

Part I – Release to Press

Meeting: COUNCIL

Portfolio Area: Resources



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PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

Author – Kirsten Frew Ext No. 2321
Lead Officer – Scott Crudgington Ext No. 2225
Contributors – Anita Thomas Ext No. 2430
 Clare Fletcher Ext No. 2933
Contact Officer – Clare Davies Ext No. 2164

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To approve the pay policy statement for the financial year 2019/20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 as Appendix 1 to this report be approved.

2.2 That the pay policy is placed on the Council's web site and that a notice of the policy is published in the next edition of Chronicle.

3. BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

3.1 The Localism Act requires local authorities to adopt annually a statutory pay policy statement which must then be published (in addition to placing it on the Council's website) 'to help local people understand how public money is being spent in their area and to hold the Town Hall to account'. The first of these Pay Policy Statements was approved on 29 February 2012 and has been published annually since then.

3.2 No remuneration may be made to officers which falls outside the Pay Policy Statement although it will be possible for a meeting of the Council to amend the Statement at any time.

3.3 The Pay Policy Statement must include its policies on the following matters:-

- the remuneration of its chief officers
 - the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer,
 - the remuneration of chief officers on recruitment
 - increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer
 - the use of performance related pay
 - the use of bonuses for chief officers
 - the approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office
- 3.4 'Remuneration' of chief officers includes pay and terms and conditions which may apply in the future and to chief officer appointments which may be made in the future.
- 3.5 The Statement may also set out policies relating to other terms and conditions relating to Chief Officers.
- 3.6 The Statement must also set out:
- The relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and that of its employees who are not chief officers.
 - The Authority's definition of its 'lowest paid employees' for these purposes and the reasons for this definition and
 - The remuneration of its 'lowest paid employees'
- 3.7 For clarity, 'Chief Officer' includes the Head of Paid Service (the Chief Executive), the Chief Finance Officer (Assistant Director of Finance and Estates), the Monitoring Officer (Borough Solicitor), non-statutory chief officers (the Strategic Directors), and deputy chief officers (Assistant Directors).
- 3.8 In approving its pay policy statement the Council must have regard to any guidance issued or approved by the Secretary of State. In 2012 'Openness and accountability in local pay' was issued. The Council is not bound to follow the guidance but must take it into account in approving the Statement.
- 3.9 The Act itself does not require local authorities to publish specific salary details in the Pay Policy Statement. However, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 require the publication in the accounts of salary bands and the salaries of Chief Officers. Salary bands for these posts have therefore been included in the Pay Policy Statement as suggested in the Guidance.
- 3.10 The Guidance refers extensively to the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector. This Review comments on fairness in pay and that the salary gap between the highest and lowest paid officers has grown in recent years. Hutton suggests that the relationship between chief officers and other employees is explained and taken into account in remuneration decisions for all staff. This relationship he recommends can be illustrated by the publication of pay multiples – the ratio between the highest paid employee and mean average earnings.

- 3.11 The Statement therefore includes pay multiples comparing the Chief Executive's remuneration against the lowest paid employees and mean average earnings across the Council.
- 3.12 The Guidance also expresses concerns that senior staff moving posts within the public sector could be seen as driving up average pay levels particularly where the sector as a whole is paying twice through a salary and a pension. As a closely related issue 'Authorities should use their Pay Policy Statement to explain their policies towards re-engaging chief officers who have received severance or redundancy payments from that authority'. Although it is not envisaged that any such appointments will be made the Council has adopted a policy which relates to all Council officers, including chief officers and states that "Any employee who takes voluntary redundancy will not be permitted to return to the employment of Stevenage Borough Council, either as a permanent or fixed term employee, for a minimum period of 12 months following the date of their redundancy. There is no restriction on returning to employment following compulsory redundancy. (There is no restriction on returning to the wider public sector, however, in line with the Modification Order chief officers who are made redundant must not return to another body listed within the order within 4 weeks of being made redundant).
- 3.13 The proposed pay policy takes account of the statutory guidance issued under the Localism Act 2011, in February 2013 by the Secretary of State, on pay policy statement and remuneration above £100,000.
- 3.14 There have been no changes to the terms and conditions of chief officers in the last 12 months. A 2% pay award was agreed for 2018/19 in the summer of 2018 and this was implemented. A 2% pay award for 2019/20 was also agreed in the summer of 2018 and will be implemented on 1 April 2019.

