

RM6240 Public Sector Legal Services

Shoosmiths LLP

Prospectus for Lot 2a, Lot 2b and Lot 2c

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Confidential

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Introductions

We offer excellence in all core legal disciplines, together with key specialisms and deep sector expertise. What sets us apart is the way we deliver our services – clients tell us that we get the “people bit” right, listening and investing in the relationships which are at the heart of great service.

Shoosmiths – dynamic UK law firm

Shoosmiths LLP (“Shoosmiths”) has 13 locations across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland and an office in Brussels. Our national UK footprint allows us to provide proximate support to you, as we do for clients having operations across UK jurisdictions. We have 230 partners and over 1,600 staff, with a turnover in excess of £181m at financial year end April 2022.

Our development and growth have allowed us to continue to invest in developing our teams, facilities and service offerings to meet (and anticipate) clients’ needs.

Our Environmental, Social, and Governance aspiration is to make a positive contribution to society. As a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, this enables us to work alongside likeminded.

We won’t sit on the fence

When you seek legal advice, we know that you need a clear opinion and a clear answer. In our view, there is no point in telling you what the law says you can do without providing an expert opinion on the practical implications. Our advice and work for you will be clear and direct to enable you to make practical, actual decisions.

A trusted advisor, not a preferred supplier

Relationships are key to us. We will work closely with you, as an extension of your team. With close collaboration, we can understand the particular complexities and your business strategic drivers. We will tailor our advice to your specific circumstances to develop a long-lasting relationship of trust with you.

Experienced and competent public sector legal advisers

We appreciate that many of the firms in this process will also be able to demonstrate public sector expertise and ample strength in depth. What sets Shoosmiths aside is the collegiate way in which we share knowledge and expertise across the public sector team. With decades of collective experience in successfully managing public sector matters, we will provide the full service and insightful support you need to succeed.

A proactive, high quality, cost-effective and value-for-money service

Excellent advice, in itself, is not enough. We strive to go further, and to deliver that advice as part of an integrated service that sits with cost-efficiency, proactivity and exceptional quality at the centre. We will not wait for you to contact us to share our insight, we will always look to continuously improve and, where we do, to pass on cost-efficiency savings. At all times, our accredited quality assurance processes ensure that you receive an exceptional service first time, every time, consistently.

If you have any questions on our proposal, please feel free to contact Kathryn or Lisa.



Kathryn Jump
Supplier Framework Manager
☎ +44 (0) 370 086 8912
✉ kathryn.jump@shoosmiths.co.uk



Lisa Tye
Supplier Framework Manager
☎ +44 (0) 370 086 5618
✉ lisa.tye@shoosmiths.co.uk

Team Structure

Providing national expertise with local insight.

Shoosmiths has over 1,000 experienced lawyers across all grades and spread across the country. We have resource depth/capability to deliver high quality, cost-effective legal advice, which can be flexed up at times where additional support is needed unexpectedly. We interrogate instructions to understand client requirements and minimise costly reinvention. From our knowledge and experience of working on similar matters, we can identify appropriate and cost-effective processes and solutions. We understand how component parts of the law fit together.

We propose that Kathryn Jump and Lisa Tye (who job share) are Supplier Relationship Managers for CCS Framework and a main point of contact.

Our proposed Partner-led client team gives you the benefit of continuity and familiarity with those handling your work. If further resource is required, as a national law firm, we can flex the level of support required, e.g. for busy periods, larger transactions, or business critical deals that need extra pairs of hands. Both Kathryn and Lisa are passionate about and understand the sector, delivering commercial and pragmatic advice, as well as technical excellence and they will ensure that we deliver advice and transactions in a way that suits you.

We have an agile working culture and systems, meaning our lawyers work from any office or offsite location at any time. As such, regardless of their base location, our team members are entirely flexible to client demand and can work alongside the most appropriate colleagues, no matter where they are “based”.

Our open and collaborative culture means we will ask lots of questions, listen to your needs and deliver our services in the way you want, which will complement your business and its expectations, as well as taking into consideration the macro-economic and societal challenges posed by events such as COVID-19 and Brexit.

What really sets us apart is the way we deliver those services. We don’t believe in “one size fits all”. Clients tell us that we get the “people bit” right. We never take a client for granted and invest time and effort building relationships over the long-term to become a trusted advisor. This is what we believe is at the heart of great service.

Our clients also tell us that not only do we “know our stuff” we are also an enjoyable team to work with and we think that is so important to our role. We take time to build rapport with all of the stakeholders on a transaction.

