

**Buckinghamshire  
Law Plus**

Quality. Affordability. Excellence.

# Welcome to Buckinghamshire Law Plus

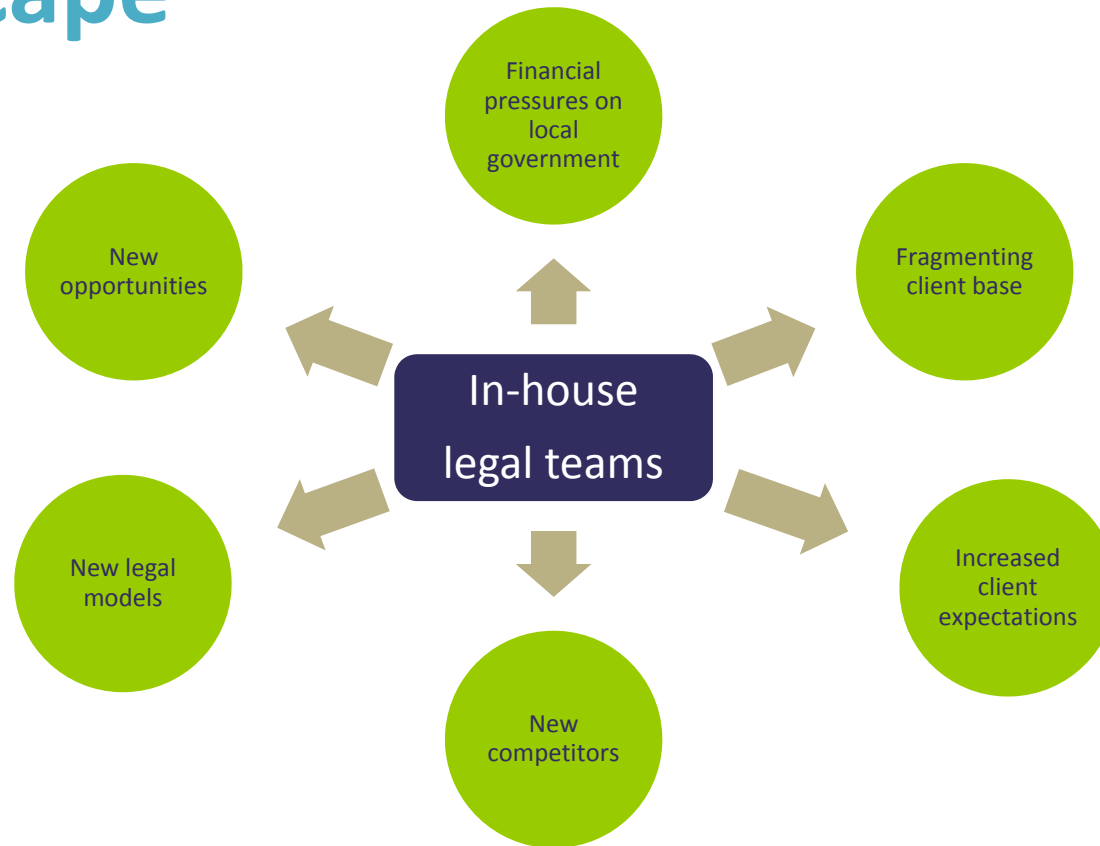
The first local authority in the country to establish an independent legal practice.

# Current Landscape



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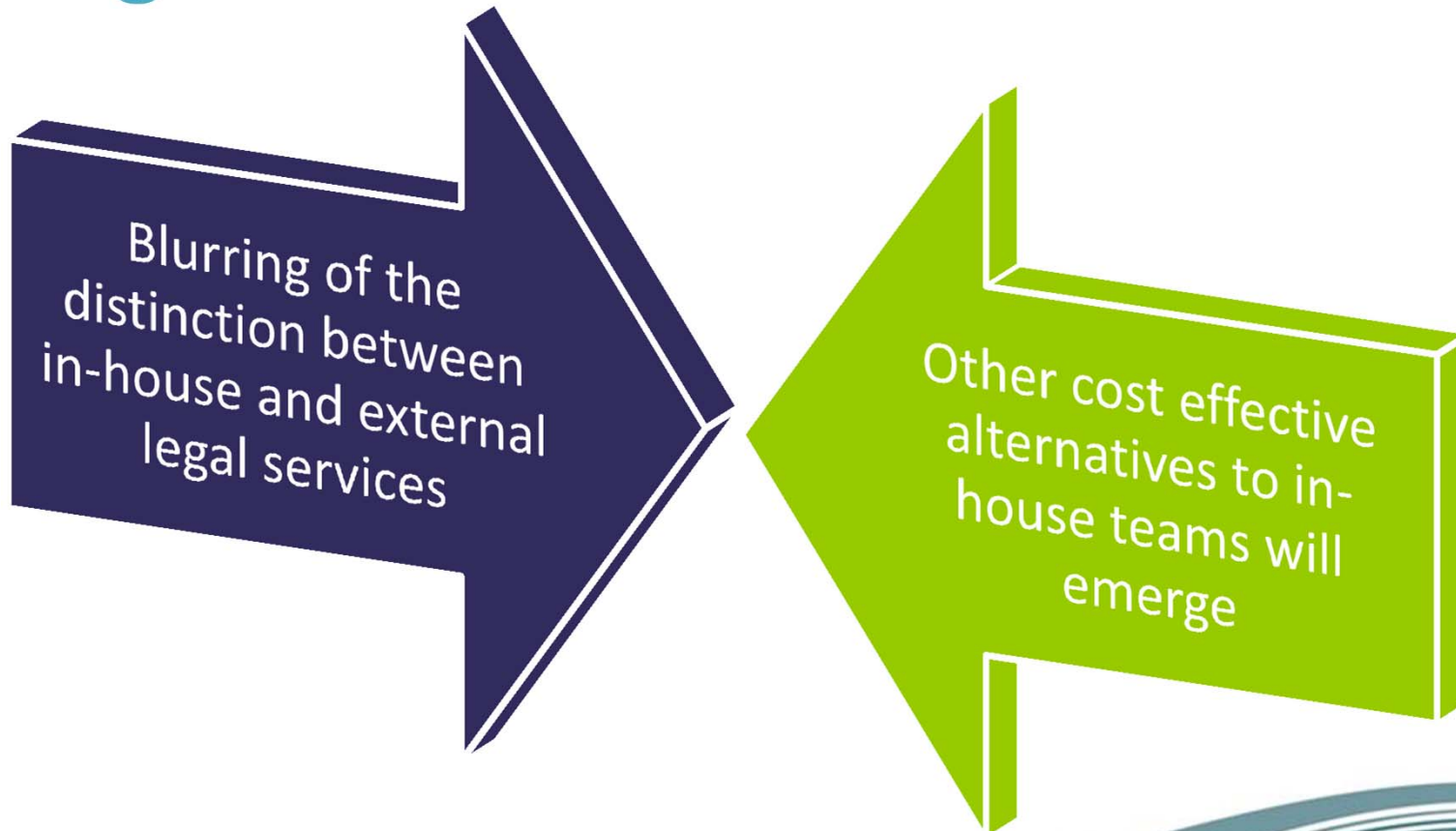


# What is the market telling us?



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# Legal Constraints



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Section 15  
Legal Services Act 2007

- All provisions read subject to this overriding condition
- Limits employed solicitors from carrying out reserved activities for "the public or a section of the public"

Para 4.15  
SRA  
Practice Framework Rules

- "Another organisation or person to whom the employer is statutorily empowered to provide legal services"
- Constraints re companies and charities

