

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	28.02.2017
TITLE OF REPORT:	Pay Policy Statement 2017
REPORT BY:	Head of Profession - HR
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To ensure that the Authority satisfies its statutory obligations under the Localism Act 2011 to have a published Pay Policy by 31.3.17

INTRODUCTION

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit”. The Localism Act of 2011, Section 38, requires English and Welsh local authorities to produce and publish a pay policy statement for each financial year.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to develop and make public their pay policy on all aspects of Chief Officer Remuneration. In the interest of transparency and accountability the Council has chosen to take a broader approach and produce a policy statement covering all employee groups, with the exception of school teachers as their remuneration is not within local authority control. Welsh Government guidelines have been incorporated into the statement.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council endorse the Pay Policy Statement attached to this report as its Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

Appendix 1 Pay Policy Statement

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 2017

1. Introduction and Purpose

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit”. This Pay Policy Statement (the ‘statement’) sets out the Council’s approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, requiring English and Welsh local authorities to produce and publish a pay policy statement for each financial year. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council’s approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding those teaching in local authority schools) by identifying;

- the methods by which salaries of employees are determined;
- the level and elements of remuneration of its chief officers as defined by the relevant legislation;
- the level of remuneration of its lowest paid employees;

Local authorities are large complex organisations with multi-million pound budgets. They have a very wide range of functions and provide and/or commission a wide range of essential services. The general approach to remuneration levels may therefore differ from one group of employees to another to reflect specific circumstances at a local, Welsh or UK national level. It also needs to be flexible when required to address a variety of changing circumstances and aligned to business objectives.

2. Legislative Framework

In determining the pay and remuneration of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes (but not exhaustively) the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

3. Scope of the Pay Policy Statement

The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to develop and make public their pay policy on all aspects of Chief Officer Remuneration (including on ceasing to hold office), and that pertaining to the ‘lowest paid’ in the authority, explaining their policy on the relationship between remuneration for Chief Officers and other groups. However, in the interests of transparency and accountability the Council has chosen to take a broader approach and produce a policy statement covering all employee groups, with the exception of school teachers as their remuneration is not within local authority control.

Nothing within the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 detracts from councils' autonomy in making decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local tax payers. However, this policy statement will be complied with in setting remuneration levels for all groups within its scope.

4. Development of Pay and Reward Strategy

The primary aim of a reward strategy is to attract, retain and motivate suitably skilled staff so that the organisation can perform at its best. One of the biggest challenges for the Council is to maximise productivity and efficiency within current resources. Pay policy is a matter of striking a sometimes difficult balance between setting remuneration at appropriate levels to facilitate a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled individuals to fill the authority's very wide range of posts, and ensuring that the burden on the taxpayer does not become greater than can be fully and objectively justified.

In this context it does need to be recognised that at the more senior levels in particular, remuneration levels need to enable the attraction of a suitably wide pool of talent and the retention of suitably skilled and qualified individuals once in post. It should be recognised that the Council will often be seeking to recruit in competition with other good public and private sector employers.

The Council is a major employer in the area and, as such, must have regard to its role in improving the economic well-being of the people of Anglesey. The availability of good quality employment on reasonable terms and conditions and fair rates of pay has a beneficial impact on the quality of life in the community as well as on the local economy. The Council also has a role in setting a benchmark example on pay and conditions to other employers in the area for the same reasons.

In designing, developing and reviewing pay and reward strategy the Council will seek to balance these factors appropriately to maximise outcomes for the organisation and the community it serves, whilst managing costs appropriately and maintaining sufficient flexibility to meet future needs. This Pay Policy Statement will be reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the Full Council.

5. Pay Structure

The Council uses the nationally negotiated pay spine as the basis for its local grading structure. This determines the salaries of the large majority of the non-teaching workforce, together with the use of other nationally defined rates where relevant. Pay uplifts were awarded on 1 April 2016 and a further national pay award has been agreed from 1 April 2017. The Council remains committed to adherence with national pay bargaining in respect of the national pay spine and any annual cost of living increases negotiated in the pay spine. The Council is committed to fairly determining pay in accordance with equal pay legislation and the local government 'single status' agreement 1997 and, from 1 December 2015, has implemented a new Single Status pay and grading structure.

Once a post has been evaluated, the score will determine into which pay grade or band the post will be assimilated. New appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant grade, although this can be varied where necessary to secure the best candidate.

All other pay related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery and/or as determined by Council Policy.

The Council does not generally utilise the practice of applying market supplements to take account of the external pay market in the attraction and retention of employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. However, a Market Supplement Policy exists and, in implementing this, the Council will ensure that any application for market supplements will be objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of successive failure to recruit to a particular post and evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector. The Council can also apply temporary honoraria to individuals who, for various reasons, are acting up to a higher level of responsibility.

Progression through the incremental scale of the relevant grade is subject to satisfactory performance, which is assessed on an annual basis.

6. Other Benefits

Subject to qualifying conditions, employees have a right to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently vary between 5.8% - 11.4% of salary, dependent upon defined pay bands relating to whole-time equivalent salary. The Employer contribution rates are set by Actuaries advising the Gwynedd Pension Fund and reviewed on a triennial basis in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded. The current rate is 22.5%.

The Council has a range of other terms and conditions applicable to its employees, based largely upon National Joint Council terms and conditions, supplemented by locally negotiated conditions and policies. Certain of these terms and conditions result in monetary payments, including car loans, payment of professional fees and honoraria payments for undertaking additional responsibilities. For relevant 'additions to salary of Chief Officers', see paragraph 10 below. Staff terms and conditions are reviewed on a regular basis in consultation and negotiation with our recognised trade unions.

