

Biography Michael Graham

Michael Graham is a solicitor and holds an MBA from Henley Business School. He is currently Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services at Reading Borough Council, where he is responsible for the legal shared service between all the Berkshire Unitaries for Children's Services, Adults and Education legal support. He is the Monitoring Officer and a member of the Corporate Management Team.

Michael was previously Head of Corporate Governance at Spelthorne Borough Council and Head of Legal Services at Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and led both councils in a shared legal service. He was Monitoring Officer at both councils. He has over 25 years' experience as a solicitor in local government having also worked at Cleveland County Council, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council and Surrey County Council. He has wide experience of local government across all its functions.

Michael has taken a leading role in the development of new commercial services in local authorities.

At Spelthorne Borough Council he was instrumental in the new governance arrangements required as the Council invested in a commercial property portfolio worth over £1bn. He was Company Secretary of the wholly owned property company Knowle Green Estates Ltd.

At Reigate and Banstead BC he helped set up three ventures as part of the Council's commercial approach to develop new income streams.

Michael has also been asked to assist other councils with complex governance issues. In 2015 he was invited by Woking Borough Council to be part of the Independent Sheerwater Review Panel which considered the Council's handling of a controversial regeneration project and subsequently made a range of recommendations about project governance and community engagement which were accepted and implemented by the Council.

In 2019 he assisted Stroud BC in its review of its Legal Services division and whether that Council should consider a shared service with One Legal.