out walking. Those informal discussions have been an important part of how I have reflected on issues, tested ideas, and shaped my approach as President.

I would also like to thank the whole of Team LLG. Being President truly brings home just how small and how remarkably effective the team is. I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know you better over the course of the year, and you should all be very proud of what you consistently deliver for the membership. Whatever I have managed to achieve as President would not have been possible without your professionalism, commitment, and hard work.

The clear highlight of the year was the launch of the Association of Monitoring Officers (AMO). This was a significant undertaking, involving a huge amount of work for me personally, for members of the shadow committee, and for Team LLG. You cannot build a professional body in a day, but the foundations are firmly in place. The launch of the Monitoring Officer Helpline is already proving to be a valuable service, and Rachel McKoy and Team LLG now have the substantial task of delivering an ambitious policy agenda and channelling the goodwill that exists across the sector.



As a member of the AMO Provisional Committee, I will continue to do my best to ensure that AMO is held to account for delivering the services that Monitoring Officers and their support teams, both need and rightly expect. I remain very fond of the accidental fact that *AMO* is both the Latin word for love and an abbreviation for ammunition. AMO must care deeply about its members; while also equipping them with the metaphorical ammunition they need to do their jobs well, often in challenging circumstances.

I very much hope that members will continue to support LLG as AMO is built and establishes itself as a professional body delivering real and tangible value.

This year has also been marked by two highly unusual court decisions with significant and deeply uncertain effects on people's lives. Whatever views are held about the cases themselves, there can be no doubt that their impact has been profound. While some commentary has presented the consequences as clear-cut, that has not reflected the lived reality. Instead, there has been a continuing flow of further decisions as courts, tribunals, lawyers; and most importantly those directly affected have sought to navigate lives suddenly plunged into uncertainty.

We are accustomed to court decisions having wider implications, but it is difficult to recall another year in which so many people have faced such sustained and far-reaching uncertainty. That two such decisions occurred in the same year serves as a powerful reminder of the extent to which the courts shape lives at scale. LLG is following these developments closely and will continue to support colleagues dealing with their practical and human consequences.

Local government reorganisation has also continued to create uncertainty, particularly for colleagues working in two-tier areas. LLG is giving ongoing thought to how best to support members through this period, and it will be interesting to see how events unfold. The resilience of the two-tier system is notable. I still remember Prime Minister John Major announcing the end of two-tier local government in 1993, with Huntingdonshire (his own constituency) due to become a unitary authority. It remains, at least for now, part of two-tier Cambridgeshire.

I would also like to say something about democracy within LLG. This year we saw four candidates standing for Deputy Vice President, alongside other contested elections. That level of engagement speaks volumes about the growing importance and influence of LLG within the local government sector. I will not speculate on whether observing my performance as President encouraged people to stand (readers may draw their own conclusions) but I will say this: please do consider becoming involved in LLG. This is your organisation, and it can only thrive through your engagement, commitment, and willingness to step forward.



I would like to thank the many stakeholders we have worked with over the past year. We have expanded and strengthened our relationships with a wide range of organisations, and I am grateful for the shared commitment to improving the local government landscape through collective effort.

Thanks are also due to our Corporate Partners. Without their support, we would not be able to deliver such a wide range of training programmes and events, nor undertake many of the initiatives that benefit our membership. We are sincerely grateful for their continued backing.

Finally, as I said earlier, I want to record a very specific note of thanks to the LLG staff team, who consistently deliver so much on behalf of members. My thanks go to everyone at LLG, and in particular, to the senior team of Deborah, Helen, Ann, and Rachel for their leadership and dedication.

I look forward to my continuing involvement with LLG as Past President.

Best wishes

Paul



Chief Executive's Comments



Deborah Evans

CEO's Review of the Year: April 2025 to April 2026

It is with great pride that I present this Director's Report reflecting on the work, impact, and collective achievements of Lawyers in Local Government throughout 2025. This year has been defined by transformation of our service through collaboration across our membership. Against the backdrop of continued financial pressures, evolving legislative landscapes, and increasing public expectations, our community of legal professionals has once again demonstrated exceptional dedication and adaptability.

Strengthening Our Professional Community

Throughout 2025, we continued to invest in strengthening the skills, confidence and capacity of local government lawyers through the breadth of our training, conference and development programmes. LLG Inspire goes from strength to strength in training new and aspiring monitoring officers, whilst the Monitoring Officer Induction programme saw record participation. Delivered as part of the LGA statutory officer development programme, the training sets out a clear, progressive pathway to support career development while ensuring consistency and excellence across the sector.

