

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Pay Policy Statement 2026/2027

Meeting/Date: Employment Committee – 11 February 2026,
Full Council - 25 February 2026

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray (LDR)

Report by: Head of HR (LH)

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Executive Summary:

The Localism Act 2011 requires for each local authority to produce and publish an annual Pay Policy Statement. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to ensure transparency and accountability with regards to our approach to setting pay.

The Statement must be agreed by Full Council and published on our website by 31st March 2026. It must set out the authority's policies relating to the remuneration of its chief officers, the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and of other employees. Including the ratio of pay of the top earner and that of the median earner.

The Pay Policy Statement attached sets out the Council's current policies and standard practices and should satisfy the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. Much of the information required is already published by the Council on its website.

Once adopted, the Pay Policy Statement will be publicised on the Council's website along with the data on senior salaries that is already published (under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency 2011) through the Annual accounts.

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is asked to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report draws Employment Committee's attention to the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires each local authority to produce an annual Pay Policy Statement. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to ensure transparency and accountability with regards to our approach to setting pay.
- 2.2 The Employment Committee are asked to review and agree the Pay Policy statement, which can then be taken to full council, before publication on our website by 31 March 2026.

3. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the council to publish this Annual Pay Policy statement.

4. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Employment Committee to review 11 February, Full Council to review 25 February. Publication on HDC Website by 31 March 2026.

5. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 –2026/27 Pay Policy Statement HDC

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PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026 - 2027

1. Introduction and scope

- 1.1. This Pay Policy Statement is produced in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and sets out Huntingdonshire District Council's approach, to ensure transparency and accountability with regards to setting pay.
- 1.2. The Pay Policy Statement identifies:
 - The method by which salaries and severance payments are determined.
 - The detail and level of remuneration of the council's most senior managers, that is the Managing Director (known as Chief Executive within Huntingdonshire District Council) and the Corporate Leadership Team, which accords with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
 - The detail and level of remuneration for the lowest level of post.
 - The ratio of pay of the top earner and that of the median earner.
- 1.3. The localism Act refers to posts of Chief Executive, Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer (those that report to a Chief Officer). Whilst the Council does not employ any post with the designation Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer, it is considered for the purposes of this legislation that the definition relates to posts of Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service; Directors: and Heads of Service.
- 1.4. This policy applies to those employed on Huntingdonshire District Council's terms and conditions of employment, whose remuneration (including rates of pay and terms and conditions) are determined by and within the control of the authority. It therefore doesn't apply to staff that transferred to the Council under TUPE as they retain their previous terms, conditions, and policies.
- 1.5. This updated Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible following Full Council Approval and by 31 March 2026.
- 1.6. This Statement will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary to reflect the prevailing legislation at the time. The information and data in this Statement is current as of 30 January 2026. This Pay Policy Statement reflects the pay arrangements for the year up to 31 March 2027.

2. Remuneration

- 2.1. When determining the pay and remuneration of all employees, Huntingdonshire District Council will comply with the Equality Act 2010.

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2.2. The salary scale is determined by the Job-evaluated grade and any salary progression is subject to exceptional performance and subject to affordability as outlined in the Councils Pay Policy.

2.3. The Council may apply a locally agreed cost of living pay award to the salaries.

2.4. The Council does not pay bonuses.

3. Senior Management Pay

3.1. Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is the Council's Head of Paid Service. This salary is currently paid in line with the Council's pay scales grade MD (£142,591 - £160,538). Under current arrangements, any change to the pay level of the role of CEO needs to be agreed by the Leader. The salary will attract a cost-of-living increase.

Head of Paid Service appointments are approved by Full Council following the recommendation of such an appointment by a panel which must include the relevant Executive Councillor and appointment salary for this post will be within the pay grade MD.

The Chief Executive Officer (Head of Paid Service) is additionally the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. The responsibility of this role is one of a personal nature distinct from duties as an employee of the Council. Election fees are paid for these additional duties, and they are paid separately to salary.

Other Officers, including Senior Officers in the scope of this policy, may receive additional payment for specific election duties.

3.2 Other Senior Managers Pay

The Council's pay scales for these posts are locally agreed and as follows:

Directors

The salary scale is AD within the range £94,128 - £106,094

Deputy Chief Executive

An annual Responsibility Allowance of £7,000 is paid to the Deputy Chief Executive

Heads of Service

The salary scale is SM within the range of £72,588 - £82,161 and SM Plus fixed scale point of £87,291

Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer

A Statutory Responsibility Allowance is paid to the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Deputy Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer are paid an annual allowance of £5,000 in addition to their salary for these responsibilities and the Deputy Section 151 Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer are paid an annual allowance of £2,500.

