

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019-20

Introduction & Scope

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for the salary and related allowances paid to Chief Officers of the Council meeting the requirements of the Localism Act and also meeting the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which the authority is required to have regard under Section 40 of the Act.

It does not cover teaching staff whose salaries and terms of conditions of employment are set by the Secretary of State. Academy schools are an entirely separate employer covered by the Academies Act 2010 and are responsible for setting salaries for their employees.

Underlying Principles

The Council is committed to and supports the principle of equal pay for all our employees.

Equal pay between men and women is a legal right under both United Kingdom and European Law. The Equality Act 2010 requires employers not to discriminate on grounds of race and disability and similar rules apply to sexual orientation, religion and age.

The authority applies terms and conditions of employment that have been negotiated and agreed through appropriate collective bargaining mechanisms (national or local) or as a consequence of authority decisions, these are then incorporated into contracts of employment.

1. Determination of Pay

Chief Executive and Chief Officers conditions of service are in line with the Joint Negotiating Committees for Chief Executives and Chief Officers. Local agreements and remuneration are determined by Council on recommendation made by the authority's Staffing Committee.

This also applies to shared management arrangements with partner organisations, where the job continues to be filled by an employee of the Council.

2. Pay Relationship

The lowest pay rate in the authority (excluding apprentice rates) equates to a full time equivalent annual salary of £17,711 and can be expressed as an hourly rate of pay of £9.18, above the current UK Living Wage of £9.00 per hour. This pay rate and salary was determined by the authority as part of a pay scale for employees employed on Local Government Services Terms and Conditions.

The highest paid salary in this authority is £168,129 which is paid to the Chief Executive.

The ratio between the two salaries, the 'pay multiple' is 9.5 to 1. Against the median salary of £20,541 this multiple reduces to 8 to 1 and against the average salary of £24,881 to 7 to 1.

The Hutton review considered the multiple should be no greater than 20 to 1 (lower is better) and based on the current situation the Council falls well below this threshold. The authority does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific 'pay multiple', however the authority is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the authority.

These pay rates may increase in accordance with any pay settlements which are reached through their respective national negotiating bodies.

3. Salary Packages over £100,000

The authority will ensure that before an offer of appointment is made, any salary package for any post that is in excess of £100,000 is considered by Council following recommendation by Staffing Committee.

4. Market Supplements

In exceptional circumstances where there are recruitment difficulties; there may be a requirement to consider the payment of temporary market supplements such as 'golden hellos', retention payments or regular monthly payments.

In situations where a Market Supplement is being considered a report detailing the business case is considered by the Assistant Director of Human Resources & OD who makes the final decision as to whether a supplement is payable, the amount and the frequency of review. For Chief Officer graded posts where this would result in a pay package in excess of £100k the case will be considered by Council on recommendation made by the Staffing Committee.

Supplements can be reviewed at any time but a review must be undertaken on an annual basis.

5. Pay Awards

The authority will apply any pay increases that are agreed by relevant national negotiating bodies and/or any pay increases that are agreed through local negotiations.

6. Allowances

Posts covered by Chief Executive or Chief Officer terms and conditions do not attract additional allowances.

7. Bonuses

The authority does not have or intends to introduce any bonus schemes.

8. Performance Related Pay

The authority does not operate a performance related pay system as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance. Any areas of under-performance would be addressed through the capability procedure.

9. Earn back

The authority does not operate an earn-back pay system whereby a proportion of the employee salary is held back and only paid if specific targets are achieved as it believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance. Any areas of under-performance would be addressed through the capability procedure.

10. Voluntary Employee Benefits

As part of its reward package the Council offers a range of salary sacrifice schemes where employees can exchange a portion of their salary for some other form of non-cash benefit. For example childcare vouchers, lease of a brand new car, cycles, and purchase of additional leave.

11. Expenses

Approved additional expenses incurred in the course of their work are reimbursed subject to appropriate evidence of expenditure being produced and in accordance with the terms of the Council Subsistence policy. Employees should not be out of pocket but situations which warrant payment of expenses are not intended to result in a profit.

Mileage expenses are reimbursed at £0.40 per mile.

12. Election Fees

The duties of Electoral Registration Officer are undertaken by the authority's Chief Executive, the remuneration for which is included in their annual salary.

The authority's Chief Executive is also the Returning Officer for elections, referendums and other polls. The Returning Officer may appoint deputies and by convention has chosen to appoint the Director of Legal Services as a Deputy Returning Officer.

For national elections, referendums or other polls which may be required by statute, fees are paid in accordance with the amounts specified for each poll by statutory order.

For local Borough and Parish elections a local scale of fees, which has not increased since 2008, is approved by Council

13. Termination Payments

The authority's normal redundancy payment arrangements apply subject to the Public Sector exit payments cap to all staff including Chief Officers and the Chief Executive. The authority also applies the appropriate Pensions regulations in circumstances where employees qualify for release of pensions.

Council will also be given the opportunity to vote on any severance package with a cost in excess of £100k. The components of any such package will be clearly set out and will include pay in lieu of notice, redundancy payment, pension release costs, settlement payments, holiday pay and any fees or allowances paid.

14. Pension Enhancement

The authority has agreed policies in place on how it will apply any discretionary powers it has under Pensions regulations.

It is not Council policy to apply the available discretions to award additional pension to members of the pension scheme (regulation 31).

15. Re-employment of Staff

The authority is under a statutory duty to appoint on merit and has to ensure that it complies with all appropriate employment and equalities legislation. The authority will always seek to appoint the best available candidate to a post who has the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities and qualities needed for the post.

If a candidate is a former employee in receipt of an LGPS pension or a redundancy payment this will not rule them out from being re-employed by the authority. Clearly where a former employee left the authority on redundancy terms then the old post has been deleted and the individual cannot return to the post as it will not exist.

The authority will apply the provisions of the Statutory Redundancy Payments Modification Order regarding the recovery of redundancy payments if this is relevant and appropriate. Pensions Regulations also have provisions to reduce pension payments in certain circumstances to those who return to work within the local government service.

The authority will apply the provisions of the Recovery of Public Sector exit payments when the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act applies.

16. Transparency

The authority meets its requirements under the Localism Act, the Code of Practice on Data Transparency and the Accounts and Audit Regulations in order to ensure that it is open and transparent regarding senior officer remuneration.

17. Policy Amendment

The Council may seek to change elements within the pay policy as part of any necessary efficiency review or as other circumstances dictate.

This policy statement will be reviewed each year and will be presented to Council each year for consideration in order to ensure that a policy is in place for the authority prior to the start of each financial year.

18. Pay Policy References

- Agency workers directive 2011
- Hutton Fair Pay in the Public Sector Final Report (March 2011)
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities
- Local Government (Early Termination of Employment)(Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006
- Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership & Contributions) Regulations
- Localism Act 2011
- National Joint Council for Local Government Services
- Representation of the People Act 1983
- Rotherham Borough Council Scheme of Delegation
- The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2011)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Secretary of State for CLG Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency
- Local Government Transparency Code 2015
- HM Treasury Recovery of Public Sector exit payments

Further information can be found on the Council's website:

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/38/staff_salary_information