



REQUEST 18771

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

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?

RESPONSE

11.8 FTE – This does not include the following who sit within the Development Management Team structure:

Planning Enforcement Officers – 2.6 FTE
Development Compliance Officer – 1 FTE
Trees and Woodlands Officer – 1 FTE
Conservation Officer – 1 FTE
Technical Support Officers – 5.5 FTE

0 - FTE vacancies

0 - FTE temporary staff or consultants

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?

6 FTE

0 FTE

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?

2.6 FTE

0 - FTE vacancies

0 - FTE temporary staff or consultants

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?

Heritage/Conservation - 1 FTE Officer;
Design/Landscape - 1 FTE Officer;
Design / Regeneration - 1FTE Officer
Trees and Woodlands - 1 FTE Officer

The below response includes the ability to consult with statutory and non-statutory consultees in the planning process and, depending on the merits of the case, may not be exhaustive:

In regard to heritage, and where appropriate, the Council can consult and take advice from Historic England, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Historic Buildings & Places, the Council for British Archaeology, the Georgian Group, The Victorian Society, The Twentieth Century Society, Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

The Council consults the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit on ecology related matters. The Environment Agency and Natural England can also be consulted on these grounds when undertaking assessments on planning proposals.

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

1

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

- 2020/21
- 2022/23
- 2024/25

This information is not held in the form requested, but at the point of compiling this response, in the most basic form the DM Case Officers, as a team, had 306 open planning cases (not including pre-application cases or condition discharge requests).

The Planning Enforcement Team had 192 investigations open (not including those

which had progressed to the serving of a formal Notice).

Local Plan

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

Yes – further details can be found on the Council's website at the following link:

Planning

In addition, The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan document, which includes Wigan Borough, was adopted in March 2024. Further details can be found on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's website at the following link:

[PfE Adoption - Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)