



# Public Sector

Our Public Sector and Projects Group is a formidable force; a group of highly experienced lawyers who fully understand the many, and ever-changing challenges faced by clients in both the public and private sectors. With their proactive and commercial approach, they are extremely client-focused and have dealt with many large and complex matters, helping their clients achieve the desired result.

The Group has substantial in-house experience, particularly in the public sector where team members have held a variety of senior positions, giving them an invaluable insight into the many pressures within Local Government, enabling them to be innovative in the range of solutions they can provide.

*“The one thing you can always say about this firm is that the quality of the lawyers is top-notch.”* – Chambers



## HOW WE CAN HELP

### Project managing complex transactions

Walker Morris has advised Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Borough Council and Rotherham Borough Council (BDR) on their joint waste PFI project. As one of the largest waste projects to close in the last 12 months in the UK and one of the best examples of joint procurement in recent years, this meant that good working relationships and excellent teamwork from all parties was vital to bring this complex project to financial close.

*“We were very pleased to work with David and his team at Walker Morris on this major project. We received excellent legal advice and practical guidance across a very wide range of legal disciplines.”* – BDR Legal team

### Supporting you as a trusted adviser

The Public Sector and Project Group has been an adviser to the City of Wakefield MDC for many years and recently worked with the Council to establish and incorporate the trust that runs the Hepworth Wakefield. Completed in 12 months, and working closely with the client’s project officers, the legal team showed real drive and commitment delivering innovative solutions via a streamlined process. This meant that not only were management timetables reduced to fit with construction programmes, but a tax-efficient solution of a trust was created, delivering real benefits to the client and the stakeholders.

*“The inspirational way the Team were able to work cohesively and seamlessly together was a key factor in the successful delivery of the project.”* – Wakefield MDC

### Achieving results

Walker Morris advised Kirklees Council on this first fully new build HRA scheme. This project was the first of its kind to combine general needs provision with Extra Care. The scheme was also spread over 30 plus sites across the whole of the Council area. Ensuring a team with the right experience and expertise, as well as one which worked well with the in-house team was key to the project’s successful delivery.

*“We have a great relationship with the Team at Walker Morris – they worked in partnership with us and supported us through the ups and downs of this project and they were a significant factor in helping us get across the line on it!”* – Kirklees Council

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### Value creators

Walker Morris worked closely with Doncaster Metropolitan Council's own in-house team on their One Trust project to place all local authority and leisure trust operated facilities under one operator. We advised from the earliest stages of the process until financial close on the transfer of four leisure centres, four sports centres, together with a swimming pool, a golf course and a water sports park to Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust. As well as drafting all necessary funding and transaction documents we provided detailed procurement and state aid advice to ensure that the Council achieved an optimal delivery structure to suit their objectives.

*"Walker Morris has built longstanding relationships as part of a strong national offering."* – Legal 500

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Charities
- Charging and trading
- Education
- Energy & renewables
- Facilities management
- Healthcare
- Information governance
- Infrastructure
- Leisure & culture
- Local government
- Public procurement
- Public sector projects
- Regeneration and housing
- Social enterprise and other delivery vehicles
- Technology, media and telecoms
- Waste and anaerobic digestion

### WALKER MORRIS

*"A distinctive law firm valued by its clients for consistently delivering excellent results."*

We offer a single site, full service commercial law firm focused on providing our clients, nationally and internationally, with partner-led, high quality advice. Our national centre of excellence in Leeds has significant advantages in terms of developing a strong, collaborative culture, with the inherent value and cost effectiveness that a Leeds base brings.

With a staff of over 450 including 48 partners, Walker Morris is uniquely recognised for its strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straight forward advice. We offer our clients truly accessible partners who get the job right – providing partner-led advice based on their knowledge and understanding of working with individual clients.

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