

PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

Approved by Full Council on 17th March 2015

INTRODUCTION

This policy statement has been produced in accordance with Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), and is compliant with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

The pay policy statement will be reviewed on an annual basis, and a new version of the policy will be approved before the start of each subsequent financial year, which will need to be complied with during that year.

SECTION 1: REMUNERATION OF STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY CHIEF OFFICERS, DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICERS, AND MONITORING OFFICER

1.1 REMUNERATION COVERED IN THIS SECTION OF THE POLICY

This section covers the Council's policies in relation to the remuneration of its senior employees, including:

- Its Chief Executive (who is its Head of Paid Service);
- The Strategic Directors, who report to and are directly accountable to the Chief Executive. These Strategic Directors fulfil the roles of statutory Chief Officers (with the exception of the Council's Section 151 Officer), non-statutory Chief Officers and Monitoring Officer;
- The Port Manager;
- The Council's Section 151 Officer, who is also a Head of Service;
- The Heads of Service who report to and are directly accountable to first tier officers; and
- The managers who report to and are directly accountable to the Port Manager.

1.2 OVERALL POLICY ON REMUNERATION FOR SENIOR ROLES

The Council's remuneration policy complies with all equal pay, discrimination and other relevant legislation.

The Council's Job Evaluation Support Scheme (JESS) is used when setting pay levels for all posts within the Council. This system is a factor-based analytical job evaluation scheme designed to measure the relative responsibilities of all jobs fairly and accurately.

1.3 THE REMUNERATION OFFERED TO SENIOR EMPLOYEE

At Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Section 151 Officer and Head of Service level (and for the Port Manager and his direct reports), the Council offers only an annual salary, access to the Local Government Pension Scheme, and the payment of a small number of allowances, details of which are set out below. No other cash benefits or benefits in kind are offered. The Council does not offer performance related payments or bonuses to its senior employees.

All are employed on PAYE taxation arrangements. However in exceptional circumstances e.g. interim appointments, an alternative form of engagement/employment may if appropriate be used.

Annual salaries

Annual salary levels for senior employees are set in accordance with the overall principles set out in section 1.3, above. At Chief Executive, Strategic Director and Head of Service level, they consist of a grade range which is determined locally by the Council. This grade range consists of a number of incremental salary points, through which employees may progress until the top of the grade is reached.

The current pay ranges are:

Chief Executive	£134,705 to £148,885
Strategic Director	£99,007 to £109,430
Port Manager	£99,007 to £109,430
Section 151 Officer	£84,863 to £93,799
Head of Service (upper band)	£84,836 to £93,799
Head of Service (middle band)	£72,740 to £80,398
Head of Service (lower band)	£66,110 to £72,581
Senior Managers	£66,110 to £72,581

Remuneration of senior employees on recruitment

The Council's policy is that any newly appointed senior employee will commence employment at the lowest pay point in the pay range for their job, other than in circumstances where it is necessary to pay at a higher point within the range in order to match the salary of their previous post with another organisation. Any decision to appoint a senior employee on a higher pay point within the relevant pay range would be made by the Members Appointment Committee.

Pay progression

Pay progression is by annual increment, payable from 1st April. Pay progression is based on the period of time the employee has served in that grade, subject to satisfactory performance.

There is no scope for accelerated progression beyond one increment per annum, or for progression beyond the top of the grade's pay range.

Pay awards

The salaries of senior employees will be increased in line with any pay increase agreed nationally in the Joint National Councils (JNCs) for Chief Executives and Chief Officers, as appropriate for the category of senior manager.

Bonuses

The Council does not pay bonuses to any of its employees.

Other Allowances and Payments

Other payments and allowances that the Chief Officers may be eligible for are detailed in Section 4 – **POLICIES COMMON TO ALL EMPLOYEES**. This includes Market Supplements, Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), Payments on Termination of Employment, Allowances.

Election fees

Senior Managers above Head of Service level salaries are inclusive and election fees are not paid.

Where a Head of Service acts as the Deputy Returning Officer the appropriate fee at that time is paid.

SECTION 2: REMUNERATION OF LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEES

2.1 DEFINITION OF LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEES

The definition of the “lowest-paid employees” adopted by the Council for the purposes of this statement is as follows:

The lowest paid employees within the Council are those employees who are paid on the minimum salary point of the Council's substantive pay structure, i.e. spinal column point 1, within Band 1 of its salary scales.

The Council has had regard to guidance issued by the Local Government Association and JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives in agreeing this definition.

The current annual full-time equivalent value of this pay level, based on a 37-hour standard working week, for the financial year 2014/15 is £13,189.

However, with effect from 1st November 2014, the Employment Committee made the commitment to Portsmouth City Council Employees (subject to agreement by governing bodies of schools) to pay the Living Wage rate as a supplement to base pay. Therefore, all employees from SCP1 to SCP12 will receive a minimum hourly rate of £7.85 per hour.

