

REPORT TO: Employment and Staffing
Committee

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Councillor John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Interim Corporate Director

23 January 2020

Pay Policy Statement

Executive Summary

1. This report appraises members of Employment and Staffing Committee of the requirements of the Localism Act in relation to a pay policy statement.
2. It covers the posts of chief executive, chief operating officer, joint service director, assistant directors and heads of service.

Key Decision

No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Employment and Staffing Committee recommend the approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2020 to Full Council

Reasons for Recommendations

4. On 21 February 2019, Council approved the Pay Policy Statement for the authority. This policy has been reviewed and updated with 2019/2020 pay and organisational structures and job titles.
5. The Localism Act 2011 (s38 to 40) requires the council to approve and publish an annual pay policy statement by 31 March each year.

Details

6. The Hutton Review of Fair Pay (2011) recommended a requirement to openly compare the policies on remuneration for chief officers, and details of how decisions are made about the salaries of the highest paid officers and how that relates to the lowest paid.

7. The Localism Act 2011 requires English local authorities to produce, approve and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. The pay policy statement must be approved by Full Council and must include pay and other remuneration for chief officers and other employees, including the lowest paid.
8. Statutory guidance on the Localism Act refers to openness and accountability in local pay and seeks to achieve pay fairness in the public sector by increasing transparency relating to pay and tackling disparities between the lowest and the highest paid within the public sector.
9. Remuneration is defined widely, to include pay, charges, fees (such as returning officer fees), allowances, payment of professional subscription, and benefits in kind, pension, termination payments, performance bonus and severance payments. The statement should also refer to the authority's approach to the re-employment of officers.
10. The council's strategy must be one of balancing between securing and retaining high-quality employees whilst maintaining pay equality and avoiding excessive pay rates. In approving this policy, the authority must be satisfied that it is workable, affordable and reasonable and, that it will instil public confidence.
11. The Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017 require larger private and public sector employers (250+ employees) to report annually the difference between the mean and median average hourly rate of pay for male and female employees, gender bonus gap and the number of men and women across salary quartiles. The council publishes this information on the Government website and on its own website.

Implications

Financial

12. Salaries referred to in the pay policy statement are within current budgets.

Legal

13. The Localism Act 2011 requires the council to have a pay policy statement.
14. The Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017 require larger private and public sector employers (250+ employees) to report annually.

Staffing

15. Pay and benefits for council employees remains a key element in terms of attracting and retaining talent and therefore delivering first class services. The council's pay and reward strategy has been developed to ensure that employee pay is based on a fair and transparent evaluation process.

Equality and Diversity

16. The council's pay grade structure and job evaluation method meets the requirements of the Equalities Act.

Consultation responses

17. Trade unions were fully involved in the Job Evaluation project (2008–2012) and were consulted throughout the process of achieving the Single Status Agreement and pay and grading structures. Employees were consulted and balloted on the Single Status Agreement, which details the council's approach to pay, benefits and terms and conditions of employment.

18. The council formally recognises GMB and Unison for the purpose of consultation and negotiation. Trade unions consult with their members on the terms of the annual pay deal.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

A modern and caring Council

19. The council aims to be the 'employer of choice' and attract and retain the best talent by offering fair and transparent pay and reward benefits to its employees. It has a strong commitment to equality, personal and professional development and family friendly policies.

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
Local Government Association and ALACE guidance dated November 2011

DCLG Code of recommended practice for Local Authorities on transparency September 2011

The Equalities Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017

www.gov.uk/government/consultations

www.gov.uk/government/publications/openness-and-accountability-in-local-pay-supplementary-guidance

Appendices

Appendix A: Pay Policy Statement

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