

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 26814**

*I am writing with the following requests for information:*

*1. What is the established staffing level of the planning department at full capacity (FTE)?*

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*2. What is the headcount in each of the following seniority categories at full capacity?*

- a. Head of Service / Director*
- b. Team Leader / Principal Planner*
- c. Senior Planner*
- d. Planning Officer*
- e. Graduate / Assistant Planner*
- f. Technical / Administrative staff*

- a) 1
- b) 5
- c) 6
- d) 2
- e) 5
- f) 2

*3. What was the average staff headcount (FTE) of the planning department during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025?*

18.4

*4. As at 31 March 2025, how many planning department staff were in each of the following seniority categories (headcount):*

- a. Head of Service / Director*
- b. Team Leader / Principal Planner*
- c. Senior Planner*
- d. Planning Officer*
- e. Graduate / Assistant Planner*
- f. Technical / Administrative staff*

- a) 1
- b) 5
- c) 4
- d) 1.4
- e) 5
- f) 2

*5. As at 31 March 2025, how many staff were:*

- a. Directly employed*
- b. Agency workers*

a) 21; b) 0

6. During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, what was the average length of engagement of agency workers (weeks)?

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7. What was the total expenditure (£) on agency planning staff between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025?

£49,081.69

8. What was the average planning department headcount (FTE) in the following financial years:

a. 2017/18

b. 2019/20

c. 2021/22

a) 2017/18 = 15

b) 2019/20 = 15.5

c) 2021/22 = 14.4

9. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, how many planning department staff:

a. Left the department

b. Were recruited into the department

a) 1; b) 3

10. Of those recruited during this period, how many were appointed:

a. To permanent roles

b. To fixed-term contract roles

a) 1; b) 3

11. As at 31 March 2025, how many vacant planning department posts existed in each of the following seniority categories (headcount):

a. Head of Service / Director

b. Team Leader / Principal Planner

c. Senior Planner

d. Planning Officer

e. Graduate / Assistant Planner

f. Technical / Administrative staff

a) 0

b) 0

c) 2

d) 0

e) 1

f) 0

**NB** Suffolk County Council is the Minerals, Waste and County Council Planning Authority, we only determine Minerals, Waste and County Council-owned developments (such as Schools, Libraries and Fire Stations). This is reflected in the number of applications we process and determine; thus our team of planning officers is much smaller than the Local District and Borough Councils, who handle all applications for residential and commercial developments.