We believe an understanding of governance and ethics is for all and have provided training for junior lawyers as well as those working at senior levels. These programmes have played a critical role in ensuring that councils across the country have access to highly capable, ethically grounded lawyers and legal leaders.

A major achievement this year has been the launch of our new Association of Monitoring Officers, a much-needed professional body for those responsible for the



delivery of good governance within our authorities. Developed collaboratively with monitoring officers, heads of legal, and governance professionals, it is designed to provide the tailored support, discussion and growth opportunities for those working at the sharp end of decision making. We were extremely proud to announce the appointment of experienced monitoring officer Rachel McKoy as the Executive Director.

Supporting Authorities Through Complexity and Change

The policy and legislative landscape of 2025 presented significant challenges for local authority lawyers. Whether responding to reforms in procurement, new environmental and planning provisions, or contemplating the new standards framework; our members have been at the forefront of providing measured, expert legal advice enabling councils to continue delivering services safely and lawfully. Managing political change has been a key skill, with lawyers trained in political awareness from an early stage in their career.

LLG played a vital role in interpreting emerging national policy and translating it into practical, accessible guidance for our members. Across the year, we produced a range of roundtables and sessions led by our national lead lawyers and corporate partners, webinars, regional meetings and briefings, that have supported officers in making informed and confident decisions. We did further policy work to support the Code of Practice in Good Governance for Statutory Officers, in order that it be more easily understood by elected members.

Equally important has been our work in shaping national policy. Through consultation responses, engagement with government departments, and collaboration with organisations such as the Local Government Association, we ensured that the voice of local government legal professionals was clearly heard in the development of new legislation and guidance. We are pleased to note after years of lobbying, positive movement in the proposal for Councils to be able to make decisions in hybrid meetings.

A Strong, Inclusive Membership

Our membership has grown steadily throughout 2025 to 5,500 members, reflecting both the value of our offer and the strength of our community. We have continued to prioritise diversity and inclusion, and our EDI working group has prepared a strategy and an action plan to take us through the next period.

Our regions and national lead groups have played a central role in building community and sharing best practice. Their events, one day conferences, and meetings have been instrumental in connecting practitioners at every stage of their careers, ensuring that our work remains grounded in real experience and local need.



Financial Stewardship and Organisational Resilience

Despite economic pressures affecting all parts of local government, LLG has maintained a stable financial position throughout 2025. Careful planning, responsible budgeting, and a continued focus on value for money have ensured that we can continue investing in member services, training, and advocacy. We are entering 2026 with strong foundations and a clear sense of purpose.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, the demands on local government lawyers will continue to evolve but I remain confident that our community is more than ready to meet these challenges.

Our commitment is clear: to equip every local government lawyer with the knowledge, tools, confidence, and support needed to deliver excellent public service. We will continue to invest in professional development, strengthen our influence on national policy, and ensure that our networks remain vibrant, supportive, and future-focused.

Thank you to all our members, corporate partners, and stakeholders for your extraordinary contribution this year.

Board Directors (served or serving since last AGM)

For biographies [Click here](#)

Name	Role
Aneeka Muneer Sarwar	Past President
Paul Turner	President
Helen Bradley (née Lynch)	Vice President and MO & Governance National Lead Director
Anita Bradley	Deputy Vice President and Southern Regional Director
Deborah Evans	Chief Executive Officer
Nicholas Ong-Seng	Lay Chair
Rosemary Keczkcs	Training Director
Dee Sekar	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Director
Emma Duncan	Eastern Regional Director



John Purvis	Northern Regional Director
Patricia Narebor	London Regional Director
<i>Vacant</i>	Wales Regional Director
Nichola Vine	Midlands Regional Director
Sarah Harriott	National Lead Director
Jordan Hulse	Junior Director

Testament to Stephen Turner

Stephen was hugely active and a full participatory member of the LLG family having been involved for decades in many different roles within the organisation.

Stephen was for a long time the Branch Secretary of the SLG Yorkshire and Humber Branch becoming the SLG Chair in 2010-2011. He helped to shape the new LLG company in 2013 and continued to serve for many years until he reached maximum service capacity. Stephen was a brilliant speaker- training hundreds of members through LLG's training provision and at conference over the years. He was the author of numerous guidance, notably on taxi hire fees but also worked extensively alongside the Institute of Licensing and Suzy Lamplough Trust to bring in greater safeguards for women to travel safely via suitability guidance.

Stephen will be remembered for his passion and commitment to our sector, his great wit and his impeccable taste in suits. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts remain with his wife, his family, his friends and colleagues.

