

Legal- Career Pathways

The legal service in the context of local government provides advice and guidance to the elected council members and senior officers on a wide range of topics from land purchase to eviction from Council housing. Many Chief Executives of local councils trained as solicitors and therefore the career pathway can lead to the very top of the organisation.

Job Title	Entry Requirements
<p>Legal Apprentice You will assist and support the team with administrative tasks whilst undertaking an appropriate qualification in Business Administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE's Maths and English at a C or above / or equivalent • GCSE A –Level Law would be desirable but not essential.
<p>Paralegal In this role you will prepare legal documents and carry out basic legal tasks to assist the legal team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to study for a qualification from the Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX)
<p>Solicitor Council solicitors tend to specialise in a particular aspect of law such as housing, planning, and contracts. In the main you will be the organisation expert and provide legal advice to officers and committees of the council to ensure the Council's interests are protected</p>	<p>Most solicitors are graduates. Three main routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • graduates with a qualifying law degree (Law Society has a list of accredited degrees) take the Legal Practice Course (one year full-time, two years part-time). This is followed by a two-year training contract in an authorised legal office, during which time they also undertake the professional skills course; • graduates with non-law degrees (or a foreign law degree) first take either the Common Professional Examination or Postgraduate Diploma in Law (either one year full-time or two years part-time). They then follow the same route as law graduates; • non-graduates, whether school-leavers or mature entrants, must start by training as legal executives. (Minimum entry requirements for legal executives are four GCSEs - grades A, B and C - including English, or equivalent qualifications.)
<p>Barrister You will be an expert in your field and be able to advice based on up to date legislation and case law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a solicitor with followed by vocational / professional skills training before being called to the Bar which is then followed by pupillage with an authorised barrister before being entitled to have your own practice.
<p>Principal Solicitor In this role you will manage the Council's legal service and provide an effective leadership and supervision of case management of your team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Management experience • Qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales and eligible for a practising certificate