Our specialist areas overviews are provided overleaf.

Property and Construction

As construction projects become increasingly complex and market conditions ever more challenging, Shoosmiths' multi-disciplinary team is better placed than ever to deliver strategic and operational advice at all stages of a project life cycle.

All aspects of real estate and construction, with strength in disposal and development of government property. We advised on some of the UK's most significant construction projects over the years, including infrastructure projects, commercial/residential schemes, town centre redevelopments, urban regeneration schemes and portfolio acquisition/disposal projects. We also have specialists in the development of brownfield sites, negotiating and drafting the transactional agreements supported by construction documentation to provide for delivery of the relevant remediation requirements.

Rick Atha, Partner (Construction: England), +44 (0) 370 086 7375, Rick.Atha@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Kellie Hatton**, Partner (Real Estate: England), +44 (0) 370 086 5827, Kellie.Hatton@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Janette Speed**, Partner (Real Estate: Scotland), +44 (0) 370 086 8129, Janette.Speed@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Mark Blair**, Partner (Real Estate: Northern Ireland), +44 (0) 370 086 1566, Mark.Blair@shoosmiths.co.uk

Notable recent experience of Shoosmiths' team members includes advising:

- **Wolverhampton City Council** – drafting a development agreement conditional on planning for the regeneration of Heath Town including the development of 300 homes and associated infrastructure.
- **Walsall Council** – advising on the re-development of Junction 10 of the M6 motorway, working in collaboration with Highways England. Advising on NEC3 forms of construction contract and professional services contracts, collateral warranties and the construction aspects of the development documents.
- **Nottingham Enterprise Zone Developments Limited** – advising a special purpose vehicle whose shareholders are the Department of Communities and Local Government and Alliance Boots Holdings Limited on a project to redevelop a 70-hectare site for public use via mixed residential and commercial space.
- **Wirral Borough Council in joint venture with Muse Developments** – advising on the re-development of Birkenhead Town Centre.
- **Equites Newlands (part of Newlands Developments)** – advising on the construction aspects of the first phase of a major development site near Barnsley requiring major new infrastructure together with site preparation works for future development.
- **Public Health England** – advised on negotiations with multiple contactors procured via the competitive procedure, including drafting the two stage tender construction contracts, professional services contracts and ancillary documents for this previously proposed £400 million cutting edge bioscience project in Essex.

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Social Housing

Our social housing offering includes sector-specific advice on real estate and development matters.

Providing national coverage for clients, the team specialises in social housing development, asset management and funding, offering service teams based on “specialisms not silos”. Combining sector-specific and wider commercial expertise, we provide commercially astute advice to a diverse registered provider client base, large and small, including major regional clients and smaller associations. We aim to be known for providing an integrated partner-led service to clients, regardless of particular practice area, and have been active in the sector for well over a decade – our client roster includes established clients like Midland Heart, A2Dominion, Clarion, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, GreenSquareAccord, and Croydon Churches, and new appointments including Platform, and South Yorkshire Housing.

David Perry, Partner (Real Estate: England), +44 (0) 370 086 4068, David.Perry@shoosmiths.co.uk

Notable recent experience of Shoosmiths’ team members includes advising:

- **Robertson Living Limited** – instructed on the sale of two separate sites for affordable housing to Places for People.
- **Midland Heart Limited** – acted on more than 100 VRTB transactions, including complex title reorganisation involving funders and third-party rights owners to accommodate disposals at the end of the scheme, as well as liaison with Homes England.
- **Midland Heart Limited** – acted for our client on the acquisition and development of a site for the delivery of a 59 unit, 100% affordable tenure scheme in North Birmingham.
- **L&Q Estates** – acted on a legal challenge to the adopted South Oxfordshire Local Plan (SOLP) by Bioabundance Community Interest Company, a third-party interest group. Site was allocated for residential development in the SOLP, including affordable housing.
- **Muir Group Housing Association** – advised on a range of mixed tenure affordable housing development acquisitions across the North West and Cambridgeshire
- **Bromsgrove District Housing Trust Limited** – acted on a package deal development acquisition (land and build agreement) for 30 mixed tenure affordable units on a larger, phased, mixed space scheme.

Planning and Environment

Shoosmiths' planning team has a wealth of experience in supporting private and public sector clients.

