



Government
Commercial
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Supplier

RM6374 Legal Panel for Public Sector

Supplier Prospectus

IVY LEGAL

Supplier	Ivy Legal Limited
Awarded lot	Lot 2 – Focused Legal Support
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Digital tool tagline (140 characters)

Specialists in planning enforcement for Local Authorities providing practical legal advice, an appeals service, injunctions and focused training to local authority planning and legal officers and members.

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Supplier Introductions

Ivy Legal Limited is a specialised planning enforcement law firm and planning consultancy. We support local authorities across the lifecycle of an enforcement matter: investigation and evidence gathering, reports and notices, appeals, prosecutions, confiscation proceedings and, where appropriate, direct action. Our goal is to offer a one-stop shop for your planning enforcement needs. Too often the planning system is let down by weak and ineffectual enforcement, with breaches becoming immune due to lack of council resources or stuck in the mire of complex legal problems.

Our planners and lawyers work together to ensure that enforcement action is taken on planning breaches quickly and firmly, and we defend appeals on behalf of local authorities whether or not we assisted with preparation of the notice.

Training is an established part of Ivy Legal's service. We provide regular live virtual training for local authority planning enforcement and development management professionals, including the Certificate in Planning Enforcement. This four-module programme is designed for both new and experienced officers and provides a structured grounding in the legal and practical use of planning enforcement powers. Delivery combines taught in person and online sessions, self-directed learning, case studies, quizzes, written work and small group exercises.

We also deliver workshops on various topics, including but not limited to Prosecutions, Advertisements, Short term lets, Defending Enforcement appeals, Notices, Conditions and commencements, Caravans, BNG, Certificates of Lawfulness.

What Councils can expect

We work collaboratively with Councils, either managing individual matters and projects or operating as an extension of an existing legal, planning or enforcement team. Instructions are scoped at the outset, with responsibilities, priorities and anticipated outputs clearly identified. Advice is focused on the Council's objectives, the available evidence, legal and procedural risks, proportionality and the practical steps needed to progress the matter.

Councils can expect accessible senior input, continuity or personnel and advice expressed in clear operational terms. Our experience of working within and alongside local authorities gives us an understanding of the legal, political, policy and resource considerations that affect planning enforcement decisions. We can support Councils with complex high-risk matters,

additional case capacity, service improvement projects and the development of effective working practices.

What distinguishes Ivy Legal

Our distinguishing feature is the combination of specialist planning lawyers, experienced planning professionals and an established training programme within one service. Councils receive support that addresses the immediate legal matter while also considering its practical implementation and opportunities to build lasting capability within their own teams.

Team Structure

Supplier Relationship Manager: Izindi Visagie

Bid and tender contact: Izindi Visagie

Core Team

Izindi Visagie LLB, MBA, LARTPI – Solicitor: Founded Ivy Legal after working in planning legal teams at the London Boroughs of Bromley, Kensington and Chelsea, and Harrow. Her work spans hands-on enforcement action and advocacy at public inquiry. She is involved in planning enforcement education through the Royal Town Planning Institute and its National Association for Planning Enforcement network.

Roderick Morton BA (Oxon) – Partner and solicitor: A solicitor with more than 20 years' experience and a former partner at Herbert Smith Freehills. He provides legal review to planners, prepares appeals and acts as an advocate.

Neill Whittaker MRTPI – Planning enforcement lead: More than 15 years' planning enforcement experience, including management of enforcement teams for Runnymede, Hertsmere and Waltham Forest and delivery of the service for Ealing. He handles complex prosecutions and appeals and is a past chair of the National Association for Planning Enforcement.

Ingrid Smith – Planning enforcement and service improvement: More than 11 years' experience managing a local planning authority enforcement team. Her experience includes service redesign, financial models, case-management development, enforcement projects, evidence in prosecutions and inquiries, and professional training.

Capacity and additional resources

The core team can be configured around the matter, drawing together planning, legal review, witness support and advocacy. Where a Call Off requires additional capability, Ivy Legal can work with accredited financial investigators and confiscation matters and appropriate contractors for direct-action support. Ivy Legal would remain the prime point of accountability, agree roles with the buyers in advance, apply conflict and confidentiality controls, and manage quality and reporting across the team.

