



Senior Lawyer Contracts and Employment

Recruitment Pack

Sefton is a really great place to live and work.



Welcome

Hi,

I would like to thank you for your interest in the Senior Lawyer (Contracts and Employment) role within Sefton Council's Legal Services team which is part of the wider Corporate Resources Team.

This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for a strong lawyer with technical ability, someone who is good with people, and is approachable, highly organised, and wants to be at the heart of a busy and varied working environment with high quality work.

You'll play a key role in keeping things running smoothly, bringing structure where it is needed, offering a supportive presence, and approaching every task with professionalism and a positive client-focussed, can-do attitude.

You will also play a key part in a range of major capital projects that will help transform the Borough and stimulate economic growth. These include the Marine Lake Events Centre, the Pier and Southport Gardens projects in Southport, and the Strand Shopping Centre redevelopment, and Salt and Tar in Bootle.

If you are someone who enjoys helping others, takes pride in delivering high-quality legal advice, and brings energy, adaptability, and a genuine passion for making a difference, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Job Description and Person Specification for this role are included within the job pack. If you have any questions about the vacancy, please refer to the job pack for the appropriate contact details.

If, when you've finishing reading this pack, you like what you see, and Sefton's Vision and Values align to yours then we can't wait to hear from you.

Best of luck!

Richard Clegg
Principal Lawyer



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About the Borough of Sefton

Sefton is a confident and well-connected Borough, stretching from Bootle in the south to the coastal resort of Southport in the north. Home to more than 275,000 residents, Sefton encompasses a range of vibrant towns and communities, including Bootle, Litherland, Seaforth, Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Southport.

It is a fantastic place to live and work. As the northern-most Borough within the Liverpool City Region, Sefton offers a unique blend of beautiful coastline, countryside, attractive villages, thriving industrial areas and the busy Port of Liverpool.

With 22 miles of stunning coastline, Sefton is a leading coastal destination with a growing visitor economy. It is home to the iconic Antony Gormley *Another Place* installation, expansive beaches and protected sand dunes that support several rare species.

While each town and village has its own distinctive character, it is the people of Sefton who make the Borough truly special, creating diverse, welcoming and energetic communities in which to live, work, invest and visit.

Alongside its miles of golden sands, Sefton offers those who work here access to a world-renowned racecourse, prestigious golf courses, and National Trust nature reserves, ideal places to unwind, explore and enjoy leisure time.

The Borough benefits from excellent transport links, providing easy access to major Northwest cities including Liverpool and Manchester, and placing the Lake District and North Wales within reach for weekend breaks.

Whether you prefer vibrant town centres, friendly commuter towns, picturesque villages or stunning rural and coastal locations, Sefton offers a place to suit everyone. With house prices and rents typically lower than in neighbouring Liverpool and Manchester, you can enjoy coastal living while still being close to the buzz of city life.



Our Vision and Values

At Sefton Council, our vision is to deliver high-quality services that make a real difference to the lives of our residents, visitors, and communities. Everything we do is guided by a strong set of values that shape how we work and interact:



- **We put people at the heart of what we do** – ensuring our services are responsive, inclusive, and focused on improving lives.
- **We listen, value, and respect each other’s views** – fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual respect.
- **We develop a culture of challenge, ownership, innovation, and improvement** – encouraging creativity and continuous development.
- **We are ambassadors for Sefton** – promoting the Borough positively and proudly representing our communities.
- **We are responsive and efficient** – delivering services that are timely, effective, and customer-focused.
- **We are clear about what we can and cannot do** – being transparent and honest in all our communications and actions.

These values underpin our commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and innovation, ensuring that Sefton remains a great place to live, work, and visit.

Our Successes and Key Projects

Sefton Council is proud of its recent achievements and ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality services. Our Adult Social Care services were recently graded



Good by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and our Children's Services also achieved a Good rating from Ofsted. These successes reflect the dedication and professionalism of our teams and our focus on continuous improvement.

Alongside these achievements, Sefton Council is actively delivering a range of major capital projects that will transform the Borough and stimulate economic growth. These include the Marine Lake Events Centre in Southport, the Strand Shopping Centre redevelopment in Bootle, and exciting developments such as the redevelopment of Southport Gardens and Enterprise Arcade in Southport. We are also proud to support cultural and community initiatives like Salt and Tar, Bootle's vibrant events space, which hosts live music, comedy, and family-friendly activities, bringing people together and boosting the local economy.

These projects form part of our strategic investment programme to attract private sector-led development and create vibrant spaces for residents and visitors. We work closely with local communities to ensure these projects reflect their needs and foster a sense of ownership and pride.

