

A scenic landscape featuring a stone bridge over a river and a red-ivy-covered house. The bridge is made of dark grey stone and has two large arches. The house is a two-story building with white windows and a dark door, completely covered in vibrant red ivy. The background is filled with lush green trees, some with hints of autumn color. The foreground shows the river and a rocky bank.

Devolution

**A catalyst for long-term, positive
change in local communities**

**Browne
Jacobson**

The levelling up agenda has provided an excellent basis for positive change. Devolution is at the heart of this and has the potential to deliver lasting impact in regions historically underfunded for too long.

Devolution provides local authorities with the opportunity to come together for the collective benefit of their local communities. To attract much needed investment into regions and to enable local authorities to have a bigger voice to champion their local areas. And, to give local leaders significantly more control over major decisions that affect local people and businesses.

With greater autonomy and funding does come risk. That is why it is important that you have a trusted legal partner beside you every step of the way.

As the legal advisors of choice for the four authorities involved in the first cross- county mayoral-led combined authority, we're working as an extension of the in- house legal teams to help the authorities to realise the potential of the unprecedented opportunity and then to deliver their ambitious plans. Connection is strength. That's why we're collaborating with them to understand and interpretate guidance, negotiate a fair deal with the Government and navigate the process of legislating for and creating a new Combined County Authority.

For large and complex projects such as this, we combine the use of our technology solutions with the knowledge and experience of our dedicated legal project management specialist, and finely tuned processed and methodologies to provide clear end-to-end visibility of status, timing, resourcing, and cost management.

With unrivalled experience, the right foundations and specialist knowledge please contact us should you wish you discuss your own devolution arrangements.

Our experience

- advised Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on the proposed establishment of the North Midlands Combined Authority.
- advised the London Borough of Croydon on constitutional changes required to enable then to move to a mayoral executive.
- provided governance and constitutional advice to the senior leaders of 17 councils and two National Parks on a proposal to form the Heart of the South West Combined Authority.
- are supporting Nottinghamshire County Council on their involvement in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS.
- advised Western Riverside Waste Authority on all legal matters, including constitutional issues which affect it as one of the seven original joint waste authorities set up by the Local Government Act 1985 and the Waste Regulation and Disposal (Authorities) Order 1985.
- advised seven CCGs on their merger into the North East London CCG, and its subsequent work to develop wider governance arrangements for the North East London ICS.
- redrafted the 2022 Welsh model constitution for local authorities in Wales
- were instructed by the Welsh Government to oversee all aspects of the creation of Natural Resource Wales under the Public Bodies Act 2010. The approach was radically different to what had previously been done and involved the merger of budgets worth £160m.
- provided legal support to the London Estates Board, established as part of the London Devolution governance

arrangements. The aim was to bring together the statutory organisations, including the Mayor and national partners who have a role in determining the use of land used for health and care in London.

- supported Freeport East with their initial business case and submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. We're also continuing to advise all key stakeholders on the establishment of the Freeport including administrative and legislative aspects, subsidy control and their new corporate structure.
- provided legal support to Rushcliffe Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council (three of the five founding members) on the recently incorporated East Midlands Development Corporation
- continue to advise Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council on the termination of their joint waste PFI and the reprocurement of both short and long waste contracts.



Peter Ware
Partner

+44 (0)7899 072682
peter.ware@brownejacobson.com



Laura Hughes
Partner

+44 (0)7824 370102
laura.hughes@brownejacobson.com