As Aye Stephen- it won't be the same without you.

Testament to Stephen Taylor

A truer gentleman you would be hard pressed to find. Stephen was acutely intelligent and an exceptional Monitoring Officer and Solicitor. Despite the difficult task working at that level brings to every lawyer (especially at challenging moments), Stephen demonstrated remarkable poise and professionalism throughout his career. He was a genuine supporting and caring friend to so many of us during his many years to ACSes, SLG and latterly LLG. He had a wonderful sense of humour and a balance of thought to his sharp wit. So many of us will remember numerous enjoyable conferences at dinner with him and his absence will be felt keenly.



Stephen won the LLG Significant Contribution to Local Government Legal Practice Award in 2023. His speech upon acceptance really demonstrated his passion for the sector and LLG want to share this with you now as a testament to this great man.

“Sharing learning and sharing knowledge in order to develop legal practice in local government is crucial if we are to serve our communities and our employers to the best of our ability. Joining networks and taking part in forums and local groups all helps in this.

Having been the branch secretary of LLG Southern Branch, and its predecessors, since 1990 I have been able to organise regular branch meetings and networking opportunities with knowledgeable speakers on topical issues for over 30 years.

In the wider local government world, I was a member of the LLG Board from its inception until last year, and a member of its predecessor Boards of ACSeS, SLG, and the Law Society’s Local Government Group since 1991. Those Boards were regularly consulted by government and the LGA on matters of legal practice and current issues and I played a full part on those deliberations.

During that time, I established the Network of Experts as a national resource, and was a member of the Law Society’s Planning Committee for 9 years which contributed significantly to developing planning law and practice. Planning is a particular interest of mine and when Chair of London and Home Counties Branch of LGG I founded and chaired the Planning Forum which became a well-established network promoting good planning practice.

Having been first appointed as a Monitoring Officer in 1989, I also have a keen interest in governance issues and was the joint editor of the 4th, 5th and 6th editions of ‘Knowles on Local Authority Meetings’. ‘Knowles’ is a well-known authority which has been cited in court cases and that particular baton has since been passed on to the current editor.

I have worked in various local authorities since 1982 and retired from full time employment in 2018, having been Director of Law and Democratic Services at Swindon Borough Council from 1997. Since then, I have been doing interim work and am currently [*formerly now*] Monitoring Officer at Slough Borough Council as I still very much enjoy working in local government and contributing to the wider local government world.”



National Lead for Monitoring Officers and Governance and Shadow Chair of AMO



Helen Bradley

This year has been focused on the establishment of the Association of Monitoring Officers (AMO) which was launched at the Governance Conference in 2025. The introduction of the MO Helpline has seen positive take up both from MO Volunteers and colleagues making use of it. The Helpline will mean that there should always be a safe space for MO's to discuss difficult or unusual work queries.

Rachel McKoy, Executive Director of AMO and the LLG team have been working hard to develop policy and deliver events based on members priorities.

We have been working closely with MHCLG to help inform the development of the new Standards Framework and hope that AMO will be well placed to assist with the drafting of the necessary guidance and procedures. We will shortly be publishing AMO's position statement on the reforms, informed by member's feedback.

We continue to work closely with the LGA sharing members perspectives on a wide range of issues such as member officer relations, roles and responsibilities and preparing for and dealing with political change. The LGA have issued or are preparing updated guidance on these topics.

The engagement from the membership on all MO and governance related matters has been really positive and I hope we can continue that next year.

Best Wishes

Helen



National Lead Board Representative Director



Sarah Harriott

It has been both a pleasure to continue to serve on the Lawyers in Local Government Board as the Representative for National Leads over the past year.

The National Leads collectively support a wide range of specialist networks, including:

- Adult Social Care & Health
- Children's Services & Education
- Employment
- Housing & Regeneration
- Information Management
- Junior Professionals
- Litigation & Licensing
- Monitoring Officers & Governance
- Partnerships & Procurement
- Planning, Highways & Environment
- Local Authority Shared Services

Throughout the year, each specialist group has continued to deliver regular lunchtime sessions, supported by LLG's Corporate Partners as guest speakers. Their ongoing commitment to creating high-quality forums for discussion, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration on issues uniquely affecting local government lawyers is greatly valued.

In addition, I have continued to host regular National Lead Coffee Chats. These informal drop-in sessions provide an opportunity to gather insights from National Leads across all specialist areas and to support the development of new ideas and initiatives.



I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with colleagues across the LLG network in the year ahead, supporting our specialist communities and championing the vital contribution that local government lawyers make nationwide.