4 Remuneration of other employees

4.1 The pay spine used by the Council is locally agreed and any cost of living, as agreed by the NJC national pay bargaining process, will be applied to the pay scales. Pay progression within grades, for employees is based on exceptional performance and affordability in line with the Council's Pay policy.

4.2 All posts are evaluated using the Inbucon evaluation scheme. Apprentices are paid above the statutory minimum National Apprenticeship Wage.

4.3 Attraction and Retention - Salaries on appointment to all posts are determined in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy. New appointments will normally be made at the minimum point of the relevant grade, although appointing managers have discretion to vary where necessary to secure the best candidate and in line with relevant council policy.

4.4 Pay supplements – The council may in exceptional circumstances and if specific criteria are met, use Market Supplements to make additional Payments to reflect the market rate, for those roles where evidence exists of recruitment and retention issues. This policy applies to all roles and requires Director approval and is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy.

4.5 All temporary appointments, acting up arrangements, secondments and honorarium payments are approved in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures. Such payments are only made on an exception basis on the submission of a business case and at the discretion of the appropriate Chief Officer.

4.6 Business Mileage costs are aligned to the HMRC benchmark Rates.

4.7 Pay protection – in line with the Council's redundancy policy and to mitigate redundancy for employees at risk who accept a post that is one grade lower than their current grade, pay protection will apply for a period of one year (6 months at full pay, 6 months at half pay). Where a business case demonstrates a benefit to the council, and to mitigate against potential redundancies, the council may consider the application of pay protection two grades lower than current grade and pay protection in this instance will apply for 6 months (3 months full pay and 3 months half pay).

5. Lowest paid employees

- 5.1 For the purposes of the Pay Policy Statement, the Council's pay scales define the lowest paid employees as those whose salary falls within the lowest grade A, spinal column 4, with a salary of £24,311. Apprentices are not included within the definition of lowest paid employees.

6. Pay multiples

- 6.1 The idea of publishing the ratio of the pay of an organisation's top earner to that of its median earner (the person in the middle of all earners) has been recommended to support the principles of Fair Pay (Will Hutton 2011) and for transparency.
- 6.2 The council's Median Salary is based on the salary, which is the numerical 'mid-point' when the organisation's salaries are arranged from top to bottom in order of size. It is based purely on the actual salary assigned to the post (assuming the post is worked at 1 Full Time Equivalent). Salaries of vacant posts, Variable members of staff, contractors, and other non-employees are not used for the purposes of this calculation.

As of 30 January 2025, the Council's full time equivalent **Median Pay**, was £30,051 (equating to spinal column point 17 on the Council's pay scale).

- 6.3 **Pay Ratio** The ratio of pay of the top earner in 2025/26, Chief Executive Officer, and that of the median earner is 1 to 4.75. It is the Council's policy that the salary of the CEO will be no greater than 8x the median earner of the Council's workforce.

7 Pension provisions

- 7.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is open to all employees up to 75 years of age and with a contract of more than 3 months' duration. Details are set out on the LGPS website.
- 7.2 No additional pension payment to the Local Government Pension Scheme is made to Chief Officers.
- 7.3 Employees have a right to belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme. The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently range between 5.5 per cent and 11.4 per cent of pensionable pay depending on full time equivalent salary levels. The employer contribution rate is fixed at 17.3%.

8 Severance provisions for all employees including Chief Officers

- 8.1 HDC Severance payments are made in accordance with the Council's Redundancy Policy as approved by Employment Panel in August 2014 and applicable legislation and are the same for all staff unless they are protected by TUPE.

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- 8.2 Employees with more than two years' service will be entitled to redundancy pay in line with local government guidelines and statutory calculations. Where an employee is entitled to a redundancy payment, the calculation is based on the employee's actual weekly pay.
- 8.3 Settlement agreements will only be used in exceptional circumstances where they represent best value for the Council.

9 Publication of pay data

- 9.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and the Localism Act 2011, details of the remuneration paid to all members of the Council Leadership Team can be found in the Council's annual statement of accounts.
- 9.2 In line with the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 which became effective 31st March 2017, the Council's publishes its Gender Pay Gap reporting annually on the Council's website. The next report will be finalised and published in line with regulations by 30 March 2026.
- 9.3 The Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each subsequent financial year. Our next Statement is scheduled to be for 2027/28 and will be submitted to Full Council for approval by 31 March 2027.
- 9.4 Should it be necessary to amend this Pay Statement again during the year that it applies, an appropriate resolution will be made by Full Council.

Summary:

Date	January 2026
Related Legislation	Localism Act 2011
Replaces	Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026
Policy Author	Leanne Harfield, Head of HR
Applies to	All employees of Huntingdonshire District Council