Localism Act 2011

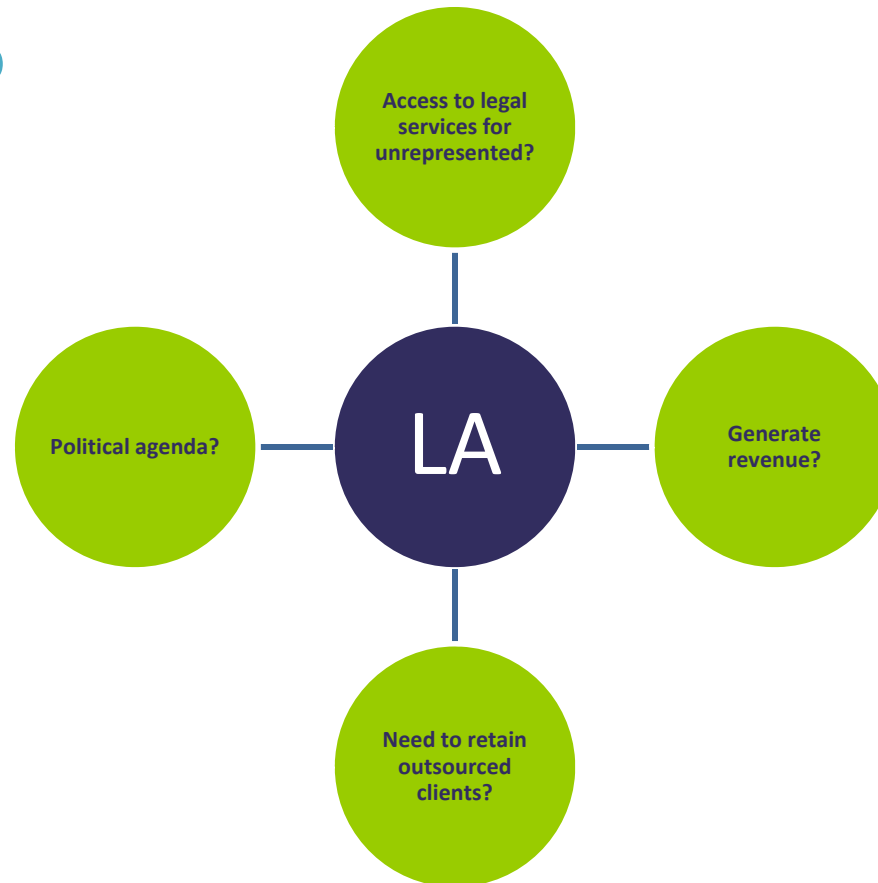
- Constraints on local authorities trading other than through a company

# Why Change?



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# What is an ABS Structure?



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An ABS is a firm providing **reserved legal activities** (and other legal or non-legal services) **where a non-lawyer**

- is a **manager of the firm**, or
- has an **ownership-type interest in the firm**

A firm may also be an **ABS** where another body

- is a **manager of the firm**, or
- has an **ownership-type interest** in the firm
- and **at least 10%** of that body is **controlled by non-lawyers**.

# Who we are



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Buckinghamshire Law Plus is a private limited company established in a joint venture between Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority.

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This is the first public sector enterprise to be granted a licence by the Solicitors Regulation Authority as an 'Alternative Business Structure' (ABS).

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Our 70-strong team can provide an expert legal service in all aspects of public law.

# Who we serve



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Legal support and advice is now available to local authorities, and all parts of the public, voluntary and charitable sectors – in Buckinghamshire and beyond.

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This is particularly advantageous for organisations that may not previously have been able to afford access to experienced solicitors in all areas of public law.



# Who we serve



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Buckinghamshire Law Plus acts for:

- Local Authorities and Parish Councils
- Public sector joint venture partnerships
- Mutuels and other local authority spin-off ventures
- Schools, Academies and Higher Education
- Housing associations
- Care and Health Services
- Blue light services
- Probation Services
- Voluntary sector organisations

# How we can help



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## Employment

- Tribunals
- Conduct & discipline
- Redundancy
- TUPE
- Whistleblowing



# How we can help



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## Dispute Resolution

- Litigation
- Personal injury
- Employer & Public Liability
- Contract disputes
- Complaints

# How we can help



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## Education

- Academy conversion
- School governance
  - Social media
- Admissions & exclusions
  - Schools helpline



# How we can help



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## Property & Infrastructure

- Commercial property
- Environment & waste
- Highways
- Planning & development



# How to instruct us



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If you would like further information about our expertise, or about the way we work or if you would like to arrange a meeting please contact us:

- t. 01296 383689
- e. [info@buckslawplus.co.uk](mailto:info@buckslawplus.co.uk)
- w. [www.buckslawplus.co.uk](http://www.buckslawplus.co.uk)