Our team is known for its strategic expertise the planning team advises on applications, appeals and legal challenges, in defence or promotion. The team's experience includes advice on historic buildings, environmental statements and the application of EU directives, such as habitats and air quality. All partners in the team have spent a part of their career in the public sector. We host environmental law specialists advising in particular on major infrastructure projects and on the application of environmental laws deriving from EU legislation.

Kathryn Jump, Partner (Joint Head of the Planning Team: England), +44 (0) 370 086 5776, Kathryn.Jump@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Lisa Tye**, Partner (Joint Head of the Planning Team: England), +44 (0) 0370 086 5618, Lisa.Tye@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Geraint Hughes**, Principal Associate (Planning: Scotland), +44 (0) 0370 086 8193, Geraint.Hughes@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Angus Evers**, Partner (Environmental: Nationally), +44 (0) 370 086 7038, Angus.Evers@shoosmiths.co.uk

Notable recent experience of Shoosmiths' team members includes advising:

- **Bolton Council** – advised in relation to the planning policy framework that needs to be put in place, and CPO Strategy to deliver a number of stalled development sites in Bolton Town Centre.
- **Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames** – advised in relation to the planning on regeneration of the Cambridge Road Estate to deliver new homes.
- **West Sussex County Council** – advised on outsourced highway and planning agreements.
- **Stockport Council** – advised in relation to the CPOs in Stockport Town Centre to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Town Centre Access Plan scheme.
- **Roke Manor Limited** – provided a legal planning advice on the creation of a nitrate mitigation scheme approved by Natural England and Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to provide nitrate mitigation for residential development within the Solent region in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.
- **Buckland Development Limited** – advised on the planning in connection with their 6,000 home mixed use garden village scheme.
- **Wirral Growth Company** – advised on their regeneration proposals for Wirral, including the Masterplan for Birkenhead Town Centre and development proposals at Moreton Pasture Road.
- **Historic England** – advised development partner to Shropshire Council, on a CPO required to assemble land and to secure the timely delivery of the final phases of the redevelopment of Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings.
- **Cheshire East Council** – advised in relation to Handforth Garden Village.
- **Thurrock Borough Council** – advised in relation to Grays South Regeneration Area Project. We are advising the Council on all aspects of the scheme, including procurement, development constraints and site assembly, planning policy, tax, CPO, State Aid and public/vires issues, as well as collaboration and Joint Venture arrangements.

Litigation / Dispute Resolution

Our of litigation, international arbitration and dispute resolution lawyers help our clients redress the balance - maximising value, minimising risk and enhancing reputations.

Shoosmiths' team of over 260 litigation and dispute resolution advisors provides expertise across all types of dispute, including guiding clients through all forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation, adjudication, arbitration, contractual resolution procedures and other forms of ADR such as expert determination. We offer a fixed price dispute evaluation and strategy recommendation product for appropriate cases.

Matthew Howarth, Partner (Litigation / Dispute Resolution: England), +44 (0) 370 086 7356,

Matthew.Howarth@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Stuart Clubb**, Partner (Litigation / Dispute Resolution: Scotland), +44 (0) 370 086

8126, Stuart.Clubb@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Gillian Crotty**, Partner (Litigation / Dispute Resolution: Northern Ireland), +44 (0)

370 086 1512, Gillian.Crotty@shoosmiths.co.uk

Notable recent experience of Shoosmiths' team members includes advising:

- **Mettis Aerospace Limited** – advised in relation to a series of critical supply chain issues/disputes with various tier 1 aircraft suppliers and/or manufacturers (4 in total) as a result of complications regarding Force Majeure and Frustration brought about as a consequence of COVID-19.
- **The National Trust** – advised in relation to an article written by Charles Moore and published in the Spectator's hard copy magazine and on its website.
- **UK's largest automotive businesses** – defending claims arising from a disputed termination of a largescale technology leasing agreement worth £1 million per year. The team were instructed following the high value software dispute with SAP that Shoosmiths settled previously.
- **Property development company** – acting on behalf of a property developer in a professional negligence claim against both its former architects and cost consultants arising from an aborted redevelopment of a property in Glasgow.
- **SSE / Ovo Energy** – acting for an energy supplier in a long-running matter in which the client sought payment for unpaid electricity charges. The defenders claimed that the meter was inaccurate and further claimed that the second defender was not liable as he had not contracted with the supplier.

Employment

Employment law is constantly changing, which presents a unique challenge for businesses, HR teams and staff. Our national team provides legal advice across all employment matters.

