



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-345, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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

Local Plan

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

Response:Development Management

- 10 FTE Planning Staff (excluding administration & agency)
- 3 FTE Vacancies (Currently filled with Agency Staff, included in the number below)
- 5 FTE Agency Planning Staff

Planning Policy

- 2 FTE Planning Staff (excluding agency)
- 2 FTE Vacancies
- 1 FTE Agency Planning Staff

Planning Enforcement

- 2.6 FTE Planning Staff
- 0 FTE Vacancies
- 0 FTE Agency Planning Staff

Planning Expert Advisors

- 1 FTE Tree's Officer (included in Development Management Planning Staff)
- 1 FTE Conservation Officer (included in Development Management Planning Staff)

Entry Level Planners

- Yes, entry-level planning can be funded.
- 4 FTE in the last 5 years.

Case loads

- 2020/2021 - Avg caseload 36 per month
- 2021/2022 - Avg caseload 40 per month
- 2022/2023 - Avg caseload 37 per month
- 2023/2024 - Avg caseload 33 per month
- 2024/2025 - Avg caseload 28 per month

Local Plan

- In April 2020, the council determined that its Local Plan 2015 required revision, but only partially and only in respect of its strategic housing policy, GROWTH1, and some of its supporting text. The rest of the Local Plan was considered to not, at that time, be in need of updating.

Over the period 2020 to 2023, the process of updating the Local Plan took place, focused on the issue of updating policy GROWTH1. This concluded on 19 October 2023.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-345.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.