4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has a legal obligation to comply with the Equality Act 2010, in respect the equal pay for work of equal value, for men and women. The Council therefore implemented single status with effect from 1 July 2014 to ensure compliance.
- 4.2 The Council published its Gender Pay Gap report in March 2018 in line with The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017. A copy of this report is published on the Council's website: <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/content/15953/33537/20596/Gender-Pay-Gap-Report-final.pdf> . A further report on the Council's Gender Pay Gap will be published in March 2019.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Stevenage Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2019/20.

APPENDIX 1 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

This Pay Policy Statement is made in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Localism Act, 2011.

This policy shall apply from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 subject to amendment by Council.

The Chief Officers pay award for 2019/20 was agreed in the summer of 2018, and a 2% pay award will be implemented on 1 April 2019 in line with the nationally agreed award.

Chief Officers and deputy chief officers shall be paid according to the following Bands.

Remuneration bands of senior officers are set out here:

Head of Paid Service/ Chief Executive	£104773-£121767
Deputy Chief Executive (Strategic Directors pay band plus 10%)	£87624-£101837
Strategic Directors	£79658-£92579
Monitoring Officer/ Borough Solicitor	Employed by Hertfordshire County Council as part of a shared legal service.
Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)	£71349-£82079
Assistant Directors	£66147-£76877
Assistant Directors (with Recruitment and Retention premium attached)	£72254-£82984

*Lowest Paid Employees with effect from 1 April 2019	£18,065
Mean Average Basic Earnings	£31,171

*Excludes apprentices

Notes:

- 1 'Lowest Paid Employee' means the employees on the lowest grade assuming that the posts are full time (excluding apprentices).

Any employee, up to and including those on grade 6, is eligible for an overtime payment at an enhanced rate of +0.33 of their basic salary for any overtime hours worked Monday to Saturday and +1.00 for any overtime hours worked on a Sunday for any additional hours worked over 37 per week.

Employees at or below Grade 6 that are required to undertake non-standard working are entitled to non-standard working enhancements. In addition to their normal salary those employees at or below grade 6, who are required as part of their contracted hours to work on a Saturday, or for longer than 4 consecutive hours between 10pm and before 7am receive a shift

enhancement of +0.33 of their basic salary for those hours, and employees at or below grade 6 who are required to work on a Sunday as part of their contracted hours receive a shift enhancement of +1.00 of their basic salary, this rate of enhancement also applies to any hours worked on a public holiday.

2. *With effect from 1 January 2014 the Council commenced paying the Living Wage to all employees, excluding apprentices. SBC updates the Living Wage on 1 April each year. With effect from 1 April 2019 this will be £18065 (£9.36 per hour).
3. The pay of the Chief Executive (including payments for elections) is currently 6.74 times the pay of the lowest paid worker and this ratio is not expected to change significantly. The pay of the Chief Executive is currently 3.91 times the pay of mean average earnings.
4. Chief Officers (except the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer) are paid an allowance of £24.95 unchanged per month for expenses but otherwise no bonuses performance related pay or other forms of additional remuneration are paid to Chief Officers or Deputy Chief Officers.
5. Many of the Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers and other employees receive a payment for attending and performing certain duties at elections. These payments are set in line with guidance produced per election type.
6. Salary packages amounting to £100,000 or more for new appointments will be approved by Full Council.
7. Salary increments are paid annually by default for all employees of the Council up to the top of the pay grade.
8. The pay of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is based on job evaluations undertaken through the Inbucon scheme.
9. The terms and conditions of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers are set in accordance with the JNC. National negotiations were complete in the summer of 2018 and a 2% pay award was agreed for chief officers and chief executives and this will be implemented on 1 April 2019 and is reflected in this document.
10. Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers including any new appointments at this level will be made in accordance with the pay scales set out above.
11. All employees including Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers are entitled to redundancy payments based on the same multiple of 2.5 times statutory provision and based on actual weekly pay.
12. Any redundancy or severance packages of £100,000 or more will be approved by Full Council.

- 13.** All employees including Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers are entitled to retirement pensions calculated in the same way under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, Regulations 2014 and the Council Pension Discretion Policy. These Regulations require the Council to publish its policy on increasing an employee's total pension and on awarding additional pension. ¹
- 14.** The Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 require the Council to formulate, review and publish its policy on making discretionary payments on early termination of employment.
- 15.** The terms and payment of terminating the employment of any officer of the Council in any contentious circumstances which do not result from an award made by an Employment Tribunal or Court are settled by the Council on the basis of the legal merits of the case, the time and disruption which protracted litigation would involve, any limit of statutory entitlement on monetary claim available to an employee and what is considered prudent in all the circumstances.
- 16.** An employee who is made redundant must have a break of at least four weeks in order to retain a redundancy payment before they can be re-employed by the council in a different position.