

PROGRAMME

09.25 **Welcome**

09.30 – 10.15 **LGR, Procurement and Essential Contracts: Solutions for keeping procured services going in the run up to LGR and aligning them post-vesting day.**

Practical guidance on managing procurement and essential contracts through Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Learn how to maintain service continuity pre-vesting day and align contracts post-transition, with strategies to mitigate risk, ensure compliance, and deliver seamless outcomes during structural change.

This session examines procurement and contracting issues arising from Local Government Reorganisation. Pre-vesting day, it focuses on practical ways to keep critical procured services running, manage extensions, variations and novations, and mitigate risk of procurement challenge. Post-vesting day, it considers how to rationalise and align multiple contracts for the same services inherited from different councils, ensuring compliance, value for money and a coherent operating model. The session will provide clear, actionable guidance for procurement and legal professionals.

Louis Sebastian, Partner in Public Commercial Team, Trowers & Hamlins LLP
Taylor-Mae Porter, Associate in Commercial Team, Trowers & Hamlins LLP

Chair: Paul Turner, LLG Past President

10.15 – 10.30 **Break**

10.30 – 11.15 **Preparing for Change from an Employment/TUPE/Pensions Aspect**

Raj Basi Legal Director and Kate Beech Partner will discuss LG transitions and reorganisations and how these can be best managed, including key risks and legal considerations for legal and HR professionals, with a focus on employment and TUPE/pension related issues.

Kate Beech, Partner and Head of Pensions Team, Capsticks
Raj Basi, Legal Director in Employment and Pensions Team, Capsticks

Chair: Deborah Evans, CEO, LLG

11.15 – 11.30 **Break**

11.30 – 12.15 **LGR Transition: Joint Committees in Law and Practice**

This session focuses on the first phase of the LGR transition, where joint committees are established as the primary mechanism for managing reorganisation prior to the creation of shadow authorities. It provides a legal and practical examination of how joint committees operate and the constraints within which they function.

Claire Ward, Partner, Anthony Colins
Sue Bearman, Legal Director, Anthony Collins

Chair: Paul Turner, LLG Past President

12.15 – 13:15 Lunch

13.15 – 14.00 Structural Changes Orders in Depth

Laura Hughes and Hannah Payne will deliver an in depth examination of Structural Changes Orders, outlining the legal framework, procedural requirements and practical implications for local authorities. The session will clarify key stages, common complexities and governance considerations, providing attendees with a clear understanding of how SCOs are developed, implemented and scrutinised. Participants will gain structured guidance to support effective planning and compliance throughout the process.

Laura Hughes, Partner, Browne Jacobson

Hannah Payne, Senior Associate, Browne Jacobson

Chair: Paul Turner, LLG Past President

14.00 – 14.15 Break

14.15 – 15.00 Managing LGR as a Project

Laura Hughes and Paul McCannah will run through a structured, project led approach to managing LGR. The session will set out the core components of effective governance, clear accountability, robust planning and disciplined risk management. Attendees will gain a practical framework for delivering LGR in a controlled, compliant and timely manner, with guidance on anticipating challenges and maintaining organisational alignment throughout the process.

Laura Hughes, Partner, Browne Jacobson

Paul McCannah, Head of Legal Project Management, Browne Jacobson

Chair: Paul Turner, LLG Past President

15.00 – 15.15 Break

15.15 – 16.00 Drafting Constitutions for a Shadow Councils and LGR Considerations in respect of Local Authority Companies and Other Bodies

We will explore what needs to be considered when drafting constitutions for shadow councils, what is essential and what is best practice. We will also cover key issues in respect of local authority companies and other bodies, including parish councils and charter trustees, in the context of local government reorganisation.

Philip McCourt, Legal Director, Bevan Brittan

Andrew Spicer, Partner, Bevan Brittan

Chair: Paul Turner, LLG Past President

16.00 Close