

West Sussex County Council Pay Policy Statement

For financial year 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026
As approved by the County Council on 21st March 2025

1. Aim of the Pay Policy

- 1.1 The County Council's pay policy aims to ensure value for money whilst enabling the County Council to deliver high quality services to the residents of West Sussex.
- 1.2 The County Council seeks to set pay rates that are competitive but will determine pay at an appropriate level in accordance with relevant legislation, overall affordability, and other relevant factors in recruiting and retaining its workforce.

2. Governance Arrangements

- 2.1 The Governance Committee determines the terms and conditions of employment for all staff.
- 2.2 The Scheme of Delegation provides for the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development to manage, review and apply the County Council's Human Resources strategy and policies and to apply, with the Chief Executive, the appropriate pay and conditions for the appointment of staff. The responsibilities of members are as described in this Statement.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive is required to keep the Governance Committee informed of any matters of significance relating to staff terms and conditions.

3. Scope of the Pay Policy Statement

- 3.1 This pay policy statement meets the statutory duty to provide the County Council with a description of the policy on staff remuneration for annual approval. It provides information on remuneration arrangements for staff directly employed by the County Council, excluding staff in schools.
- 3.2 The County Council defines its lowest paid employees as those staff paid on the lowest spinal column point of the County Council's pay grades for National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services staff.
- 3.3 The relationship between the remuneration of the lowest paid employees and that of the Council's senior officers is as described in this statement and by reference to published data requirements.

4. Grading, or Fixed Pay Point, Structure

- 4.1 For the officer on Strategic Management Grade (SMG) Tier 1 (i.e. the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service) a single fixed pay point and grading is

determined by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, with advice from the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, with reference to benchmarking remuneration arrangements, including Hay evaluation scores, of relevant comparator organisations. This arrangement applies where the post holder is an employee of the County Council.

- 4.2 For staff on Strategic Management Grades (SMG) a single fixed pay point and grading is determined either by the Chief Executive or, if appropriate, the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development using the Hay job evaluation scheme and benchmarking remuneration arrangements, including Hay evaluation scores, of relevant comparators where available.
- 4.3 For staff on Hay Grades the County Council uses the Hay job evaluation scheme to allocate jobs to the appropriate Hay pay grade.
- 4.4 For staff on NJC pay grades the County Council uses the NJC formal job evaluation procedures to allocate roles to the appropriate council pay grade.
- 4.5 For staff appointed on Uniformed Fire Fighters, Teachers (Centrally Employed), Soulbury and Youth Worker terms and conditions, grading is established using national frameworks.
- 4.6 Salaries for staff who have transferred into the authority under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) or Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (COSOP) arrangements are those applicable at time of transfer and, by agreement, may also be determined in accordance with the local pay framework described above.
- 4.7 NJC and Hay pay grades are published on the County Council's website.

5. Pay Progression

- 5.1 Staff on NJC and Hay grades are eligible for annual incremental increases to base pay until they reach the top of the grade for their role. There is no further base pay progression once the employee reaches the maximum of the grade, with the exception of a small number of staff who retain an entitlement to an additional long service increment, in accordance with the rules of a scheme which is no longer current.
- 5.2 Incremental progression is subject to satisfactory performance and this will be defined within the Council's Performance Management Policy/Procedure.
- 5.3 Pay progression for Uniformed Fire and Rescue Service, Teachers (Centrally Employed), Soulbury and Youth and Community Worker roles is based on assessment against national standards and/or terms and conditions of service.
- 5.4 Pay progression for newly qualified social workers is determined by the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Pay Progression Policy. Progression is subject to satisfactory completion of an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE).
- 5.5 Pay progression can also be achieved where an agreed career grade scheme is in place. Employees must satisfy specified criteria.

- 5.6 In exceptional circumstances staff increments may be accelerated within an employee's grade at the discretion of the Director in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development on the grounds of special merit or ability.
- 5.7 The pay progression arrangements for staff who have transferred into the authority with protected terms and conditions are those applicable at time of transfer.

6. Local Pay Awards

- 6.1 There is no automatic annual cost of living increase for staff on SMG or Hay grading arrangements.
- 6.2 Where the Head of Paid Service is an employee of the County Council, pay awards for Strategic Management Grade Tier 1 are determined locally by the Leader of West Sussex County Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. Any pay increase will be subject to reference to benchmarking of relevant comparators and will follow consultation with the officer concerned.
- 6.3 The pay awards for staff on Strategic Management Grades, Tiers 2-4, are determined locally and are approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. Any pay award will follow consultation with the staff concerned.
- 6.4 The pay awards for staff on Hay pay grades are determined locally and are approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development; and following consultation with UNISON.
- 6.5 The total sum available for any pay increase for staff is decided annually by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property on the recommendation of the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Support Services, (S151 Officer) and Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. This is based on consideration of appropriate market and other relevant information, including the performance of the County Council and affordability.
- 6.6 In exceptional circumstances; and as approved by the Leader in the case of SMG Tier 1; and as approved by the Chief Executive in the case of SMG Tier 2 to 4 and Hay grades - an unconsolidated additional payment may be made to recognise exceptional performance.