7. Senior Management Remuneration

For the purposes of this statement, senior management means 'chief officers' as defined within S43 of the Localism Act. The following posts are identified as falling within the statutory definition of 'senior management' in the context of this statement. Their basic salary as at 1st April 2017, following implementation of the most recent pay award, will be as follows;

a) Chief Executive

The current salary for the post is £113,333 per annum, following consultation with the IRP, and is not incremental. The postholder will also receive additional fees for Returning Officer duties. This salary is inclusive of the requirements for this officer to act as the Authority's Head of Paid Service

- b) 2 x Assistant Chief Executive
The current salary for both posts is £86,708 per annum, and is not incremental.
- c) Head of Function (Resources)
The current salary for the post is £82,911 per annum, and is not incremental. This salary is inclusive of the requirement for this officer to act as the Authority's Statutory Section 151 Officer.
- d) Head of Function (Council Business)
The current salary for the post is £75,336 per annum, and is not incremental. This salary is inclusive of the requirement for this officer to act as the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

Remuneration arrangements include:

- Three salary levels for roles within the Senior Leadership Group below Chief Executive, based on clearly identifiable significant differences in overall job size;
- Spot salaries replacing incremental salary ranges;
- Salary levels positioned around a modestly competitive position for North Wales;
- No additional special allowances or increments.

The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 gives the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales ("the IRP") powers to make recommendations in relation to the salary of the Head of Paid Service, or any proposed changes to the salary of the Head of Paid Service. The Authority will have regard to any recommendation received from the IRP when deciding on any changes to the salary of its Chief Executive.

8. Recruitment of Chief Officers

The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers is set out within the Officer Employment Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4.10 of the Constitution. When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of its own Equal Opportunities, Recruitment and Selection, and Redeployment Policies. The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment.

Where the Council is 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 engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through a relevant procurement process, ensuring the council is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits from competition, in securing the relevant service.

In line with Welsh Government regulations, it is the Council's policy that the full Council is offered the opportunity to vote on remuneration and any restructures at senior management level, regardless of salary levels. Welsh Government regulations also specify that all posts attracting a salary of £100,000 or higher must be advertised externally if the duration of the post is expected to be for 12 months or more.

9. Pay Awards

The Council employs Chief Officers under JNC terms and conditions which are incorporated in their contracts. The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group, and any award of same is determined on this basis. Chief Officers employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC determined pay rises and this council will therefore pay these as and when determined in accordance with current contractual requirements.

10. Additions to Salary of Chief Officers

Chief Officers are subject to the same qualifying criteria and arrangements as other employees with regard to receipt of additional monetary-based terms and conditions, including mileage payments and reimbursement of professional fees.

11. Payments on Termination

The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment of Chief Officers and all employees falling within the scope of this statement, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within its policy statement in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 and Regulations 12 and 13 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contribution) Regulations 2007. The enhancements provided within the Council's policy are applied to all staff, irrespective of grade or status.

Full Council will have an opportunity to vote on all severance packages over £100,000, the total amount to include severance pay, salary paid in lieu of notice and the cost to the authority of the strain on the pension fund arising from providing early access to pension. Any other payments falling outside the provisions of contractual terms shall be subject to a formal decision made by the full Council or relevant elected members, committee or panel of elected members with delegated authority to approve such payments.

The Council does not currently have any instances of re-engagement of retired Chief Officers. If circumstances arose where this needed to be considered for business-critical reasons, any such decision would be made by the full Council or relevant elected members, committee or panel of elected members with delegated authority to approve such arrangements.

12. Lowest Paid Employees

The lowest paid persons employed under a contract of employment with the Council are employed on full time 37 hours equivalent salaries in accordance with the minimum spinal column point currently in use within the Council's grading structure. As at 1 April 2017, this point is point 10, £15,613 per annum, or £8.09 per hour compared with the National Living Wage of £7.50 per hour at 1 April 2017.

The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and chief officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this policy statement.

The statutory guidance under the Localism Act recommends the use of pay multiples as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010). The Hutton report was asked by Government to explore the case for a fixed limit on dispersion of pay through a requirement that no public sector manager can earn more than 20 times the lowest paid person in the organisation. The report concluded that the relationship to median earnings was a more relevant measure and the Government's Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency recommends the publication of the ratio between highest paid salary and the median average salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

As part of its overall and ongoing monitoring of alignment with external pay markets, both within and outside the sector, the Council will use available benchmark information as appropriate. When expressed as a multiplier of pay, the Chief Executive's salary is currently 7.25:1 greater than that of the Council's lowest earner.

13. External Contractors

The Council will utilise its procurement processes to ensure that fair pay practices are adopted by external contractors commissioned to deliver services.

14. Publication

Upon approval by the full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website. In addition, for posts where the full time equivalent salary is at least £60,000, the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts (<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-finance-and-budgets/statement-of-accounts/statement-of-accounts-2015-2016/>) will include a note setting out the total amount of

- salary, fees or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax;
- any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination;
- any benefits received that do not fall within the above.

15. Accountability and Decision Making

Paragraph 10 of the statutory guidance states "The provisions in the Actrequire Councillors to take a greater role in determining pay, ensuring that these decisions (no definition) are taken by those who are directly accountable to local people".

In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Pay and Grading Panel is responsible for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the Council.

This Pay Policy Statement will be reviewed annually and presented annually to a meeting of the full Council either in February or March, following which it will be published on the Authority's website.

The Council has considered all current guidance in the development of this pay policy but should further amended guidance be received the Authority may decide to amend its policy with full Council approval. The revised version will be published on the website.

February 2017