For more information on these projects and to stay updated on progress, visit the Sefton Council website at www.sefton.gov.uk

An Inclusive Workplace

We are committed to fostering an inclusive Council that reflects the diverse communities we serve. Our workforce brings a wide range of experiences and perspectives, and we value an environment where everyone feels respected, supported, and able to reach their full potential.

Sefton is proud to be the first local authority in the Liverpool City Region to achieve **Navajo** accreditation, recognising our commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion. We are also a Disability Confident employer and continue to build a workforce that represents our communities.

We support several staff networks, including groups for Black and Ethnically Diverse colleagues, LGBTQ+ staff, women, disabled employees, and a Christian Workplace Group.

As an Equal Opportunities Employer, we base recruitment solely on skills, experience, and suitability for the role. All applicants are treated fairly, and we have also recognised 'care experienced' as a protected characteristic within Sefton.



For more information, please refer to our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#)

Liverpool City Region Fair Employment Charter



Sefton Council is proud to support the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Fair Employment Charter, an initiative that promotes fair, healthy, inclusive, and just workplaces across the region. The Charter celebrates good employers and encourages the highest standards in employment practice, including fair pay, secure work, opportunities for progression,

strong employee voice, and a commitment to staff wellbeing. By aligning with the Charter, we demonstrate our dedication to providing a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and to fostering an equitable and supportive working environment for all colleagues.

What We Can Offer You

- A supportive and collaborative working environment.
- An agile approach to working.
- Opportunities for professional development and career progression.
- A role where your work makes a real difference across the organisation.
- Flexible working arrangements supporting work-life balance.
- A strong commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.



You will benefit from a comprehensive local government employment package which includes the following:

- Competitive salary in line with NJC Local Government Pay Scales.
- Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), providing a secure, defined benefit pension with employer contributions.

Annual Leave and Work-Life Balance

- Generous annual leave entitlement, 28 days annual leave rising to 33 days with 5 years continuous service.
- Additional public (bank) holidays.
- Flexible working options to support a healthy work-life balance, subject to service needs.
- Option to purchase additional annual leave.

Learning, Development and Career Progression

- A comprehensive induction programme.
- Access to a wide range of training, apprenticeships, learning, and development opportunities.
- Support for professional development and role related qualifications.
- Opportunities to develop your career within a large and diverse local authority.

Health, Wellbeing and Support

- Enhanced sick pay scheme.
- Employee wellbeing initiatives and access to occupational health support.
- Policies that promote physical and mental wellbeing in the workplace.

Family-Friendly and Inclusive Policies

Our family-friendly policies and flexible working arrangements help staff maintain a healthy work-life balance.

- Family friendly policies, including enhanced maternity, paternity, adoption, neonatal care and special leave to support with time off work to deal with issues when life events happen.



- A strong organisational commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Reasonable adjustments and support to enable disabled employees to thrive.

Foster Friendly Employer Commitment

Sefton Council is proud to be a *Foster Friendly* organisation as recognised by The Fostering Network. We actively support employees who are foster carers or who are applying to foster by offering flexible working arrangements, paid time off for fostering-related meetings and training, and a workplace culture that recognises the vital role foster carers play in our communities.

This commitment helps ensure carers can balance fostering responsibilities alongside career, and reflects our dedication to supporting children, families, and those who care for them.

Additional Benefits

- Access to salary sacrifice and employee benefit schemes (where applicable).
- Opportunities to contribute to meaningful work that supports local communities.
- A supportive, values led organisational culture.
- Free parking at office bases (dependent upon the work location).

About the Role

This is a pivotal role in a crucial team at the heart of the Council. With responsibility for leading and managing a team of lawyers who provide a full legal service to members and officers of the Council within the areas of Contracts, Commercial and Employment law.

You will play a crucial part in ensuring that client areas are supported, well-briefed, and able to focus on strategic priorities. You will be the first point of contact for internal and external stakeholders, managing a fast-paced workload with professionalism, discretion and confidence.

The key responsibilities include:

- Comprehensive diary and inbox management, including scheduling and co-ordinating meetings



- Allocating work to Contracts and Employment law specialist lawyers
- Supporting a team of lawyers in the delivery of legal services
- Exceptional attention to detail
- Handling sensitive information with the highest level of confidentiality and discretion
- Act as legal lead on major projects

This role suits someone who is passionate about delivering excellent learning experiences, committed to maintaining high standards, and confident working both independently and collaboratively to support a skilled and safe workforce.

Please see **Appendix A (page 10)** for a full copy of the Job Description and Person Specification.



Top Tips on How to Apply

Submitting a strong application gives you the best chance of progressing to the next stage of the recruitment process. The following guidance applies to all roles and will help you prepare a clear, compelling application:

1. Read the Job Description and Person Specification Thoroughly

- Make sure you understand the key duties, expectations, and essential criteria.
- Use the person specification as your guide when writing your application.

