Public Private Partnerships (PPP), especially those geared to exercise public legal powers ('Authoritative PPP'), are suggestive of tensions between private party involvement and public legitimacy. Hence, public legitimacy is analyzed primarily on the basis of work done by David Beetham, and complemented with Public Law legitimacy considerations concerning the exercise of legal powers and law on public organizations. The findings project that there is room to convincingly frame legitimate PPP involving public authority, but that the scope is restricted both in terms of legal constraints and of political sensitivity. As a result of this, truly wicked policy projects, which in theory stand most to gain by PPP, in practice seem to be considered less suited for Authoritative PPP (and probably more for Network PPP).