

## Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Meeting:** County Council

**Date:** 06/03/2025

**Title of report:** Pay Policy Statement 2025

**Report by:** Councillor Carwyn E Jones

**Purpose of report:**

To ensure that the authority satisfies its statutory obligations under the Localism Act 2011 to have a published Pay Policy by 31/03/2025.

### 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 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 2025/26.

# **Isle of Anglesey County Council**

## **Pay Policy Statement**

**February 2025**

### **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 multimillion 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 senior management and other employees, 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 taxpayers. However, this policy statement will be complied with in setting remuneration levels for all groups within its scope.

This Pay Policy does not apply to teaching staff in the local authority's schools, who will have their own Pay Policy.

#### **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 National Joint Committee (NJC) 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. An annual pay award for NJC employees covering the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 has been agreed. 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 has, from 1 December 2015, implemented a single status pay and grading structure. The council's NJC grading structure runs from Grade 1 (scale point 3) to Grade 10 (maximum scale point 50) with current minimum and maximum hourly rates of pay being £12.45 and £32.43 respectively. This Pay Policy statement will be subsequently revised if and when a pay award for 2025/26 is agreed.

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, with the agreement of the Head of Profession – Human Resources (HR) and

Transformation. Salaries are then subject to an incremental increase each year until the maximum rate of the grade is reached (normally within 3 years).

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, through its Secondments and Honoraria Policy, can also apply temporary honoraria to individuals who, for various reasons, are acting up to a higher level of responsibility for a period of time.

The council expects high levels of performance from all employees and has an Annual Development Conversation Scheme in place to monitor, evaluate and manage performance on an ongoing basis. However, the council does not operate any performance related pay arrangements. The council's Annual Development Conversation process forms the basis of the approach to talent management and succession planning. Based on the analysis of the performance and potential of employees, managers can plan relevant talent actions, considering everyone as an individual, the development they need, making them feel rewarded and enabling them to be effective in their role within the council. The main part of the process is the open, honest and constructive conversation between the manager and the employee to establish where they are now, where they want to be and how they can be supported to get there.

## **6. Other benefits**

Subject to qualifying conditions, all employees have a right to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently vary between 5.5% to 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 rate from 01/04/2023 will be 20.1% and is applicable until 31/03/2026.

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 business mileage payments, payment of professional fees and honoraria payments for undertaking additional responsibilities. No bonuses are paid. 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. Equal pay and gender pay gap reporting**

The council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment for all employees. It has a clear policy of paying employees equally for the same or equivalent work, regardless of their sex and evaluates job roles and pay grades as necessary to ensure a fair structure. The council reports its gender pay gap figure annually to the Office for National Statistics. While the council does have a negative gender pay gap, it is confident that this pay gap does not stem from paying men and women differently for the same or equivalent work and is pleased to report that its mean gender pay gap continues to be below the national average.

The council's gender pay gap is the result of the roles in which men and women work within the organisation and the salaries that these roles attract. While the council employs more women than men overall, they are not evenly spread across the grades. The majority of staff at lower grades are women. Any pay awards are implemented at all grades, therefore will not reduce the gender pay gap significantly. However, the council is committed to addressing its gender pay gap by supporting women at all levels of the organisation to develop and further their careers.

## **8. 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:

- a) Chief Executive (who is also the Head of Paid Service) – the senior officer who leads and takes responsibility for the authority, working closely with elected members to deliver the authority's aims and objectives
- b) Senior Leadership Team - Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer, Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, Director of Social Services and Director of Education, Skills and Young People
- c) Heads of service – Children and Families/Deputy Director of Social Services, Adult Services, HR and Transformation, Housing, Highways, Waste and Property and Regulation and Economic Development

In 2019 all job descriptions within the senior management structure were evaluated in accordance with the Local Government Association (LGA) Job Evaluation Scheme for senior officers and externally validated by the LGA. The scores were then translated into a salary structure (again reviewed by the LGA and shown below) prior to submission to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP) who confirmed their full support for the proposed grading and salary structure.

