

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing a dark suit jacket, holding two keys. The left hand holds a red key, and the right hand holds a blue key. The keys are held palm-up, and the person's fingers are slightly curled around them. The background is a solid, bright pink color.

Working together
to succeed

Choice based letting: the way forward

The government has just announced a new round of funding for sub regional choice based letting schemes.

It is encouraging to see the readiness of local authorities and housing associations - and in many cases private landlords as well - to work together to deliver a choice based approach to offer as wide a choice as possible. What is particularly positive for the future is that several schemes involve as many as six or seven, or even more, local authorities working together.

Housing Minister Baroness Andrews



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The legal perspective

Veale Wasbrough Vizards has advised four sub-regional groups of local authorities undertaking procurements of web-based schemes for the allocation of local housing stock based on customer choice.

We have developed a menu of **fixed price services** which social landlord consortia can “pick and mix” to suit their requirements. They include drafting and settling:

- the partnering agreement between the participating landlords
- the systems development and managed service agreement with the IT provider
- the framework terms permitting other social landlords to join the scheme at a later date
- the OJEU notice.

We are also able to offer general procurement advice to ensure compliance with your own authority and wider EU requirements, review technical requirements, advise on the ITT and evaluation.

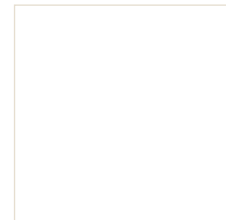
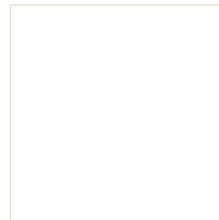
This self selection approach has proved useful to those authorities which have in-house legal teams with the resource to undertake some of the work themselves.

Our value offering

Our experience of dealing with four of these projects has enabled us to deepen our expertise and understand fully the issues which face the project managers.

We can tailor our offering of legal advice to suit the specific needs of each client. In particular, the breakdown of our fixed price approach to enable clients to “pick and mix” has proved a very efficient way for them to achieve value for money.

Our accreditation to the government approved OGC Buying Solutions panel guarantees that we have the all round experience and expertise to advise across the board on the partnering agreement, the IT contract and the procurement approach.



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Our first choice based letting client commented:

It was very helpful to have external legal advice, as it helped cut through the legal disagreements between the partners.