

## **Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 26626**

*Please could you answer the following questions related to your planning services.*

### *1. Development management*

*- How many full-time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) do you have on the establishment in your “development management team” or equivalent team?*  
*- How many full time equivalent vacancies are there currently in your development management team? How many temporary staff or consultants are currently employed in your development management (or equivalent) team?*

- We have 6.4 full-time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) in the DM team
- There are 2 vacancies in the DM team
- We have no temporary staff or consultants employed in the DM team

### *2. Planning policy*

*- How many full-time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) do you have on the establishment in your “planning policy team” or equivalent team?*  
*- How many full time equivalent vacancies are there currently in your planning policy team. How many temporary staff or consultants are currently employed in your planning policy (or equivalent) team?*

- We have 4 full time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) in the Planning Policy team
- There are no vacancies in the Planning Policy team
- We have no temporary staff or consultants employed in the Planning Policy team

### *3. Planning enforcement*

*- How many full-time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) do you have on the establishment in your “planning enforcement team” or equivalent team?*  
*- How many full time equivalent vacancies are there currently in your planning enforcement team. How many temporary staff or consultants are currently employed in your planning enforcement (or equivalent) team?*

- We have 1.6 full time equivalent planning staff (not including administration staff) in the Planning Enforcement team
- There are no vacancies in the Planning Enforcement team
- We have no temporary staff or consultants employed in the Planning Enforcement team

### *4. Expert planning advisors*

*- Does your local council have in-house expert planning advisors to deal with issues such as ecology, heritage and design?*

*- Does your local council ever have to access external expert planning advice on such issues as ecology, heritage and design? If so, what areas do you have to request external advice on?*

- Yes, we have in-house experts
- We request external advice for heritage planning matters

**5. Entry level planners**

*- Do you fund entry level planning staff to undergo university courses or apprenticeships?  
- If yes, how many entry level planners have you provided such funding for in the last 5 years?*

- Yes, we fund entry level planning staff to undergo university courses or apprenticeships
- We have provided entry level funding for 8 career grade planners in the last 5 years

**6. Case loads**

*What was the average annual case load that planning officers in your planning enforcement/development management teams were carrying in the financial years a) 2020/21 b) 2022/23 c) 2024/25*

- a) 2020/21 = 20
- b) 2022/23 = 17
- c) 2024/25 = 18

**7. Local Plan**

*Does your council have an up to date local plan? If it does, when was it last formally approved?*

Yes, we have a local plan The Suffolk Minerals & Waste Plan adopted July 2020.