A chief executives' and chief officers' pay award for 2024/25 has been agreed during 2024. As currently no further pay awards for 2025/26 have been offered or agreed on publication of this report, senior management basic remuneration as at 1 April 2025 will therefore be as follows:

## **Local Government Association (LGA) salary structure for senior management team**

LGA grade 2,	heads of service,	£87,224
LGA grade 2A,	Director of Function Monitoring Officer,	£88,761
LGA grade 3,	Directors / Director of Function S151 Officer,	£97,966
LGA grade 4,	Deputy Chief Executive,	£109,252
LGA grade 5,	Chief Executive	£131,823

### **Senior officer remuneration**

Chief Executive

LGA5, £131,823 per annum (non-incremental)

This officer is also the Head of Paid Service and will also receive additional fees for Returning Officer duties

Senior leadership

LGA2A-LGA4, £88,761 - £109,252 per annum

Heads of service

LGA2, £87,224 per annum

No other additional special allowances, increments or bonuses are included in the remuneration arrangements.

The council's Appointments Committee convenes to consider and provide recommendations to the council on levels of pay and reward for the above three tiers of senior officers. The scope of the committee is to:

- make recommendations on senior pay and reward issues to council, ensuring consistency, transparency and accessibility
- make recommendations on the management of and structure of senior pay and reward, and grounds for pay progression
- make recommendations to the Full Council on the appointment of senior management

Section 143A of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 gives the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales ("the IRP") powers to make recommendations in relation to the salary of the Chief Executive (who is also the Head of Paid Service), or any proposed changes to the salary of the Chief Executive. The council will consider any recommendations received from the IRP in relation to remuneration for its Chief Executive.

### **9. 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 agreed 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 internal interim appointments for a short term period only where a permanent recruitment process is in progress. Internal interim appointments will be deputised to the Head of Profession - HR and Transformation Service, as set out in Part 3.5.3.9 of the constitution. Alternatively, the council may engage 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.

## **10. Pay awards**

The council employs its Chief Executive and chief officers under Joint National Council (JNC) terms and conditions which are incorporated in their contracts. The JNC for Chief Executives and 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. The Chief Executive and 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.

## **11. Additions to salary of Chief Executive and chief officers**

The Chief Executive and 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.

## **12. Payments on termination**

The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment of its Chief Executive and 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. Any 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 council of the strain on the pension fund arising from providing early access to pension. Any other severance 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 will have due regard to best value in considering whether it is appropriate to make any special severance payments, and whether such a payment would be a proper use of public money.

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 and be in line with the council's Restructuring and Redundancy Policy as noted below.

The council's Restructuring and Redundancy Policy states that any employee who leaves the employment of the council on voluntary redundancy terms will not be re-employed by the council for the duration of the redundancy compensation payment period received, for example, if a member of staff receives 45 weeks' redundancy payment, they cannot be re-employed by the council for 45 weeks after the termination date. This period will be extended to 12 months if the employee is also in receipt of a pension for which the council has incurred additional costs. Any re-employment sooner than that noted above would have to be with the express authorisation of the senior leadership team and the Head of Profession – HR and Transformation who would consider each case on its merits.

### **13. 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 of 1 April 2024, and subject to any future pay offer for 2025/26 being agreed in 2025, this point is the current nationally agreed scale point 3 of £24,027 per annum, or £12.45 per hour, compared with the National Living Wage of £12.21 per hour at 1 April 2025 and the current Real Living Wage (set in October 2024) of £12.60 per hour.

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 council'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 5.49:1 greater than that of the council's lowest earner.



## **14. External contractors**

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

## **15. 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](#) 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

## **16. Accountability and decision making**

Section 54 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) 2021 Act requires the Chief Executive to keep continuously under review the arrangements for the recruitment, pay and grading of the council's staff.

## **17. Monitoring**

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 council's website.

The council has considered all current guidance in the development of this Pay Policy but should further amended guidance be received, or subsequent pay awards agreed, the council may decide to amend its policy with Full Council approval. The revised version will be published on the website.

February 2025