2. Provide Clear Evidence of Your Skills and Experience

- Show *how* you meet the criteria using specific, real examples.
- Consider using the **STAR method** (Situation, Task, Action, Result) to structure your responses.

3. Tailor Your Application

- Avoid generic statements. Focus on experience that directly relates to the role you are applying for.
- Demonstrate how your strengths align with the organisation's values and priorities.

4. Highlight Your Achievements

- Include examples of work you are proud of or significant contributions you have made in previous roles.
- Emphasise impact – improvements, efficiencies, positive outcomes, or innovations.

5. Be Clear About Qualifications and Training

- List all relevant qualifications and professional training, including dates and awarding bodies.
- If you are working towards a qualification, include expected completion dates.

6. Showcase Transferable Skills

- Skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, digital literacy, and organisation are valuable across all roles.



- Provide examples that demonstrate these effectively.

7. Check Your Application Carefully

- Review your responses for clarity, spelling, and completeness.
- Ensure all sections of the application form have been filled in fully.

8. Submit Your Application Before the Deadline

- Note the closing date and allow plenty of time to prepare your application.
- Late submissions usually cannot be considered.

9. Prepare for Potential Next Steps

- If shortlisted, you may be invited to an interview, assessment task, or presentation.
- Be ready to discuss your experience, approach to work, and examples of how you meet the role's requirements.

Application and Selection Information

The closing date for this vacancy is **Wednesday 8 July 2026** (or earlier in the event of high volume of applications being received).

Provisional interview dates are proposed for the following week but will remain TBC

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer; all candidates will receive equal treatment. Our decision to appoint will be based upon whether an individual's skills, experience, qualifications, and abilities make them the most suitable candidate for the role.

All disabled and care experienced applicants will be offered an interview where they meet all essential criteria on the person specification.

Please ensure that you meet all the essential criteria outlined in the person specification before submitting your application. Only applicants who demonstrate that they meet all essential criteria will be considered and invited to interview.



Appendix A – Job Description and Person Specification

Service: Corporate Resources **Location:** Magdalen House,
Bootle

Section: Corporate Legal Services

Post: Senior Lawyer (Contracts and Employment)

Grade: L

Responsible to: Principal Lawyer

Responsible for: Lawyers

CONTEXT

Corporate Legal Services is comprised of four legal teams with administrative support:

- The Contracts and Employment Team provide legal services on a range of contract, procurement, commercial law, governance and employment law matters.
- The Prosecutions and Regulatory Team provide legal services primarily in relation to regulatory matters including litigation, information compliance, prosecutions, environmental health, licensing, and debt recovery.
- The Children and Social Care Team provide legal services primarily in relation to child protection, adoption, education, adult social care, mental health and youth justice.
- The Property and Planning Team provide legal services primarily in relation to property and planning matters.

JOB PURPOSE

- To lead and manage a team of lawyers providing a full legal service to members and officers of the Council within the areas of responsibility of the Team.
- To lead in the provision of an efficient and effective legal service with a commitment to continual improvement and performance management.



- To have care and conduct of a caseload, including advocacy, negotiating and/or drafting documentation, within the areas of responsibility of the Team and for the same to include if required, the more complex and / or high-profile cases.

MAIN DUTIES

1. To apply advanced/expert knowledge and understanding of **at least one relevant specialist legal subject** and detailed knowledge of associated Council policies and procedures that are covered in the work of the team that the post holder will manage.
2. To analyse, form judgements, apply creatively and/or interpret very varied and highly complex information/situations with a view to producing solutions and/or strategies on the way forward.
3. To exercise very highly developed influencing, negotiating, persuasive and/or advocacy skills in order to convince others, where appropriate, to adopt policies and/or courses of action they might not otherwise take.
4. To give concise and accurate advice in both complex and contentious situations orally and in writing. To tailor the information to suit the needs of those receiving the information.
5. To be able to use IT and office equipment and software to produce documentation necessary for the role.
6. To demonstrate both initiative and discretion in all aspects of the role, to exceed client expectations in the application of the law, council policies and procedures and/or management of the staff. The work, particularly in court and in public meetings, involves using discretion and initiative with little access to senior officers. The post holder is, however, subject to the general managerial direction of the Principal Lawyer.
7. To formulate, co-ordinate and/or prepare information for report writing, presenting to court, presenting to members and/or officers from across the Council's hierarchy. Such information to include business, management and legal data.
8. To manage work related pressures from deadlines, interruptions, management of the team and the caseload and balance those conflicting demands of the job.
9. To manage relationships, staff and situations tactfully, sensitively professionally and diplomatically.