National Leads (served or severing since last AGM)

Robin Donaldson & Penny Latham as the Adult Social Care National Leads

Jeanette Bloor as the Children Services & Education National Lead

Andrew Brett as the Employment National Lead

Sarah Harriott as the Information Management National Lead

Helen Bradley as the MO & Governance National Lead

Shahzia Daya as the Shared Services National Lead

Michael Graham as the Shared Services National Lead

Kevin Carter as the Procurement Deputy National Lead

Isabelle Alajooz as the Housing & Regeneration National Lead

Rob Cowan as the Litigation & Licensing National Lead

Stephen Turner as the Deputy National Lead of Litigation Law

Aneeka Muneer Sarwar as the Deputy National Lead for Criminal Law

Andrew Weavers as the Local Government Reorganisation National Lead

The Board of Directors would like to record a special note of thanks to all National Leads for their volunteer role in helping shape and support the sector.

LLG Strategy 2024-2027:

The [LLG Strategy Document](#) sets out LLG's values and strategic objectives, with corresponding actions on how LLG will continue to work to deliver them.



Training & Events

Training courses and conferences delivered since 2025 AGM:

Date	Course Name	Delegates
25 Apr 2025	Traffic Regulation Orders	23
28 Apr 2025	The Local Government Lawyer's Essential Guide to Devolution	28
29 Apr 2025	Call-In	12
01 May 2025	Premises Closure Orders	7
09 May 2025	Highways and Development	8
13 May 2025	Planning Prosecutions	13
20 May 2025	Independent Persons: The Role of the IP in Ensuring High Standards of Conduct	14
23 May 2025	Commercial Law Conference	54
06 June 2025	Spring Conference Day 1: Bristol	135
13 June 2025	Spring Conference Day 2	135
09 Jun 2025	Section 106 Agreements	15
Jun 2025	Monitoring Officers Induction Programme – Cohort 4	22
10 Jun 2025	The Role of the Monitoring Officer: The Fundamentals	26
16 Jun 2025	Planning Basic Survival Guide	8
20 Jun 2025	Essential Guide to Overview and Scrutiny Committees	25
26 Jun 2025	Equal Pay	8
03 Jul 2025	Political Awareness: How to Operate Effectively at the Interface with Elected Members	23
09 Jul 2025	Possession Proceedings and Anti-Social Behaviour	9
16 Jul 2025	The Local Government Lawyer's Essential Guide to Devolution	7



09 Sep 2025	Defending Housing Disrepair Claims	16
11 Sep 2025	A Monitoring Officer's Guide to Managing Discipline and Dismissal of Statutory Officers	22
17 Sep 2025	Establishment and Operation of Local Authority Companies – Key Issues for Local Government Lawyers	15
18 Sep 2025	Planning Committees	18
19 Sep 2025	Planning Conference	47
24 Sep 2025	Local Authority Finance Scrutiny: The Essentials	24
30 Sep 2025	Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions	8
02 Oct 2025	Independent Persons: Role of the IP in Ensuring High Standards of Conduct	22
09 October 2025	All change! Twin Challenges of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	22
14 Oct 2025	The Fundamentals of Local Government	13
21 Oct 2025	Key Challenges and Updates for Monitoring Officers	28
06 Nov 2025	Navigating Data Protection Law	7
07 Nov 2025	Child Protection Conference	68
10 Nov 2025	Dealing with Standards of Conduct of Elected Members	25
11 Nov 2025	Section 106 Agreements	17
12 Nov 2025	Twin Challenges of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	15
13 Nov 2025	Committees Basic Survival Guide	18
19 Nov 2025	Twin Challenges of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	15
20 Nov 2025	The Role of the Monitoring Officer: The Fundamentals	15
26 Nov 2025	Premises Closure Orders	9



28 Nov 2025	Governance Conference Day 1	224
05 Dec 2025	Governance Conference Day 2	224
09 Dec 2025	Establishment and Operation of Local Authority Companies – Key Issues for Local Government Lawyers	14
10 Dec 2025	Twin Challenges of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	17
15 Dec 2025	Planning Basic Survival Guide	10
16 Dec 2025	Access in Housing Cases	8
Jan 2026	Monitoring Officer Induction Programme – Cohort 5	20
08 Jan 2026	The Role of the Monitoring Officer: The Fundamentals	24
15 Jan 2026	Planning Committees	14
20 Jan 2026	Political Awareness: Interface with Elected Members	23
27 Jan 2026	Equal Pay	12
30 Jan 2026	Navigating Freedom of Information Law	0
30 Jan 2026	Navigating Freedom of Information Law	16
03 Feb 2026	Right to Buy Workshop	7
05 Feb 2026	Committees Advanced Survival Guide	9
06 Feb 2026	Elections Conference 2026	34
10 Feb 2026	Monitoring Officer’s Guide to Managing Discipline and Dismissal	23
12 Feb 2026	Half-Day Subsidy Masterclass	8
20 Feb 2026	Traffic Regulation Orders	12
24 Feb 2026	Procurement Basic Survival Guide	16
25 Feb 2026	Dealing with Standards of Conduct of Elected Members	25



