Since moving to Lawrence Graham (now Gowling WLG) as a partner from Herbert Smith (now Herbert Smith Freehills) in 2012, Clare Fielding has built up one of the strongest planning practices in the City.

Her CV includes the £8bn Battersea Power station redevelopment, and clients include a raft of major developers such as Derwent London, Crown Estate, Tishman Speyer, Sellar Design & Development and Workspace.

Now Fielding has decided to move away from BigLaw and strike out on her own.

In the most important move to hit the legal planning sector for years, Fielding is joining forces with planning stars Patrick Robinson from Herbert Smith Freehills, Simon Ricketts from King & Wood Mallesons and Mary Cook from Cornerstone Barristers to set up a boutique planning firm called Town Legal.

The specialist outfit launched formally in January 2017 and is on course to be a major player in the sector.

Fielding is also an LGBT role model: her candid interview with The Lawyer for Pride Week 2016 (‘My Pride Story: “I’m a trans partner in the City and I’m happy to be a role model”’) was among the most popular on the site.