

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017 - 18

This Pay Policy Statement forms part of Huntingdonshire District Council's pay and reward strategy and provides information about the Council's policies relating to the pay and reward of chief officers and other employees, as required by sections 38-43 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Statement is available on the Council's website and contains hyperlinks to associated documents. The Council's website also includes separately published data on pay and reward for senior Officers.

Terms and conditions of employment – decision making

Terms and conditions for employees are a non-executive function and responsibilities for decisions on these matters are delegated by full Council to Employment Committee and Senior Officers Committee. Information about these Committees and our staff consultative body is listed below.

Employment Committee:

The Employment Committee is a committee of Councillors appointed by Full Council to consider matters to do with the general terms and conditions of employment. Its membership is representative of the political balance of the Council. The Committee meets four times per year and is supported by the Managing Director (Head of Paid Services) and other officers as required. Full constitutional arrangements can be found in the Council's Constitution, which can be accessed from this link:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings-and-decision-making/>

Senior Officers Committee:

The Senior Officers Committee is a committee of Councillors appointed by Full Council to consider matters to do with the appointment and termination of office of senior staff. The Committee meets as required and a Chair is elected during the first annual meeting of the Committee. Full constitutional arrangements can be found in the Council's Constitution.

Staff Council:

The Council places great emphasis on the value of strong employee consultation and engagement. The Council has established a staff consultative body which consists of up to 15 volunteer staff elected by staff – Staff Council. The Managing Director works with Staff Council representatives to address matters of staff interest and concern and to establish an agenda which is discussed during formal meetings with Members who are drawn from the Employment Committee. Staff Council is the body that undertakes collective bargaining and consultation on a formal basis. The Council also recognises that a significant number of the contracted workforce are members of Unison and maintains close contacts with this union as required.

The Council's senior managers

The Council's employees are managed by one Managing Director, two Corporate Directors, 6 Heads of Service and a Corporate Team Manager. The position of Head of Paid Service is held by the Managing Director. The Managing Director holds the positions of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration

Officer, s151 officer role is held by the Head of Resources and the Monitoring Officer is the joint Head of Legal, shared with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council under the 3C shared services arrangement.

For the purposes of this Statement only, the Council has determined that the definition of the term “chief officer” in section 43 of the Localism Act includes the Managing Director post, two Corporate Directors, 6 Heads of Service and the Corporate Team Manager who all report directly to the Managing Director or Corporate Directors.

Basic salary

The current salary scales for the Managing Director, Corporate Directors, Heads of Service and Corporate Team Manager are shown in the table below.

Table 1

| Post | Grade | Minimum Grade Point (£) | Maximum Grade Point (£) |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Managing Director | MD | 118,675 | 133,825 |
| Corporate Directors (x2) | AD | 77,770 | 87,870 |
| Heads of Service (x6) | SM | 59,590 | 67,670 |
| Corporate Team Manager (x1) | I | 47,986 | 54,009 |

Payment of professional fees

Huntingdonshire District Council do not pay personal subscription fees for any professional bodies with the exception of the Section 151 Officer.

Other allowances

Standby and closed attendance allowance arrangements are utilised in some services to ensure 24/7 cover and/or to provide additional cover at particular peaks in demand and/or to undertake duties outside the agreed normal working week.

Short-term allowance payments may be made for acting up or additional duties.

Travel expenses, overtime payments and a range of allowances are payable in accordance with the Council’s Expenses, Allowances and Overtime Policy. Payments made are in compliance with HMRC rules and the National Joint Council’s National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service. The Council’s Pay Policy allows short-term honorarium or acting up payments to be made for acting up or additional duties as well as the payment of market supplements to ensure that the Council is competitive within the local job market.

Mileage costs are aligned to the HMRC benchmark rates. Employees are not entitled to reimbursement for subsistence allowances whilst undertaking Council business, other than pre-approved overnight meal allowances

Election fees

The Managing Director holds the positions of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. The salary for this post is inclusive of fees in respect of District Council elections. Additional fees may be payable for other elections, with fees for certain functions set by Statutory Instrument.

Other employees may receive additional payment for specific election duties according to scales set by the Returning Officer but derived from fees set by the Cabinet Office and other guidance.

Salaries on recruitment/appointment

As required by guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act, full Council are given the opportunity to vote before large salary packages in excess of £100,000 are offered in respect of new appointments. This is likely to only apply to appointments to posts on Grade MD in the current pay structure, but will include any posts where salary packages (including salary, bonuses, fees, allowances and any benefits in kind) exceed £100,000. This £100,000 threshold will be amended if Government guidance changes.