26 Feb 2026	Local Government Lawyer's Essential Guide to Devolution	10
03 Mar 2026	Essential Guide to Overview and Scrutiny Committees	22
05 Mar 2026	Section 106 Agreements	11
06 Mar 2026	Adult Social Care Conference	32
09 Mar 2026	Public Rights of Way	6
10 Mar 2026	Key Challenges and Updates for Monitoring Officers	24
12 Mar 2026	School Admissions and Appeals Compliance	6
17 Mar 2026	Call-In	5
19 Mar 2026	Extended Subsidy Masterclass	7
20 Mar 2026	Highways and Development	4
24 Mar 2026	Succession Law Overview for Local Authority Secure Tenancies	7
26 Mar 2026	Independent Persons: Role of the IP in Ensuring High Standards	23
27 Mar 2026	LLG Leadership Conference 2026	44
31 Mar 2026	Court of Protection: Practical Guide to Running Cases	11
Apr 2026	Monitoring Officer Induction Programme – Cohort 6	16
14 Apr 2026	The Role of the Monitoring Officer: The Fundamentals	17
16 Apr 2026	Twin Challenges of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	5
20 Apr 2026	Planning Basic Survival Guide	2
21 Apr 2026	Fundamentals of Local Government	3
23 Apr 2026	Political Awareness: Interface with Elected Members	17
28 Apr 2026	Possession Proceedings and Anti-Social Behaviour	3



Monitoring Officer Induction Programme

The Monitoring Officer Induction Programme is a comprehensive and tailored programme for new Monitoring Officers and Deputy Monitoring Officers. Traditionally the guardian of good governance, lawful decision making, and high standards of conduct, the Monitoring Officer is increasingly required to cultivate additional skills in an ever-more complex political and financial landscape.

LLG's Monitoring Officer Induction Programme is tailored specifically to the needs of MOs and DMOs and comprises a comprehensive blend of live and pre-recorded training sessions to prepare them for this challenging role. The Programme has been designed to provide new MOs and DMOs with a thorough grounding in the fundamental elements of the role of the Monitoring Officer, as well as detailed, practical training on some of the key areas of focus for MOs including governance, finance, scrutiny, working with Independent Persons, political awareness and dealing with Members.

LLG Training has now seen five cohorts of this Programme run successfully since September 2024, with a great demand for places. Cohort six is due to start in April 2026, and cohort seven to kick start in September 2026. Further three cohorts are planned for 2027.

Feedback for cohorts 1 – 5 averaged at 93%. Each cohort has been fully booked with **at least** 20 delegates attending.

Inspire Programme for aspiring Monitoring Officers

A modular programme providing structured development opportunities for the next generation of monitoring officers, enabling them to evidence skills and experience when seeking promotion.

Cohort 2 October 2024 to June 2025: 35 delegates

Cohort 3 October 2025 to June 2026: 18 delegates

The 2025 to 2026 cohort continued the support of attendees with both LLG bursary funding and LGA bursary funding available to apply for.



Training Statistics

New courses launched since 2025 AGM:

1. Online - Procurement Basic Survival Guide
2. Online - Half Day Subsidy Masterclass
3. Online - Extended Subsidy Masterclass
4. Online - Local Authority Finance – key issues and considerations for local government lawyers
5. Online - Standards of Conduct for Councillors in Wales
6. Online - Committees Basic Survival Guide
7. Online - Committees Advanced
8. Online - The Local Government Lawyer's Essential Guide to Devolution
9. Online - The Establishment and Operation of Local Authority Companies – Key Issues and Considerations for Local Government Lawyers

Number of courses and conferences per national lead area

National Lead Area	No
Monitoring Officers and Governance	46
Housing and Regeneration	12
Litigation & Licensing	13
Planning, Highways & Environment	16
Junior Professionals	10
Procurement	3
Children's Services and Education	1
Adult Social Care & Health	2



