



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 7097
Coventry
CV6 9SL

www.coventry.gov.uk

E mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

[Redacted]

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI835576545**

Thank you for your request for information relating to FOI on community development roles .

You have requested the following information:

I'm writing alongside the attached FOI request to flag that this is part of a small pilot exercise we're running with a handful of councils.

The aim is not only to request information where it's reasonably available, but also to sense check whether the definitions and questions are clear and workable from a local authority perspective. We're particularly keen to hear where questions are difficult to answer, how you've interpreted the scope, or how the wording could be refined if this were to be issued more widely in future.

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and forms part of a small pilot exercise. The purpose of the pilot is both to request information where it is reasonably available and to invite feedback on the clarity, feasibility, and interpretation of the questions and definition below.

Definition

For the purposes of this request, community development roles are defined as roles whose primary purpose is to support communities to work together at neighbourhood or place level.

This includes work such as building relationships within and between communities, supporting resident led or grassroots groups, developing local or community leadership, and supporting communities to influence decisions affecting their area.

These roles typically involve facilitation, coordination, or capacity building functions and exclude roles focused primarily on service delivery to individuals, one to one support, or case management.

Indicative job titles may include community development worker/officer, community organiser, neighbourhood development worker, community or place connector, community capacity building or empowerment roles, and local area or leadership development roles.

Questions

For the purposes of the following questions, where staff spend only part of their time on community development activities, please include the relevant proportion of their time in your response.

1. As at the date of this request, what is the total full time equivalent (FTE) of staff working on community development roles (as defined above) who are:

- employed directly by the local authority; and**
- funded or commissioned by the local authority but employed by external organisations?**

Please provide your best estimate based on available records.

2. Using the same definition and approach, what was the approximate total FTE of such roles in 2010 (or the earliest available year since 2010 for which data is available), and what is the equivalent figure for the most recent year available?

If exact figures are not held, please indicate whether in your authority's view, the total FTE of such roles has increased, decreased, or remained broadly stable over that period.

As this is a pilot, we would welcome any brief feedback on:

- how you have interpreted the definition**
- whether the questions are feasible to answer under FOI; and**
- how the request could be refined or clarified were it to be issued more widely.**

If any part of this request is refused, please specify the exemption relied upon and confirm whether any information can be disclosed within FOI cost limits.

CLARIFICATION:

This request forms part of a small pilot exercise, and we are keen to understand what information is reasonably identifiable rather than seek a comprehensive mapping of all engagement activity across the Council.

To help refine the scope while retaining the intent of the request, I would be happy for you to focus on roles that meet both of the following criteria:

- The role's primary purpose is to support community development at neighbourhood or place level (rather than service delivery to individuals); and**
- Community development constitutes a substantial and explicit part of the post, rather than incidental engagement activity.**

To assist with identification, please limit your consideration to posts with titles that typically indicate this focus, for example (where relevant to your authority):

- Community Development Worker / Officer**

- Neighbourhood Development or Neighbourhood Officer (where focused on place based community capacity)
- Community Engagement or Community Empowerment roles (where the remit is primarily place based)
- Community or Place Connector roles
- Other equivalent place based roles whose core function aligns with the definition provided

We are not seeking to capture all roles that involve some element of community engagement, nor frontline service roles where engagement is incidental.

If it remains difficult to provide a precise figure, we would welcome:

- a high level estimate of total FTE; or
- an indication of whether, in your view, capacity has broadly increased, decreased, or remained stable over time.

Equally, if your assessment is that the Council does not currently employ or commission roles that meet this narrower definition, confirmation of that position would also be helpful for the purposes of the pilot.

We have previously advised that the request is broad however to assist, please see below:

1. As at the date of this request, what is the total full time equivalent (FTE) of staff working on community development roles (as defined above) who are:

- employed directly by the local authority;

7.8 FTE within Customer Services where we have included all roles in the Community Resilience Team.

- funded or commissioned by the local authority but employed by external organisations?

None.

Please provide your best estimate based on available records.

2. Using the same definition and approach, what was the approximate total FTE of such roles in 2010 (or the earliest available year since 2010 for which data is available), and what is the equivalent figure for the most recent year available?

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance