

09.25 **Welcome**

09.30 – 10.15 **Determining planning applications when the authority is the applicant and the LPA**

The session will consider the legal and governance issues that have to be navigated when a local authority applies for planning permission for development within its own administrative area. In particular, the session will consider:

Processing and determining planning applications:

- Legal procedures to be followed where the applicant is the same authority as the LPA;
- Governance measures to mitigate risk;
- Can an authority appeal against its own LPA?

Dealing with S106 Obligations

- Options for securing S106 obligations where the applicant is land owner and LPA;
- Case law on the use of S106 obligations where the applicant is the land owner and LPA;

Implications where the authority is partnering with a private sector developer

- Consideration of key considerations for partnering arrangements

Rory Stracey, Partner, Planning and Environmental, Trowers & Hamlins

10.15 – 10.30 **Break**

10.30 – 11.15 **The NPPF 2026: Decision-making and development plans**

This session will examine the key changes to the decision-making process introduced by the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including its interaction with the statutory duties imposed on local planning authorities when determining planning applications. It will also consider the transitional effects on existing development plan documents.

The session will highlight the key stages of consideration through the revised presumption in favour of sustainable development, and the key locational determinants of the appropriate development control tests. It will provide practical guidance on structuring committee reports to minimise the risk of legal challenges and on advising officers and members on points of approach.

Guy Williams KC, Barrister, Landmark Chambers

11.15 – 11.30 **Break**

11.30 – 12.15 **Planning Case Law Update**

This session will provide a concise update on recent case law in planning law, emphasising key judgments, latest legal developments, and practical implications for lawyers. The session will explore how courts are shaping policy interpretation, decision-making, and development control, equipping delegates with the knowledge and skills to navigate current challenges with greater confidence and clarity.

Ben Standing, Partner, Browne Jacobson

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 – 14.00 The Infrastructure and Planning Act

This session will consider the Infrastructure and Planning Act and will look at the changes under the Act which have been implemented by secondary legislation to date and the changes which are yet to be brought into law.

Max Howarth, Legal Director, Anthony Collins
Stuart Evans, Partner and Head of Planning, Anthony Collins

14.00 – 14.15 Break

14.15 – 15.00 Habitats Law in Practice: Navigating Nutrient Neutrality and Environmental Delivery Plans

The legal framework governing habitats protection continues to evolve, presenting significant challenges and opportunities for developers, local authorities and decision-makers. In this session, Andrew Byass examines the latest developments in habitats law, with a particular focus on nutrient neutrality and the emerging role of Environmental Delivery Plans. Attendees will gain practical insights into the current legal landscape, implementation challenges, and the implications for planning and development projects.

Andrew Byass, Barrister, Landmark Chambers

15.00 – 15.15 Break

15.15 – 16.00 Enforcement Update

Rebecca and Matt will provide an overview of the latest planning enforcement cases and appeal decisions, highlighting key developments, emerging themes and practical implications for local authority practitioners. The session will consider recent decisions and what they mean in practice for effective planning enforcement.

Rebecca Mushing, Legal Director, Weightmans
Matt Clover, Planning Solicitor, Weightmans

16.00 Close