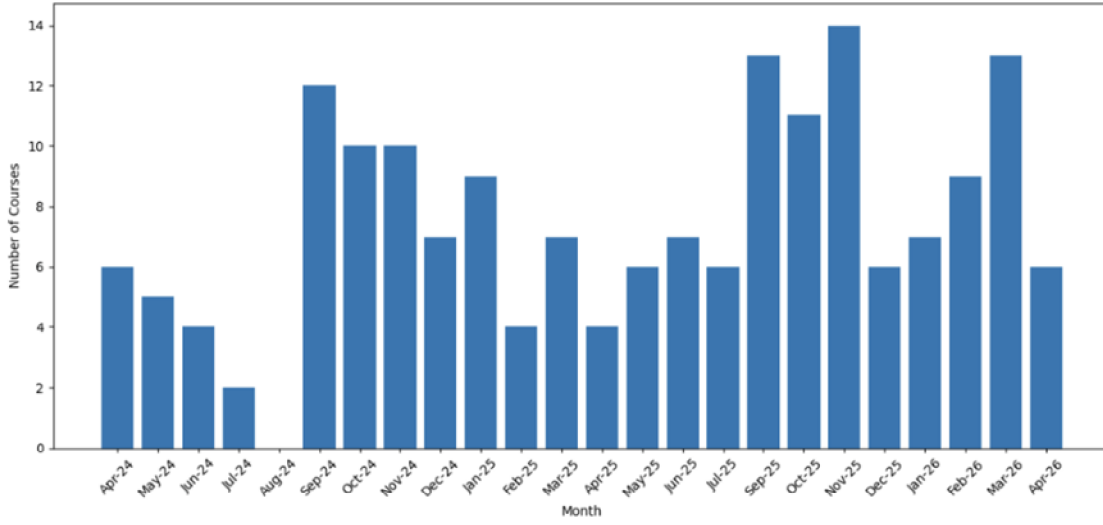
Information Management	3
Employment	1

Number of courses per month

Month	Count
Apr 2025	4
May 2025	6
Jun 2025	7
Jul 2025	6
Sep 2025	13
Oct 2025	11
Nov 2025	14
Dec 2025	6
Jan 2026	7
Feb 2026	9
Mar 2026	13
Apr 2026	6



NUMBER OF COURSES PER MONTH (2024-2026)



Monthly Delegate Attendance Percentage





LLG Membership Events Delivered since April 2025:

NATIONAL LEAD MEETINGS

DATE	LEAD AREA	TOPIC
3-Apr	Children's Services & Education	Preparing for SEN Tribunal hearings – education
9-Apr	Adult Health & Social Care	Members Coffee Chat
10-Apr	Monitoring Officers & Governance	LGR - 'What should MO's be thinking about?'
1-May	Licensing & Litigation	changes to the Housing Act 2004
8-May	Information Management	Responding to an information request (DSAR)
15-May	Adult Health & Social Care	*DoL cases – Re X procedure – rule 1.2/ medical evidence other common issues
22-May	Planning	Planning updates including information on updated legislation and case law
27-May	Junior Professionals	AGM and wider structure/political context of our work
29-May	Housing & Regeneration	



3-Jun	Procurement	Managing Conflicts of Interest and incumbent advantage under the Procurement Act 2023
12-Jun	Employment	Employment Rights Bill
24-Jun	Monitoring Officers & Governance	COFFEE CHAT MEETING
10-Jul	Monitoring Officers & Governance	Responding to Casey – Legal Professional Privilege and what comes next in safeguarding and CSE.
14-Aug	Children's Services & Education	Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Appeals – the importance of parental and the child's views, wishes, and feelings, and the role this plays in Tribunal decision making
21-Aug	Licensing & Litigation	equality impact assessments in local authority litigation
4-Sep	Information Management	to discuss the latest updates on FOI and the EIRs and give some practical guidance and tips on dealing with complex SARs
11-Sep	Housing & Regeneration	Renters Rights Bill
18-Sep	Planning	In this webinar, planning law experts from Capsticks will explore current planning issues such as the revised NPPF, the Planning & Infrastructure Bill together with any relevant case law update.
25-Sep	Junior Professionals	Key Business Skills for Juniors
2-Oct	Adult Health & Social Care	Safeguarding self-neglect and capacity



9-Oct	Procurement	structuring a competitive tendering procedure;
15-Oct	Employment	Neurodiversity in the Workplace
16-Oct	Monitoring Officers & Governance	Governance considerations and navigating the challenges and opportunities of LGR / devolution framework'.
30-Oct	Children's Services & Education	Consideration of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill - practical implications for LA lawyers
6-Nov	Licensing & Litigation	The top ways to minimise cost exposure in defending housing disrepair claims
13-Nov	Information Management	Subject access requests Data breaches, claims and regulatory investigations New rights to complain to data controllers Horizon-scanning on hot-topic issues.
18-Nov	Junior Professionals	Experiences of being a lawyer working in local government and how there's an increasing amount of opportunities and career development growing for junior lawyers working in the sector.
20-Nov	Housing & Regeneration	an overview of the Renters' Rights Act 2025
27-Nov	Planning	a planning update which covers key recent key decision including the Fry Decision, The Epping Forest Decision and the current position on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.