Head of Paid Service/ Managing Director

The full Council will approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service following the recommendation of such an appointment by a panel of the Council appointed for that purpose and before an offer of appointment is made to the selected candidate and any salary packages that exceed £100,000 are proposed. That panel must include the relevant Executive Councillor and salary will be within the pay grade MD in table 1.

Other Chief Officers

Salaries on appointment to all posts are determined in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy.

Recruitment of Chief Officers

The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of chief officers is outlined in the Employment Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution.

Where the Council remains unable to recruit chief officers under a contract of service, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant substantive chief officer post, the Council will, where necessary, consider and utilise engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through the relevant procurement processes ensuring the council is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits from competition in securing the relevant service.

Salary progression

The appraisal scheme at HDC provides employees with the opportunity to be advanced within their grade subject to exceptional performance.

The Pay Policy framework also sets out how salaries will be determined on promotion, regrading of current post to a higher grade, transfer or acting up.

Pension and pension entitlements

The employees within the scope of this Statement are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Employees contribute between 5.5% and 12.5% of their salary while the Council currently contributes 17.8% in respect of ongoing service.

Relationship to lowest paid employees

This Statement defines other employees, including “lowest-paid employees”, as all other contracted employees of the Council, with the lowest-paid employees as those on Grade A (spinal point 4).

The current highest total salary paid by the Council including allowances is £126,250 to the Managing Director. The maximum basic salary that could be paid is £133,825 at spinal column point 56 on the MD grade.

The Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector recommends that public sector organisations should publish pay multiples which should be calculated on the basis of all taxable earnings for the given year, including base salary, variable pay, bonuses, allowances and the cash value of any benefits in kind. Pay multiples comparing the current highest total salary and the maximum total salary against mean, median and lowest salaries are listed on the next page.

The mean basic FTE salary paid by the Council for posts filled by contracted employees at 17 January 2017 is £26,392

The ratio between the mean FTE salary and the current highest total salary is 1:4.8. The ratio between the mean FTE salary and the maximum possible basic salary is 1:5.1

The median basic FTE salary is £21,696.

The ratio between the median basic FTE salary and the current highest total salary is 1:5.8. The ratio between the median basic FTE salary and the maximum possible basic salary is 1:6.2.

The lowest pay point on our salary scales is currently £14,379, which is the FTE salary for employees on Grade A. This is due to rise to a minimum of £14,470 from 1 April 2017 to ensure compliance with the National Living Wage.

The ratio between the lowest salary and the current highest salary is 1:8.8. The ratio between the lowest salary and the maximum possible salary is 1:9.3.

The Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the public sector analysed whether a 1 to 20 pay multiple might be justified as promoting fairness in public sector pay. Hutton’s Final Report concluded that this was not justified but that all public service organisations should publish their top to median pay multiples each year to allow the public to hold them to account. The Government has agreed with this type of approach.

In line with Hutton's recommendations, the Council does not have a policy to maintain or achieve a specific pay ratio between the highest and lowest paid employees but it will publish its pay multiples each year.

Re-engagement of ex Huntingdonshire District Council staff

All permanent or fixed term posts are advertised in accordance with the Council's recruitment policies and appointment is made on merit.

Interim management appointments are made in accordance with the Council's procurement policies and the provisions for services.

The Council will not engage an ex chief officer of Huntingdonshire District Council (as defined in this Statement) outside of these arrangements and the Council will not usually re-employ or re-engage a person who has been made voluntarily or compulsorily redundant into a similar role any time in the future. In exceptional circumstances re-engagement to a significantly different role with different responsibilities may be possible.

Employment of those in receipt of an LGPS pension

When a Local Government Pension Scheme pensioner is re-employed within the local government sector and combined earnings and pension exceeds final salary in the original employment when adjusted for inflation, the pension will be abated.

Receipt of Local Government Pension Scheme pension while employed

Employees aged 55 or over who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme may apply to take flexible retirement where working hours or pay grade are reduced and pension benefits accrued prior to this point may be drawn down. Applications from all officers, including chief officers, will be considered on merit and only agreed where there is no detrimental effect on the service. It is the Council's policy not to accept any such applications if there is a cost to the Council unless a business case can be made on economic grounds.

Severance payments

Severance payments are made in accordance with the Council's Redundancy Policy as approved by Employment Panel in August 2014 and are the same for all staff.

Employees with more than two years' service will be entitled to redundancy pay in line with local government guidelines and statutory calculations. Where the employee is entitled to a redundancy payment, the calculation is based on the employee's actual weekly pay.

Settlement agreements will only be used in exceptional circumstances where they represent best value for the Council.

Review

The Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. If it should be necessary to amend this 2017/18 Statement during the year that it applies, an appropriate resolution will be made by Full Council. This statement will be submitted to Full Council for approval by 31st March 2017.

January 2017