10. To establish and ensure that the team members work within established systems so that the teams' case load meets best practice in respect of the quality of legal service, is a valued service by clients, cost effective and actively manages risk. To ensure that all practices are compliant with the requirements of the Solicitors Regulatory Authority.
11. To ensure inter alia that current cases and/or trends in Sefton's cases, new legislation and/or emerging case law are made known to team members, clients and where appropriate the wider council either through briefing notes, newsletters, meetings and/or training opportunities.
12. To have direct responsibility for the supervision, direction, co-ordination and training/development of employees. To include allocation of work to the team, checking quality of work, and providing where appropriate on the job training. Such supervision to include recruitment, induction, prioritisation of work, performance and if necessary, absence management.
13. To be responsible for expenditure from client budgets for external legal spend and associated experts. Such responsibility to include monitoring of the relevant budget and ensuring effective spend.
14. To have responsibility for the production of documents, records etc either by the post holder and/or by team members where accuracy, confidentiality and security of the documentation are important.
15. To attend court and meetings as necessary
16. To make a positive contribution to the overall management of the Department and where requested to represent the department, and/or council on working groups, outside bodies and to actively participate in the same.

QUALIFICATIONS &/OR EXPERIENCE

See Person Specification

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- a) Requirement to work flexible hours and provide out of hours advice as necessary
- b) Flexibility to attend hearings or meetings which are held in the evenings and at venues throughout the Borough and outside the Borough
- c) Requirement to work in a flexible working environment
- d) Prepared to relocate offices within the Borough if necessary.

GENERAL



The job description is a representative document which is intended to set out the main responsibilities attached to this post. It is not exhaustive and there may be other duties similar to those described above, which have not been specifically including but which may arise from time to time.

Confidential information is involved in with the duties of this post. The post holder will be required to exercise discretion at all times and to observe relevant codes of practice and legislation in relation to data protection and confidential information.

The post holder will be required to undertake, deliver and/or participate in training, coaching and development activities, as appropriate.

June 2026

Note: Where the postholder is disabled, every reasonable effort will be made to support all necessary aids, adaptations or equipment to allow them to carry out all the duties of the job.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post: Senior Lawyer – Contracts Team

Post No

Service: Regulation & Compliance

Division: Corporate Legal Services

Team: Contracts Team

Personal Attributes Required	Essential (E) Or Desirable (D)	Method of Assessment
<p><u>QUALIFICATIONS/TRAINING</u></p> <p>Qualified solicitor or barrister with a significant and demonstrable period of post qualification experience.</p>	E	Certificate / AF / I



<u>EXPERIENCE</u>		
This team covers two main legal disciplines. It is essential that you have significant and demonstrable post qualification experience in either contract law and/or employment law and desirable that you have experience in the alternative discipline (contracts / employment). In any case that you are prepared to develop experience in both.	E	AF / I
Experience of advising on Procurement Law.	D	AF / I
Experience of training and developing colleagues.	E	AF / I
Experience of working within local government.	D	AF / I
Experience of managing staff including the allocation of work and monitoring staff performance.	D	AF / I
Experience of the instigation of successful change and the ability to develop team objectives and ensuring teams are motivated and employee development is linked to service needs.	D	AF / I
Experience of conducting supervision and performance and development reviews.	D	AF / I



<u>SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE/APTITUDES</u>		
Able to have the care and conduct of a caseload of high-level matters within the areas of work within the team with limited supervision.	E	AF / I
Able to have the care and conduct of a caseload of general public law matters with limited supervision.	E	AF / I
Ability to contribute positively to the effective management of the Department and to manage and develop performance effectively, with a commitment to continual improvement.	E	AF / I
Ability to prioritise own work and the work of the team to ensure both individual and team objectives / deadlines are met.	E	AF / I
Team player with the ability to develop productive working relationships that command respect, trust and confidence.	E	AF / I
Good level of analytical legal skills, including interpretation and application of case law and legislation.	E	AF / I
Able to provide advice and assistance to officers at all levels within the Council and to elected members.	E	AF / I
Able to be pro-active and innovative to provide solutions to client problems.	E	AF / I
Excellent communication, negotiation, consultation and influencing skills tailored to meet the needs to a wide range of audiences and stakeholders.	E	AF / I



Able to work under pressure and meet deadlines.	E	AF / I
Able to work in a politically sensitive environment.	E	AF / I
Able to use standard IT packages and systems.	E	AF / I
Able to travel independently over a wide geographical area.	E	AF / I
<u>SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS</u>		
Prepared to work flexible working hours, including attendance at evening meetings and to attend meetings and hearings throughout the Borough and outside the Borough.	E	AF / I
Be prepared to re-locate to offices within the Borough, if required to do so.	E	AF / I

Prepared by: Richard Clegg

Date: June 2026

AF = Application Form

I = Interview

T = Test

P = Presentation

