

# Leisure & Culture

We understand the challenges facing the leisure and culture sector; the need for innovation, modernisation and improvement in a challenging financial environment. Increasingly leisure is at the heart of improving the nation's health, supported by Clinical Commissioning Groups, and localism as facilities are increasingly owned and operated at a community level.

Walker Morris LLP combines expertise in public law, local government, commercial contracting, governance, probity and regulatory compliance. Our Commercial Group includes specialists in local government, leisure management and charity related matters. The group has substantial in-house experience, particularly in the public sector where team members have held a variety of senior positions. This in-depth knowledge of the sector enables them to be innovative in the range of solutions they can provide.

The team is supported by specialists across the firm including employment and real estate.



## HOW CAN WE HELP

### **Project managing complex transactions**

York Community Stadium – advising York City Council on a project to procure the construction and operation of a Community stadium. It is intended that this will be a shared facility housing York City FC, York Knights RLFC and a number of other potential uses including athletics, cycling and community sports use.

### **Supporting you as a trusted adviser**

We have advised one of the country's leading leisure facilities operators and a charitable leisure trust on a range of leisure management contracts and charitable trust structures since 2002, including contracts involving dual use school leisure sites.

### **Achieving results**

Hepworth Gallery Trust – advised the promoters on all aspects of the formation and establishment of this arts education charity. The Trust was established to raise funds towards the construction by City of Wakefield MDC of the £25m Hepworth Gallery and thereafter to support education outreach activities from the gallery. We also advised the Trust on its grant conditions. The collaborative effort won the 2011 Yorkshire Lawyers Award for Enterprise.

*“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

### **Supporting business goals**

We advised a major corporate on an options appraisal for the creation of an independent community sports club from their historic staff/community sports club comprising outdoor and indoor sports and social facilities. The options appraisal covered a full range of options including various contracting models and NPDO or charitable vehicles.

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### Value creators

Walker Morris worked closely with Doncaster Metropolitan Council's on the 'One Trust' project to place all local authority and leisure trust operated facilities under one operator. We advised from the outset to 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 funding and transactional documents we provided detailed structuring 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

- Charging and trading
- Charities
- Commercial Issues
- Company law
- Constitutional advice
- Employment
- Energy & renewables
- Energy efficiency
- Facilities management
- Funding
- Infrastructure
- Governance
- Grant applications, terms and conditions
- Information governance
- Leisure & culture
- Local government
- Mergers
- Options appraisals
- Pensions
- Public Procurement
- Real estate
- Service level agreements with local authorities and other organisations
- Social enterprise and other delivery vehicles
- Staff mutuals
- State Aid
- Structures
- Tax advice
- Technology, media and telecoms
- Transfers
- Vires

### WALKER MORRIS

*"A distinctive law firm valued by its clients that consistently delivers excellent results."*

We offer our clients a full service commercial law firm focused on providing a wide range of clients, nationally and internationally, with partner led high quality advice. The national centre of excellence in Leeds that we have built offers significant advantages in terms of developing a strong team-based culture within the Firm, with the inherent value and cost effectiveness that a Leeds base brings.

The success of our model is reflected by our clients, which are drawn from a broad range of sectors. We are recognised for our strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straight forward advice. Both the Firm and our lawyers are recognised as leaders in their fields with 96 per cent of our partners recommended in either Chambers or Legal 500 for their expertise.

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