

Appendix 1

Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026

Introduction

1. This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's policies on remuneration of its staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The policy must be approved by full Council and is subject to annual review. Any amendments during the year must also be considered by full Council. The Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after approval or amendment.
2. Section 38 of The Localism Act 2011 does not require the Council to consider individual schools, or any individual employed by a third party contracted to work for the Authority. Therefore, the arrangements set out in this document do not extend to any staff employed within a school or individuals engaged via an agency.

Definitions

3. The Localism Act 2011 defines the following as Chief Officer posts:
 - Head of Paid Service designated under Section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
 - Monitoring Officer designated under Section 5(1) of that Act
 - Any statutory Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(6) of that Act
 - Any non-statutory Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(7) of that Act
 - Any Deputy Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(8) of that Act.
4. The following posts within the Council fall within the above definition:
 - Chief Executive
 - Executive Director
 - Strategic Directors
 - Directors
 - Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal and Governance Services)
5. At 31st December 2024 the lowest paid employee of the Council received £12.65 per hour. This is higher than The Real Living Wage rate for 2024/25, which increased to £12.60 with effect from 23rd October 2024.
6. Apprenticeships have been excluded as the salaries attributable to apprenticeships are largely in line with those set out within National Apprentice rates.
7. The median salary figure for the organisation is the middle value of all employees' salaries listed in numerical order. The median salary figure is then used to calculate the organisation's pay multiple and is calculated on a fixed date each year, on 31 December.

Content

8. To comply with the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to approve a Pay Policy Statement setting out details of the Council's policies on the following:
- Level of remuneration of Chief Officers
 - Level of remuneration paid upon recruitment
 - Payment of increments
 - Enhanced / additional pension contributions
 - Payment of bonuses, performance related pay and severance pay for Chief Officers
 - Awarding additional fees for election work
 - The creation of new posts with a salary package over £100,000 per annum
 - Employment of individuals already in receipt of a local government pension
 - Employment of ex-employees as Chief Officers under a contract for services
9. The Pay Policy Statement also sets out:
- The Council's approach to the pay of its lowest paid employees
 - The relationship between Chief Officer / senior staff pay, and the Council's remaining employees as set out within the context of the pay multiple calculation
 - How this Pay Policy Statement will be publicised

Chief Officer Remuneration

10. The level of remuneration paid to Chief Officers is based on the Local Government Association Scheme and the policy on this was approved in December 2005 by the Mayor. The terms and conditions of Chief Officer Employment contracts incorporate nationally agreed Joint Negotiating Committee terms and conditions.

Post	Salary Band
Chief Executive	£166,435
Executive Director	£122,614 - £135,299
Strategic Director	£115,978
Joint Director of Public Health ¹	£97,860 - £103,849
Monitoring Officer ²	£115,978
Director Level 1	£97,860 - £103,849
Director Level 2	£85,881 - £91,872

Level of remuneration paid upon recruitment

11. The Council's policy on pay upon recruitment is set out within the Recruitment & Selection Policy Statement and Guide, which applies to all employees. The Starting Salaries Policy states that upon recruitment to a post, remuneration will begin at the bottom of the pay band unless agreed otherwise by the Director and the Head of Human Resources in exceptional circumstances. In the case of Chief Officers, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance would be required to agree any variation to this policy.

¹ Director of Public Health has joint responsibility for Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland

² Currently allocated to the Director of Legal and Governance Services

Payment of increments and increases in salary

12. The Council's policy on the payment of increments is that all employees with less than six months' service on the first of April will receive their first increment six months after appointment, promotion or re-grading. Otherwise, all employee increments are payable on an annual basis on the first of April. Other increases in pay for any employee will only occur where:

- There is a pay award agreed by way of national / local collective bargaining
- There is a significant change to a job role which results in a higher salary being appropriate which is confirmed by an appropriate job evaluation process
- Recruitment and Retention payments which, following consideration of the circumstances at the time, are deemed necessary and in the best interests of the Council and which are determined under the relevant policy relating to such payments.

Enhanced / additional pension contributions

13. The Council's policy on enhanced or additional contributions to pensions is set out within the Teesside Pension Fund Policy Statement and the Council's Statement of Policy regarding the application of the discretionary elements of the Local Government Pension Scheme regulation. These apply to all employees. These statements set out:

- Allocation of employee contribution bands
- Awarding extra benefits for early retirement situations
- Extending time limits for certain provisions
- Setting up a shared cost Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) scheme
- Waiving actuarial reductions for early / flexible retirements

Payment of bonuses, performance related pay and severance pay

14. The Council's policy is that it does not operate bonus or performance related pay for its employees.

15. The policy on severance and redundancy pay is set out within the Reviews, Consultation and Redundancy Policy, which applies to all employees. This states that calculation of any redundancy payment to an employee will be in accordance with the Council's policy in relation to Redundancy. Redundancy payments will be based on age and years' service in line with the Statutory Redundancy table up to a maximum of 30 weeks, however the Council retains the discretion under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales Regulations) 2006 to offer discretionary payments. Such discretionary elements will be approved by the Chief Officer Appointments Committee as a Committee of full Council.

16. Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee previously approved a temporary enhancement of the Council's Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. This policy currently enables a multiplier of 1.25 to be applied to voluntary redundancies that arise either because of a review within a specific service area or from time to time within a Council wide scheme.

17. Where consideration to allow voluntary redundancy/early retirement to terminate a contract of employment any redundancy payment, pension strain costs and/or salary in

lieu of notice total amounts to a single payment of £100,000 or more, full Council or a committee thereof will be given an opportunity to vote before the package is approved.

18. Where an employee is contractually entitled to a payment in excess of £100,000 on the grounds of compulsory redundancy, failure to comply with this would place the Council in breach of contract and leave it exposed to litigation. Therefore, there is an exemption from the requirement to give Council an opportunity to vote on those cases where the payment of a severance package does not involve any discretion, this is because the Council is legally bound to comply with severance terms in any event.
19. In the absence of any exceptional circumstances which render it necessary in the best interests of the Council to do so, the Council will generally not re-engage any individual who has previously been employed by the Council and left that employment with the benefit of a severance, early retirement, or redundancy payment.

Awarding additional fees

20. The policy on the payment of additional fees is set out within the Council's Constitution and decision making is delegated to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee. The Council's policy on the payment of additional fees to officers within the scope of this statement is that fees for election duties for Chief Officers are not included in salaries. These are determined separately in consultation with the other Tees Valley Councils. For contested elections, the fees are based on an agreed sum for the first 1,000 electors and a further sum for each additional 1,000 electors or fraction thereof, and a set agreed sum for uncontested elections. This policy of payment is approved by the Council's Corporate Affairs Committee and is in line with national guidance and legislation.

Creation of new posts with a salary package over £100,000 per annum

21. In line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, Council will be given the opportunity to approve salary packages for any new posts that would come within the scope of this Pay Policy Statement, defined within the Act as posts over £100,000 per annum. This includes any additional fees, charges or allowances that would be routinely payable. The approach to be taken when creating a new post is set out within the Constitution. Where a Chief Officer post is created which is under £100,000 the usual processes will be followed as set out within the Recruitment and Selection Policy and the Pay Policy Statement will be amended accordingly.

Employment of individuals already in receipt of a local government pension

22. The approach to the employment of individuals already in receipt of a Local Government Pension is set by the administering authority for the pension. The Local Government, Teesside Pension Fund has resolved not to abate pensions on re-employment, having regard to the enactment of regulations introducing flexible retirement, unless an enhanced ill-health retirement has been awarded. Some pensioners have been awarded extra pensions by their former employers to compensate them for retiring early. When this happens, the extra pensions, called compensatory added years (CAYs), are paid along with the Fund's retirement pension. These extra pensions may be abated upon re-employment or upon subsequent retirement, in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

Employment of ex-employees as Chief Officers under a contract for services

23. The Council's position is that this is generally discouraged, however there may be some specific circumstances where employment of an ex-employee under these terms, could be the most effective and efficient way of meeting the Council's needs. If this situation applies formal approval must be sought from the Chief Executive in their role as Head of Paid Service.

Chief Officers' Tax and National Insurance

24. The Council does not enter arrangements with individual employees to minimise their tax and national insurance contributions.

Remuneration of the lowest paid employees within the Council

Lowest paid employees

25. On 31st December 2024 the lowest FTE salary within the Council grading structure is £24,404.

The Council's approach to the pay of its lowest paid employees

26. The Council is committed to ensuring that pay and reward policies are fair and that the needs of the lowest paid employees are properly considered. The Council has completed the job evaluation process to ensure that all employees receive a fair and equal rate of pay for the work that they undertake. The Council is signed up to nationally negotiated pay agreements.

Relationship between the highest paid employee and other employees

27. The Council publishes its pay multiple in line with the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015. The pay multiple is the ratio between the highest paid employee (£166,435) and the median earnings across the organisation (see paragraph 7 for information on the method used to calculate this). The current median salary earned within the Council is £29,093. The pay multiple is 5.72.

Publication of the Pay Policy Statement and transparency information

28. The Pay Policy Statement is published on the Council's website. Further information on the remuneration of Chief Officers can be found on the Open Data section of the Council's website in line with the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015.

Potential future review

Recovery of Public Sector Exit Costs

29. The Government is seeking to introduce legislation to require senior officers in the public sector (those earning over £80,000) to repay termination payments if they return to the public sector within a prescribed period, which is currently proposed as 12 months. The enabling provisions are set out in the Enterprise Act which received Royal Assent in May 2016. However, there is still no clear timeline for the implementation of these provisions.

£95k Exit Cap on Public Sector Employees

30. The Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th November 2020. The government then dis-applied the regulations with effect from 12th February 2021 and they were formally revoked on 19th March 2021.
31. The Government has not confirmed when the exit cap or further reforms will be introduced, it is unlikely to happen in the immediate future given the time it will take to consult and make changes to legislation.
32. The Pay Policy Statement will be amended should there be any changes in regulation.