SECTION 3: PAY RELATIONSHIPS

Under the provisions of the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government under Section 2 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Council is expected to publish its “pay multiple”, i.e. the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the local authority's workforce. This multiple, for the financial year ending 31 March 2014 was 6.6.

(The median salary figure is the salary value at which 50% of the salaries which apply to the whole of the local authority's workforce are below that value and 50% are above it. The lowest pay point in the overall salary range which has been used by the Council in calculating the median salary is that which applies to its lowest paid employees, as defined in section 2 of this pay policy statement.)

The Council considers that the current pay multiple, as identified above, represents an appropriate, fair and equitable internal pay relationship between the highest salary and the pay levels which apply to the rest of the workforce. It will therefore seek to ensure that, as far as possible, the multiple remains at its current level.

The Council also considers that the relationship between the base salaries of its highest and lowest paid employees, which is currently a ratio of 11.8:1, represents an appropriate, fair and equitable internal pay relationship.

SECTION 4: POLICIES COMMON TO ALL EMPLOYEES

The following elements of remuneration are determined by corporate policies or arrangements which apply to all permanent employees of the Council (including its Chief Executive, Strategic Director and Heads of Service and the lowest paid employees as defined above), regardless of their pay level, status or grading within the Council:

Market Supplements

A Market Supplement payment may be made if there is a clear business need, supported by effective market data, where a post is difficult to recruit to or to retain key members of staff, in addition to the normal reward package.

The supplement payment will be made in strict accordance with the Recruitment and Retention Policy and will be reviewed biennially. The full Recruitment and Retention Policy will be provided on request.

Payments on Termination of Employment

Other than payments made under the LGPS, the Council's payments to any employee whose employment is terminated on grounds of redundancy or in the interests of the efficiency of the service will be in accordance with the policy the Council has adopted for all its employees in relation to the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. This policy (Early Termination of Employment Payments) has been published in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 7 of these regulations and is available on request.

Reimbursement of removal/relocation costs on appointment

The Council's relocation scheme is to enable financial assistance (within pre-defined limits) to be given to any employee who is required to relocate to the Portsmouth area to take up an appointment in a post deemed 'hard to fill' by the appropriate Head of Service. Full details of the policy can be provided on request.

Honoraria

The Council pays honoraria to any employee only in accordance with its corporate scheme for such payments. This scheme provides that honoraria payments may be made to any employee who undertakes exceptional additional duties unrelated to those of a higher post, for example a special project. Such payments must be approved by a Head of Service and will not normally exceed £999 per annum. The Council does not normally pay honoraria for posts graded above Head of Service level.

Acting-up/additional responsibility payments

Where employees are required to "act-up" into a higher-graded post and take on additional responsibilities beyond those of their substantive post, for a temporary/time-limited period (which must exceed 4 weeks), they may receive an additional payment in accordance with the terms of the Council's policy. The payment will be based on the percentage of the higher duties and responsibilities undertaken and on the salary that would apply were the employee promoted to the higher post. (i.e. the lowest spinal column point of the higher grade).

Standby and call out allowances

Any employee who is required to undertake standby and call-out duties will be paid at the appropriate rate and in accordance with the policy. A full copy of the policy can be provided on request.

Mileage rates

The Council compensates employees who are authorised to use their own car, motorcycle or bicycle on Council business, in accordance with the mileage rates set out by HMRC.

Subsistence allowance

The Council reimburses expenditure on meals and accommodation and any other expenses necessarily incurred by employees who have to be away from home on Council business on the basis of actual expenditure incurred. These allowance rates are set out by HMRC.

Child care (salary sacrifice scheme)

Childcare is available to all employees via the HMRC-approved salary sacrifice scheme. There is no direct subsidy towards childcare costs by the Council.

SECTION 5: DECISION MAKING ON PAY

The provisions of this pay policy statement will apply to any determination made by the Council in the relevant financial year in relation to the remuneration, or other terms and conditions, of a chief officer of the Authority and of its lowest paid employees, as defined in this statement. The Council will ensure that the provisions of this pay policy statement are properly applied and fully complied with in making any such determination.

This pay policy statement has been approved by the Full Council of the Authority on 17th March 2015.

Any proposal to offer a new chief officer appointment on terms and conditions which include a total remuneration package of £100,000 or more, which would routinely be payable to the appointee and any benefits in kind to which the officer would be entitled as a result of their employment (but excluding employer's pension contributions), will be referred to the Full Council for approval before any such offer is made to a particular candidate.

Additionally, any severance payments over £100,000 are referred to Full Council for approval.

SECTION 6: AMENDMENTS TO THIS PAY POLICY STATEMENT

This pay policy statement relates to the financial year 2015/16.

The Council may agree any amendments to this pay policy statement during the financial year to which it relates, but only by a resolution of the full Council.

A new policy statement will be agreed by the Council in March 2016 for the financial year 2016/17.

SECTION 7: PUBLICATION OF AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Council will publish this pay policy statement on its website as soon as is reasonably practicable after it has been approved by the Council. Any subsequent amendments to this pay policy statement made during the financial year to which it relates will also be similarly published.