Social Value

Better council services, stronger communities

Effective planning enforcement protects local amenity, supports sustainable development and maintains public confidence in the planning system. Ivy Legal helps councils investigate breaches, make defensible decisions and take proportionate action. This can reduce delay, defective notices, unnecessary appeals and wasted public resources, enabling councils to focus on cases causing the greatest public harm.

Our social value offer goes beyond this core service. It is the additional capability, knowledge, opportunity and public understanding that we create through each Call-Off Order and leave behind when the instruction ends.

Our approach

At mobilisation, we will agree a proportionate Social Value Delivery Plan reflecting the Call-Off Order, the applicable RM6374 requirements, the buyer's priorities and, where relevant, the PPN 002 Social Value Model.

The plan will identify:

- specific, measurable and time-bound commitments;
- intended beneficiaries;
- activities additional to the core service;
- delivery dates and responsible individuals;
- appropriate measures and evidence; and
- reporting and review arrangements.

Activities already included in the core contractual service will not also be counted as additional social value.

Developing Council capability

Our principal contribution is helping councils build and retain planning-enforcement capability. Additional activities may include:

- workshops on investigations, evidence, notices, appeals, prosecutions and injunctions;
- case debriefs and mentoring;
- practical templates, checklists and guidance;
- briefings on legislative, policy and case-law developments; and
- support with case triage, decision-making and quality assurance.

The intended legacy is a team better able to resolve future cases independently, consistently and promptly. For residents, this means clearer communication, earlier decisions and greater confidence that alleged breaches will be investigated fairly.

Commitments may be measured through learning hours, sessions delivered, officers supported, resources produced and participant feedback. This work particularly supports PPN 002 Outcome 2, “Skills for growth”.

Public understanding and confidence

Planning enforcement is difficult for residents and businesses to understand. Uncertainty about Councils’ powers and the limits of enforcement can itself undermine confidence.

Ivy Legal publishes practical, plain-English articles explaining planning-enforcement law and procedure. Where relevant and additional to a Call-Off Order, we may also:

- produce public-facing guidance or frequently asked questions;
- contribute to officer, member or community briefings;
- explain important changes in law or policy; and
- create material that the buyer can use or signpost from its website.

Materials will protect confidentiality and will not comment on live cases unless authorised. This work can support community engagement under PPN 002 Outcome 3.

Supporting the wider planning system

Ivy Legal contributes to Royal Town Planning Institute initiatives, professional knowledge-sharing and relevant Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultations and policy work.

This involvement enables us to bring current thinking to buyer instructions and to share anonymised lessons from local-authority work across the sector. Agreed additional activities may include policy briefings, professional learning opportunities or assistance in communicating recurring operational difficulties to relevant professional and government forums.

Fair work and opportunity

We maintain fair, respectful and inclusive working practices, with clear responsibilities, appropriate flexibility, access to development and reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Where proportionate to the Call-Off Order, we will explore opportunities for mentoring, career talks, work experience, placements and engagement with schools, universities and professional networks. We will particularly consider how people facing barriers to legal, planning or public-sector careers can access these opportunities.

These commitments may support PPN 002 Outcomes 1, 6 and 7.

Responsible supply chains and sustainable delivery

Where external expertise is required, we will consider suitable opportunities for SMEs, specialist providers and voluntary, community and social enterprises, subject to appropriate competence, confidentiality, regulatory and conflict checks.

We will reduce environmental impacts through digital-first working, electronic document management, virtual meetings, reduced printing and coordinated travel. Our wider approach is set out in the [Ivy Legal Carbon Reduction Plan](#), including our commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050.

Contract-specific supply-chain and environmental commitments may be agreed under PPN 002 Outcomes 3 and 4.

Wellbeing and safeguarding

Planning-enforcement work can involve urgent litigation, difficult site circumstances and sustained public pressure. We support personnel through realistic workload planning, regular communication, flexible working where appropriate and early discussion of support or adjustment needs.

