

Our regeneration team

Below are some of the key members of the Eversheds regeneration team:



Stephen Sorrell - partner

Stephen is the head of the Developer Sector Group at Eversheds which provides development and regeneration services to clients in the public and private sectors.

He acts as strategic legal adviser in commercial property development and urban regeneration projects for several major private and public companies including Cibitas, AMEC Developments Limited, Urban Splash, Ask Property Developments Limited and Igloo Regeneration. He also acts for several urban Local Authorities in the context of town/city centre regeneration projects including Manchester, Preston and Peterborough and has worked extensively with many of the urban regeneration companies including New East Manchester and Liverpool Vision. He is the client partner for Eversheds' relationship with both English Partnerships and Northwest Development Agency. Projects in which Stephen has recently had a lead involvement include the extensive re-development of Milton Keynes central and surrounding area via a partnership between English Partnerships and Milton Keynes Council and other stakeholders; and the regeneration of the Kings Waterfront area in Liverpool to deliver a major new arena, conference and exhibition centre, new public areas, residential units and leisure facilities including a new casino.



Simon Oats - partner

Simon is a partner in our construction team and the Head of the London and South East Construction team. He is a construction specialist praised by The Legal 500 and Chambers for his strong reputation. He deals with all construction contractual issues. He is responsible for managing the construction services provided to property, development and education clients, whether public or private sector, across Eversheds.

Simon advises on a full range of procurement options in particular on JCT, ICE, GC works and ECC and bespoke contract conditions for a wide range of projects acting for employers, contractors and members of the professional team. He has particular experience of major projects procured under the private finance initiative, regeneration and education projects. He and his team are therefore well used to meeting the challenge of complex ventures involving a range of legal disciplines and a multiplicity of interested parties.

Whilst his emphasis is on sound contractual structures supported by a partnering ethos, Simon is also able to assist in the identification and resolution of construction disputes. He has wide experience of technology and construction court matters, arbitrations and adjudications. He is also a strong advocate of alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation and early expert evaluation.



Bruce Dear - partner

Bruce is a partner and head of the real estate investment group. He is real estate client partner for, amongst others, Legal & General and Stockland Halladale.

He has acted on a number of key investment transactions, including the purchase of shopping centres, and large numbers of significant acquisitions and asset management transactions relating to office, industrial and retail property.

He has also been an adviser to the BPF on landlord and tenant matters. Publications Bruce writes for on property issues include the 'Financial Times', 'Estates Gazette' and 'Property Week'.



Ruth Connorton - partner

Ruth is a partner and heads the commercial team in our Newcastle office. She qualified as a solicitor in industry in 1992 working for a major utility plc for five years before moving into private practice.

Ruth has advised on EU procurement since its appearance into English law. She advises many contracting authorities on procurement in both the public and utilities arenas on issues ranging from day to day practical application to the procurement management of major projects. Ruth has particular expertise in the application of public procurement rules in regeneration and development projects. Recent major projects include One NorthEast's procurement of a private sector partner for its industrial property portfolio "Buildings for Business" and the reselection of Business Link providers. She has advised on issues of emerging legislation including the Alcatel ruling and had mounted and defended procurement challenges. Ruth heads Eversheds' national procurement teams advising Transport for London and English Partnerships.

Ruth is recognised by both Chambers UK: A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession and The Legal 500, with the latter commenting that she "is particularly strong on public procurement matters and clients praise her ability to explain complex legal matters clearly and concisely." Ruth regularly speaks at conferences for external training providers and has personal experience as a board director. Ruth regularly speaks at conferences for external training providers and has personal experience as a board director.



Kuljeet Hothi - partner

Kuljeet specialises in joint ventures having set up a number of public/public and public/private partnerships, including limited partnerships, corporate joint ventures and contractual joint ventures. Kuljeet has acted as a lead assistant on a number of high profile transactions including the public/private partnership between the East Midlands Development Agency and Igloo Property Unit Trust and in advising Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council in relation to their local delivery arrangements.

Kuljeet has also acted as lead assistant on the formation of a number of the Urban Regeneration Companies. In all these projects she has been closely involved with the client in developing a workable structure in the early stages through to preparing, negotiating and completing the relevant constitutional documents.

Kuljeet is currently involved in structuring a number of vehicles in relation to regeneration schemes. She is engaged in a number of schemes which involve putting together innovative structures for sophisticated public sector clients wishing to engage the private sector, including structures involving a number of local authorities, regional development agencies and English Partnerships.



Paul Wootton - partner

Paul is the head of Eversheds National Planning Team. He advises Regional Development Agencies, local authorities, educational establishments, landowners, developers and objectors on the whole range of town and country planning matters including planning appeals, planning applications, Section 106 Agreements, Section 278 Agreements, local plan representations, compulsory acquisition, blight, listed buildings and conservation areas.

Specific projects he is currently working on include: acting for the LDA in connection with all planning and compulsory purchase matters in relation to The 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in the Lower Lea Valley; acting for SEEDA in connection with the Queensborough and Rushenden regeneration on the Isle of Sheppey; acting for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council in connection with the NORA project (where East of England Development Agency is an important partner), a Millennium Community with significant EP funding; acting for Ashwell Group PLC in connection with the £850m mixed use redevelopment of the Station Road Area in Cambridge; acting for Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Limited ("Seaspace") on the regeneration of the Ore Valley and the Station area in Hastings.

Anthony van Hoffen - associate

Anthony is an associate in the London real estate developers team and specialises in advising on town centre regeneration, commercial developments and infrastructure projects. He re-qualified in the United Kingdom in 1999, after initially qualifying as an attorney, conveyancer and notary in South Africa. Anthony has particular expertise in advising the public sector, and is currently leading the Eversheds teams advising the Brighton & Hove City Council on the regeneration of the Brighton Conference Centre, the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham on the re-provision of Civic Accommodation within a mixed-use regeneration scheme. He has recently completed the negotiation of a Development Agreement for a retail-led mixed-use scheme in Darlington for the Darlington Borough Council, and continues to advise the Council on the implementation of the provisions of the Development Agreement.

Anthony led the Eversheds team advising the London Development Agency on negotiations with statutory undertakers to deal with their interests and apparatus within the Olympic Park site, and continues to advise on key infrastructure projects

for delivering the Olympic facilities. He is also involved in the review of the legal structures to be put in place as part of the strategy for the delivery of the Legacy development within the Olympic Park, and advises on estate management issues at the LDA's Three Mills Studios Estate, and the Olympia Trading Estate. He also advises TfL on their development projects, particularly in relation to the upgrading and maintenance of the London underground network.

On the private sector side Anthony is the key client contact for St Modwen, including leading the team on the Bognor Regis regeneration project on which St Modwen have been appointed as preferred developer. He has also previously advised Deutsche Asset Management on development related investment projects.