Shoosmiths' 60 strong national employment team advise clients on the full spectrum of contentious and non-contentious work in the field of employment law, from drafting contracts to advising clients on strike action and everything in between all issues in between. Many of the team at all levels of experience conduct their own advocacy ensuring a cradle to grave service for Employment Tribunal Claims. The team boast a fantastic upskilling service for HR professionals, HR Improve. The team also issue weekly legal updates, blogs and podcasts on the latest cases and hot topics.

Gwynneth Tan, Partner (Employment: England), +44 (0) 370 086 8477, Gwynneth.Tan@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Emma**

Morgan, Partner (Employment: England), +44 (0) 370 086 5503, Emma.Morgan@shoosmiths.co.uk | **Michael**

McLaughlin, Partner (Employment: Scotland), +44 (0) 370 086 8184, Michael.McLaughlin@shoosmiths.co.uk |

Emma Grossmith (Employment: Northern Ireland), +44 (0) 3700 863 000, Emma.Grossmith@Shoosmiths.co.uk

Notable recent experience of Shoosmiths' team members includes advising:

- **Aberdeenshire Council** – represented the client in relation to class action Equal Pay claims for over 10 years. We have also advised this client on many strategic issues including re-organisation.
- **CALMAC** – represent the client, state owned Scottish ferry operator, in relation to all aspects of employment law.
- **Student Loans Company Limited** – advised on strategic employment law issue from time to time.
- **County Council** – advised in relation to non-contractual and contractual market supplements, their pay policies and complex equal pay issues.
- **Catapult** – provide ongoing support to a client (not-for-profit, independent technology and innovation centre) in relation to a range of employment issues, including complex, multi-layered and extensive grievances; strategic advice on organisational restructures; advising on and drafting settlement agreements; contracts (including tripartite secondment agreements) and apprenticeship agreements as well as dealing with a number of complex and voluminous employee DSARs. The client requires responsive and immediate support.
- **The Law Society** – advised in the early dismissal of a potentially high-profile race and age discrimination claim, supporting on the internal reorganisation of the HR function including issues surrounding alternative employment for an employee on maternity leave, and in preparation for the changes to the IR35 rules in relation to off payroll workers including assisting in the auditing of the contractor workforce.
- **University** – advising on a complex disability discrimination issue with an employee which has been ongoing for several years whereby the employee is refusing to return to campus and raises numerous grievances or goes off on long-term sick. We have worked together with the university's HR team to advise on any possible disability discrimination allegations and strategy in dealing with this employee.
- **Boots PLC** – acted as a sole external employment law provider and on all outsourced employment tribunal claims.

Social Value

Our commitment to delivering a positive contribution to society.

Our Social Value offer to clients is core to both our business and corporate responsibility strategies. These strategies include the aspiration to be famous for our positive contribution to society. Our local office programmes and teams deliver our strategy by implementing ideas for change.

Corporate Responsibility (CR) is a cornerstone of Shoosmiths' values and our ESG vision is to make a positive contribution to society. In 21/22 through staff fundraising and firm donations we provided £179,000 to 128 organisations through national or office level support. Via the Shoosmiths Foundation we also donated £90,000 to two social mobility charities who were successful following the June 2021 call for applications. Our second call for grant applications, again focusing on social mobility, will award to successful charities in the autumn.

Social value forms part of the stated Corporate Responsibility strategy of the firm. To provide a few examples of our aligned principles in this regard, we have publicly committed to promoting:

- **Social wellbeing:** we build and maintain enduring community relationships that achieve positive impacts for the organisations we work with. Deepening our relationships with charities, social enterprises, community interest companies, non-governmental organisations is in our view key to leverage greater collaborative impact between departments and teams e.g. community investment, diversity, inclusion and wellbeing. We also encourage our staff to volunteer through provision of good-quality, skills-based volunteering.
- **Economic wellbeing:** we provide legal advice in all areas where we practise on a pro bono basis to clients (individuals and organisations) in need who are unable to afford legal advice and who do not have access to funding. This is not only an economic benefit to those disadvantaged parties, it also generates social change and benefit.
- **Environmental wellbeing:** we demonstrate high standards of environmental responsibility in all our operations and minimise the environmental impacts associated with our activities, products and services. Our Environmental Management System is aligned with the ISO 14001 standard.

Kathryn Jump and Lisa Tye, proposed Supplier Relationship Managers for CCS Framework, recently published latest in our ESG thought leadership report series – **Investing in Tomorrow**. The report investigates how various industries are managing environmental, social and governance factors, not just at an organisational and sector scale, but in supply chains and, most importantly, at a human level. This report can be provided upon request.