Wellbeing commitments may be agreed under PPN 002 Outcome 8. Outcome 5 will only be used where relevant and selected by the buyer, with commitments directed to its specified safeguarding or domestic-abuse criteria. Ordinary planning enforcement casework will not be presented as additional crime-reduction social value.

Measurement and accountability

Progress will be reviewed with the buyer at agreed intervals. Evidence may include learning hours, attendance records, resources produced, publication records, feedback, environmental data and relevant outreach or supply-chain activity.

If an activity is not achieving its intended result, we will agree proportionate corrective action or an appropriate alternative consistent with the applicable social value outcome.

Our objective is to leave the buyer with stronger capability, better resources and a more effective service, while helping residents and businesses understand and retain confidence in the planning system.

Specialism: Planning Law

Lot 2

Enforcement casework: Investigation strategy, evidence and lawfulness assessments, preparation and review of committee reports, drafting and service of notices, negotiation, compliance monitoring and advice on options which may include prosecution, injunction or direct action. We also support enforcement backlogs, complex case reviews and service improvement projects.

Appeals and challenges: Preparation of appeal questionnaires, statements and responses; proofs of evidence; witness preparation; planning evidence and legal advocacy and written-representations appeals, hearings and public inquiries. Legal and planning input is coordinated from the notice state so that the Council presents a consistent case.

Prosecutions: Pre-action review, evidential and procedural checks, preparation and service of court documents, witness statements, trial advocacy and case management. We assess cases for Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation at an early state and, where appropriate, coordinate Accredited Financial Investigators and conduct or negotiate confiscation proceedings.

Injunctions: Case review, evidential and procedural advice, preparation and service of court documents, assisting with review of witness statements, instructing counsel and case management.

Community Infrastructure Levy: Advice and operational support covering chargeable development, commencements, liability and demand notices, surcharges, stop notices, section 73 and 73A, collection administration, liability orders, prosecutions, injunctions and appeals. Support can include individual matters, casework surgeries, team management, training and mentoring.

Training and knowledge transfer: Ivy Legal delivers the Certificate in Planning Enforcement together with live virtual courses on a range of topics. Training combines legal principles with practical case studies and group exercises covering various specialist enforcement topics. Bespoke training is available upon request.

Delivery and buyer benefit: Buyers receive a clearly scoped service, a coordinated legal and planning team, agreed milestones and proportionate reporting. We can provide complete case ownership or defined-stage support, with fixed-fee arrangements available for suitable appeals and other clearly scoped work.

Operations management:

Working with Enforcement teams to map processes, interview officers to identify strengths and weaknesses and review selected cases to inform advice on process improvement, education and team development.

Case study: complex Green Belt enforcement

Ivy Legal was approached by a local planning authority for advice on a longstanding planning breach involving extensive mixed commercial activities across a large Green Belt site. Previous attempts to take enforcement action had been unsuccessful, and the site presented substantial evidential and procedural difficulties. In particular, the nature, location and relationship of the numerous activities had to be identified accurately before a legally robust enforcement strategy could be developed.

We visited the site, reviewed its planning and enforcement history and prepared a detailed report recommending a practical course of action. We then supported the authority in defending the resulting appeal across all the grounds pursued. This included developing a creative but legally sound response to the ground (e) challenge, dealing with the difficulties created by numerous and changing site occupiers. Throughout the process, we worked closely with counsel, tested the evidence and arguments rigorously and ensured that the authority understood both the strengths of its position and the remaining litigation risks.

The appeal was successfully defended and the enforcement notice was upheld, subject only to limited variations. The outcome demonstrates our ability to bring structure and direction to complex, longstanding enforcement cases: combining detailed site investigation, strategic legal advice and effective collaboration with officers and counsel. We remain robust in defending a council's position while giving clear, realistic advice about evidential weaknesses, procedural risks and the proportionality of the action being pursued.

Limitations:

Planning enforcement and closely related planning law for public authorities only. Availability, conflicts, and any additional resource requirements will be confirmed for each Call Off Order.