

Housing and Development

the Bermans approach

We bring together a multi-disciplinary team to focus on the wide range of legal and commercial issues that affect both housing and development projects with a view to understanding and mitigating risk and achieving key outcomes, whether those are economically or socially driven.

A key part of our ethos is collaborative working with the client and its professional advisers, an approach that has helped us to clearly understand and deliver desired outcomes.

In today's complex environment, working on housing and development projects (particularly for the public sector) requires flexibility and a collaborative approach based upon partnership, whether that entails a purely contractual arrangement or a more formal incorporated structure.

It also involves a longer-term approach, that protects key land assets and provides a clear exit strategy which maintains the ability to deliver should things not go as planned.

Managing the key interfaces between and achieving the varied commercial and social objectives of our clients and their stakeholders is really what we are all about.

The team consists of lawyers with experience in real estate led development and housing projects (both large and small), construction, corporate joint ventures and all forms of partnering, finance and debt structuring.



BERMANS

Experience & Expertise

the team



Fergal O'Cleirigh
Partner and Head of Dept

A real estate lawyer with 18 years' experience of residential property development work. Fergal specialises in site acquisition and advising developers on options and conditional contracts. He has dealt with numerous schemes where the end users are housing associations.



Stephen Chalcraft
Partner

A real estate development and projects lawyer with 20 years experience in structuring and delivering complex public/private regeneration and development projects. Stephen specialises in advising Local Authorities, Universities and other public sector bodies together with private sector housing developers.



Guy Pattison
Partner

A real estate lawyer with over 13 years experience in the property and construction team. He provides property advice to clients within many different sectors including commercial property development, house builders, Private Rental Sector (PRS) and property investment.



Claire Morris
Partner

A real estate lawyer with over 10 years' experience advising developers on residential and mixed development site acquisitions, including advising on development agreements, options and conditional contracts.

Residential & Mixed-Use Developments

- 1 Acting for a private sector residential developer on a major City centre scheme in Manchester for the construction of over 400 apartments, within a wider mixed use development scheme.
- 2 Acting for a private sector residential developer on a residential development scheme in Liverpool for the construction of 174 apartments.
- 3 Acting for a developer in respect of a mixed use development in Liverpool with over 130 apartments and commercial units and a residential development in Manchester with over 140 apartments.

Strategic land and site assembly

- 1 Acting for a client specialising in land regeneration in the purchase of a former Glass Works site in Merseyside.
- 2 We have advised on the acquisition (by way of conditional contract or option agreement) of a number of sites intended for house building. We have subsequently provided advice on construction documents, statutory agreements and disposal (in many cases to registered providers of social housing).
- 3 Acquisition of the Old Port site at Chester Racecourse for David McLeans

Registered Providers

- 1 Acting for one of the largest Registered Providers in the North West on the acquisition and delivery of a housing development site for the delivery of over 330 mixed tenure new homes.
- 2 The site formed part of a larger development site with common infrastructure in the ownership of Homes England.

Advisory & Regeneration

- 1 Advising Manchester City Centre on the initial stages of the Irk Valley and Collyhurst residential regeneration scheme with John Laing Infrastructure who unfortunately withdraw from the original development.
- 2 Advising on the development of a number of public sector led Enterprise Zones for commercial development.