

## Service Planning 2011-12

**Service:** Legal Services (SLEG)

### 2.1 Service Overview

The Legal Services Division provides legal support and advice to the Council, Officers, Members and a range of External Partners, represents the Council in Court, at Tribunals and Inquiries and contributes to Corporate Initiatives Issues and Projects.

Its core purpose is to support Members and the services of the Council by the provision of legal and procedural advice in a timely, efficient and effective manner. Staff are divided into four teams:-

- Regulatory Team – deals with Highway, Environment, Consumer Protection and all Licensing matters. Undertakes all Prosecutions and Civil Litigation. Advice and assistance on Employment and HR issues, including care and conduct of all Employment Tribunal cases.
- Corporate and Commercial Team – Prepares and advises on all major contract documentation, EU Procurement law, State Aid issues, and the requirements of the Councils Finance and Contract Procedure Rules.
- People Team – Advice and assistance to Childrens Services and Adult Services on all matters, particularly Child Protection, Mental Health and Community Care, including providing representation and or advice on both the Childrens and Adults Local Safeguarding Boards. Support and advice on a range of education matters to the LEA and individual schools throughout the Borough.
- Property and Development Team – Planning advice including drafting of agreements and representation at Inquiries, strategic highways agreements dealing with the Councils land transactions including sale and purchases, leases, licences, development and funding agreements, regeneration and economic development issues.

### 2.2 Service Objectives (NB: Maximum of 10)

Service Objective Reference	Service Objective Description	Link to Directorate Objective
SLEG001	To contribute to the successful adoption of the Local Development Framework and to ensure that the provisions of the Localism Act are fully integrated with the emerging local plan and other policies	DSOL001
SLEG002	To help facilitate Town Centre Redevelopment to ensure continuing prosperity	DSOL001
SLEG003	Advice to the Standards Committee and Council on the options available for the future of Ethical Standards and Member Conduct under the Localism Bill	DSOL001
SLEG004	Advice and support for the Councils Shared Services agenda, including the possible creation of a limited company to provide HR, OH, Finance and ICT services, and the possibility of Shared Services aspects of both Legal and Democratic	DSOL001
SLEG005	To continue to support Children and Adult Services in the transformation of their services particularly as they move towards closer working with external agencies in order to meet and improve the health, social and economic outcomes for the population within the Cheshire East area within available financial resources	DSOL001
SLEG006	To move towards full cost recovery in respect of services provided to external Clients to which the department is entitled to charge	DSOL001
SLEG007	To support the Councils policy to transfer and devolve functions and services to Town and Parish Councils	DSOL001
SLEG008	To implement an integrated legal ICT system	DSOL001