4-Dec	Adult Health & Social Care	Coroners cases
11-Dec	Procurement	Evaluating in accordance with PA23
18-Dec	Employment	TUPE transfers employment and pensions considerations.
15-Jan	MO & Governance	Preparing for Potential Political Upheaval A session on the practical steps to consider before the May elections to prepare your councils for potential political shifts that can help to make the transition far smoother.
22-Jan	LGR	Governance issues arising from LGR with an overview of the practical matters to attend to
29-Jan	Children's Services & Education	ABE (Achieving best evidence in child protection cases) interviews
12-Feb	Information Management	"How to avoid being a rabbit in headlights during a cyber attack"
26-Feb	Housing & Regeneration	Renters' Rights Act
26-Feb	National Lead Coffee Chat	National Lead Coffee Chat
5-Mar	Planning	Planning law Update
12-Mar	Junior Professionals	Tops tips/lessons learnt for the whole lifecycle of a contract and top tips for dispute avoidance.
19-Mar	Procurement	A full update on the legal issues for PA2023
26-Mar	Adult Health & Social Care	Reform of the Mental Health Act (new Act given royal assent in Dec 25)
16-Apr	Employment	To Be Confirmed



27-Apr	LGR	To Be Confirmed
--------	-----	-----------------

LLG Membership Regional Meetings since April 2025

DATE	REGION	TOPIC
22 nd January 2025	Wales	Weightmans - The new procurement regime (Welsh context)
29 th January 2025	Midlands	Capsticks - Local Gov Reform and Devolution
5 th February 2025	Eastern	Browne Jacobson - Devolution white paper
12 th February 2025	Northern	Anthony Collins - Devolution white paper
9 th May 2025	Northern	Trowers & Hamlins - Government's programme of reform to the planning system
14 th May 2025	Midlands	Trowers & Hamlins – Wellbeing & Managing Pressures during LGR
18 th June 2025	Eastern	Anthony Collins – Devolution & Reorganisation
20 th June 2025	London	In Person Meeting held at Capsticks
27 th June 2025	Southern	Sharpe Pritchard – Local Government Finance & S114 Notices
9 th July 2025	Wales	Trowers & Hamlins - Supreme Court judgement on the case For Women Scotland
23 rd July 2025	Northern	Capsticks - Supreme Court judgement on the case For Women Scotland
10 th September 2025	Northern	Sharpe Pritchard – UK's Simpler Recycling Reforms
17 th September 2025	Midlands	Trowers & Hamlins - Planning in relation to the Court of Appeal Ruling on the Bell Hotel and use of injunctions
19 th September 2025	Southern	Southern In-Person Mini Conference
2 nd October 2025	London	London In-Person Mini Conference



8th October 2025	Eastern	Anthony Collins – LGR, Public Procurement & Contacts
11th December 2025	Southern	Sharpe Pritchard - The 2025 election petitions: update for local authorities.
19th January 2026	London	Wilkin Chapman - An update on the practical implications arising from the case of Mazur & Ors v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP
28th January 2026	Northern	Womble Bond Dickinson – Building Safety Act 2022
5th March 2026	Southern	Southern In-Person Mini Conference, Exeter
11th March 2026	Midlands	Anthony Collins – Update on the Employment Rights Act 2025
15th April 2026	Eastern	To Be Confirmed
13th May 2026	Northern	To Be Confirmed
26th June 2026	Southern	To Be Confirmed
1st July 2026	Midlands	To Be Confirmed
15th July 2026	London	To Be Confirmed
29th July 2026	Eastern	To Be Confirmed
12th August 2026	Northern	To Be Confirmed
26th August 2026	Wales	To Be Confirmed



11th September 2026	Southern	To Be Confirmed
23rd September 2026	Midlands	To Be Confirmed
7th October 2026	London	To Be Confirmed
4th November 2026	Eastern	To Be Confirmed
18th November 2026	Northern	To Be Confirmed
2nd December 2026	Wales	To Be Confirmed

