

Introducing STEPHENS SCOWN'S PUBLIC SECTOR TEAM

With its strong track record of working with town and parish councils, leading South West law firm Stephens Scown LLP has formed a new Public Sector team to offer specialist advice to Unitary, County, City, Town and Parish Councils, public sector-owned companies and other public authorities and bodies.

Headed up by Tim Walmsley, the multidisciplinary team is highly regarded and noted by St Ives Town Council for their 'very impressive technical abilities' and 'very good' service delivery.

Public Sector Expertise

Our team includes a number of lawyers with significant experience of working within the Public Sector, having either held senior in-house roles in local government, spent time on secondment or worked extensively with public sector clients.

We recognise that the public sector has to carefully balance the demand for vitally important public services with significant ongoing budgetary pressures.

Our experience means we really understand the issues, culture and the importance of maximising opportunities. This enables us to support our public sector clients and work with them to develop new ways to maintain services by realising commercial opportunities and promoting innovative ways of working.

As a result, we work with an increasing number of local authorities and their associated companies covering a wide variety of specialist areas including:

- *Commercial property matters including acquisitions, disposals and landlord and tenant matters*
- *Property litigation and dispute resolution*
- *Planning and Highways including compulsory purchase matters, common land and town and village greens*
- *Governance, procedure and practice, and judicial review*
- *Project delivery*
- *Commercial contracts, Public procurement and State aid*
- *Service delivery models including innovative corporate structuring arrangements, joint ventures, partnerships and shared services arrangements*
- *Commercial dispute resolution and debt recovery*
- *Employment, TUPE and pensions*
- *Energy and Renewables*
- *Charities*
- *Data protection, GDPR and Freedom of Information*
- *Byelaws, allotments, cemeteries and devolution transfers*

Meet the Core Team

Tim Walmsley Partner

A Partner in Stephens Scown's real estate department, Tim Walmsley leads the public sector team and advises on a wide range of commercial property matters, including sales, purchases, development agreements, options, landlord and tenant matters, compulsory purchase and charity transactions.

Before joining Stephens Scown, Tim worked in the public sector for over 20 years including four years with Cornwall Council, where he headed up their Property and Highways team. Tim is a member of the Charity Law Association and the Compulsory Purchase Association.



Laurie Trounce

Laurie Trounce joined Stephens Scown as a Partner in the Corporate Team in 2017, having previously been the Acting Head of Legal at Cornwall Council. She has a strong track record of delivering complex, high value projects in the public sector with particular expertise in dealing with major procurements and advising on alternative delivery vehicles, including the use of trading companies and joint ventures. Laurie has a Post Graduate Diploma in Local Government Law and Practice and is a member of the Charity Law Association.



Richard Bagwell

Recognised as a leading individual in the latest editions of independent guides, Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, Richard is a highly regarded litigator with significant experience handling complex property disputes on behalf of both private and public sector clients. He heads up the Property Litigation Team at Stephens Scown and is a member of the Property Litigation Association, the Agricultural Law Association and the Pyramus & Thisbe Club (an association of Party Wall experts).



Meet the Core Team

Chris Tofts

Partner and head of planning law at Stephens Scown, Chris started his career in the public sector and has extensive experience in planning matters such as drafting s106 agreements and applying for Certificates of Lawfulness, and has appeared in the Magistrates' Courts and the County Court in planning matters as well as at Planning Inquiries.

Chris also has expertise in dealing with highways issues, including the legal creation of highways, Stopping-up Orders, footpath Orders, the Advance Payments Code, s38 and s278 agreements.



Tim Lane

Tim is a senior associate within our corporate and commercial team. Tim has worked in the legal sector since 2007 and qualified as a solicitor in 2011 whilst working within a large unitary authority legal team.

Tim advises on general corporate matters, including the incorporation and administration of corporate entities. He is involved in a range of corporate transactions, including the acquisition and sale of businesses, company restructuring, and investment.

He also provides advice on public sector commercial matters including public procurement. Tim has a Post Graduate Diploma in Local Government Law and Practice.



Lydia Hart

A Paralegal, due to qualify as a Chartered Legal Executive in the spring of 2023, Lydia has worked for the firm for six years within the Real Estate team, specialising in working with charities and public sector clients. She acts across a broad spectrum of transactions, ranging from disposals and acquisitions through to landlord and tenant and charging batches.

Lydia has been noted by Coastline Housing Limited as *'dedicated'* and *'passionate'*, which was evident from the *'timely way in which they progress transactions and from their communication throughout.'*



Meet the Core Team

Jim Gorrod

Head of the Construction team and a recognised leader in his field by Legal 500 and Chambers Legal directory. Jim advises clients on the drafting of build contracts, development agreements, collateral warranties and professional appointments, as well as advising on construction procurement.

The team have been heavily involved in work related to fire safety defects, representing one of the core participants in the Grenfell Inquiry. Alongside this Jim also deals with all manner of building disputes.

Jim regularly lectures to other professionals on construction law issues and is involved in Constructing Excellence and the Society of Construction Law.



Hazel Sanders

Hazel is a Chartered Legal Executive in our employment team and has been with the firm since 2015. Hazel provides clients with advice on a wide variety of HR and employment matters including in relation to restructure/redundancy, holiday pay, sickness absence, performance management and disciplinary procedures.

She reviews employment documentation to ensure it meets both legal requirements and the needs of the business. Hazel is involved in corporate transactional matters, with experience of TUPE and is experienced in contentious matters both pre and post litigation.



Wider support

In addition to the core team, we can also call upon our wider cohort of specialist lawyers to provide support covering a wide spectrum of legal sectors and will make sure that you are always directed to the right professional.

Work highlights

- *Advising on a significant transaction for a large local authority owned group of companies in connection with the sale of its innovative highways joint venture company*
- *Governance and strategic procurement advice in connection with a number of high value works, services and supply contracts*
- *Drafting and negotiating an agreement for lease for the construction of a new car park including the provision of collateral warranties and financial security against non-performance*
- *Advising on a local authority owned group in relation to the establishment of a service delivery and financing arrangements in connection with a high value outsourcing arrangement involving a multi-million pound capital funding package for the acquisition of a property portfolio for the provision of temporary accommodation provision for the homeless*
- *Advising on a high value sub-contract agreement in connection with the provision of public bus services*
- *Providing draft heads of terms for the lease of a playing field for consideration by a town council*
- *Advising on the amalgamation and restructuring of unincorporated charities where a Town Council was a holding trustee*
- *Advising on the documentation relating to the installation of electric vehicle charging points*
- *Advising on the numerous linked property transactions, including a sale, a purchase and associated options required to facilitate a consolidated site for an academy school*

Key clients

Bodmin Town Council

Okehampton Town Council

Wadebridge Town Council

Ivybridge Town Council

Totnes Town Council

Salcombe Town Council

St Ives Town Council

Cranbrook Town Council

Get in touch

Our experience of working with housing, local government and health organisations means we are able to support and enable collaborative working across sectors. We are confident that we are the right legal partner for you and would love the opportunity to discuss any requirements you may have.

For more information or to arrange an informal conversation with one of our team, please contact Tim Walmsley:

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01872 265104