WEBINARS

DATE	TOPIC
30th April 2025	Anthony Collins – Proposed Leasehold Reform
13th May 2025	Local Government Social Care Ombudsman – Good Practice Guides
25th June 2025	Capsticks - What does the Case of For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers mean for Local Authorities?
23rd July 2025	Anthony Collins - The Leasehold and &Freehold Reform Act
29th July 2025	Westmoreland & Furness Council – Armed Forces Act
24th October 2025	Anthony Collins – Proposals on Planning Committee Changes



3rd December 2025	Reading Borough Council - Pupillages with Purpose: Building New Pathways into Local Government Law
4th February 2026	Essex County Council - Assessing the Practical Impact of Mazur on Local Authority Legal Services
10th February 2026	Bevan Brittan - Workforce and Employment support following Mazur
13th February 2026	VWV – Employment Rights Act 2025
23rd February 2026	Capsticks – Resilience
25th February 2026	Anthony Collins -
26th February 2026	The Solicitors Charity – Support & Wellbeing
18th March 2026	Local Government Social Care Ombudsman – Planning Enforcement Focus Report

LLG Awards 2025

The Awards ceremony was held during the evening of the Spring Conference in Bristol. Sponsored by the LLG Corporate Partner firms, the winners were:

- Junior Lawyer of the Year
 - Charlotte Smith – North-West Leicestershire Council
- Legal Team of the Year
 - Commercial Property Team - City of Wolverhampton
- Legal Professional of the Year
 - Jeanette Thompson - North Herts Council
- Excellence in Training Award
 - Stockport Council Legal Team
- Suki Binjal Rising Star Award
 - Nicki Agalamanyi - West Northamptonshire Council



- Significant Contribution to Local Government Law and Practice
 - Peter Endall - Warwickshire County Council

Supporting LLG members through learning and development

Throughout the year LLG actively promotes opportunities to apply for bursary funding to assist with learning and development.

- Inspire Programme
- Junior bursary funding to attend the Spring Conference and Governance Conference
- Regional bursary funding to attend the Spring Conference and Governance Conference
- MO bursary funding to attend the Governance Conference

Social Media

LLG has; - LinkedIn Followers

Membership Numbers

6199 (up 710 from last year)

Notable Press

Local Government Lawyer

- LLG reveals name and goals of new professional body for monitoring officers
<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/396-governance-news/99162-llg-reveals-name-and-goals-of-new-professional-body-for-monitoring-officers>
- LLG launches professional body for monitoring officers with Rachel McKoy as Executive Director
<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/marketplace/528-market-news/99103-llg-launches-professional-body-for-monitoring-officers-with-rachel-mckoy-as-executive-director>



- Enjoying the challenge
<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/careers/627-careers-features/99101-enjoying-the-challenge>
- Tributes paid to 'leading figure' in local government law Stephen Taylor
<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/marketplace/527-people/99004-tributes-paid-to-leading-figure-in-local-government-law-stephen-taylor>
- Ombudsman open to running national appeals body for standards complaints, says chief executive
[Ombudsman open to running national appeals body for standards complaints, says chief executive](#)
- LLG to create professional body for all monitoring officers by end of 2025, support members affected by reorganisation, says incoming President
[LLG to create professional body for all monitoring officers by end of 2025, support members affected by reorganisation, says incoming President](#)

The Law Society Gazette

- **Council lawyers set up 'safe space' for monitoring officers**
<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/council-lawyers-set-up-safe-space-for-monitoring-officers/5125294.article>
- **Election planning 'number one priority' for council lawyers following delay U-turn**
<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/election-planning-number-one-priority-for-council-lawyers/5125928.article>

The Municipal Journal (MJ)

- **Professional body for monitoring officers to be launched this month**
<https://www.themj.co.uk/completing-triangle>
- **Standing firm in the fight for hope**
<https://www.themj.co.uk/standing-firm-fight-hope>

Local Government Chronicle (LGC)

- **New Professional Body for Monitoring Officers**
<https://www.lgcplus.com/politics/governance-and-structure/new-professional-body-for-monitoring-officers-25-11-2025/>



The Local Government Legal Society Trust

LLG would like to thank the Trust for helping it to support its members and celebrate their successes. You can read more about the Trust [here](#).



Our Corporate Partners

LLG’s Corporate Partners are an essential support to LLG’s provision of training, support and networking. LLG could not provide the level of membership benefit we do without their continued support. Our grateful thanks to our corporate partners and their excellent work.

To read more about our corporate partners head to our [website](#).