7. Market Supplements

- 7.1 The County Council may pay a market supplement, in addition to base salary, in order to recruit or retain staff with special skills, experience or knowledge.

- 7.2 Market supplements are applied, reviewed and withdrawn in accordance with the County Council's market supplement policy which is published on the County Council's website.

8. Remuneration on Appointment and Promotion

- 8.1 It is the County Council's policy to appoint at the minimum of the relevant pay range – where a pay range as opposed to a single spot pay point applies, unless:
- the individual is deemed to be immediately capable of performing the role at the optimum level required for the post;
 - the market value for the individual's experience and/or skills demands a higher entry point;
 - appointment above the minimum of the grade is required to ensure pay parity with other employees performing the role, with similar skills and experience; or
 - nationally determined arrangements apply to remuneration on recruitment and promotion.
- 8.2 The Governance Committee has delegated the authority to determine standard terms and conditions for staff and to delegate to appropriate roles the determinations of salaries on appointments as set out in this Statement.

9. Other elements of the Remuneration Package

9.1 Allowances and Enhancements

The County Council pays allowances to staff for additional responsibilities and duties as required to deliver services. The Allowances and Enhancements Policy is published on the County Council's Website.

Allowances for Uniformed Firefighters, Teachers (centrally employed by the County Council), Soulbury and Youth and Community Workers are determined in accordance with national arrangements, and as amended locally.

Staff who have transferred into the authority are covered by the applicable terms in place at time of transfer and as amended locally.

The Director of Law and Assurance is the Returning Officer for County Council elections and is eligible to receive election fees for carrying out these duties.

9.2 Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlements vary according to the terms and conditions of employment. Annual Leave entitlements are published on the County Council's website.

9.3 Pension Scheme

Membership is determined by the relevant conditions of service and is subject to the rules of the scheme. The County Council operates the following pension schemes: Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the Teachers' Pension

Scheme 2015, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015, and the 2015 NHS Pension Scheme. Some employees may also have membership in the following pension schemes, all of which are now closed to the future build-up of service: the Teachers' Pension Scheme, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006, and the NHS Pension Scheme.

9.4 **Abatement of Pension**

Staff who are employed or re-employed by the County Council and who are in receipt of pension under the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme (FPS 1992 or FPS 2006), NHS Pension Schemes or Teachers Pension Schemes are subject to the Scheme's rules on abatement of pension. The general principle is that the new salary plus pension cannot exceed the previous salary.

10. Termination of Employment

10.1 **Severance**

Should a severance payment be proposed that exceeds any threshold prescribed by Regulations, the County Council shall act in accordance with the requirements of those Regulations. Until such time any severance payment shall be in accordance with statutory guidance, the Council's pay policy and Scheme of Delegation, including relevant cabinet member approval.

10.2 **Redundancy**

The County Council's policy on redundancy, redundancy payments and re-employment is determined by the Governance Committee and is available on the County Council's website.

Staff who have transferred into the authority are covered by the applicable terms in place at time of transfer.

11. Settlements of employment-related claims

11.1 In exceptional circumstances, and specifically so as to settle a claim or potential dispute, the Director of Law and Assurance can agree payment of a termination settlement sum in consultation with the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, subject to any requirements of the statutory guidance referred to in paragraph 10.1 and the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

12. Pay Protection

12.1 The County Council's pay protection policy is approved by the Governance Committee. The policy provides a mechanism for assisting employees to adjust to a reduction in pay as a result of organisational change, job evaluation or redeployment as a result of ill health or disability.

12.2 Staff who have transferred into the authority with protected terms and conditions are covered by the applicable terms in place at time of transfer.

13. Remuneration of staff on a Contract for Services, or engaged via a third-party Agency

- 13.1 The County Council intends that individuals engaged via a Contract for Services are remunerated at a rate consistent with pay of directly employed staff performing a comparable role. However, the County Council may reflect market factors in remuneration levels, whilst ensuring value for money.

14. Employment Tax

- 14.1 The Council encourages the direct employment of staff and pays them via the payroll system to ensure that appropriate deductions for income tax and national insurance contributions are made. However, in exceptional circumstances individuals may be engaged through a Contract for Services in accordance with the relevant legislation.

15. Publication of information on the remuneration of staff; or individuals engaged via Contracts for Service

- 15.1 The County Council publishes information relating to the remuneration of staff over a level defined by Government guidance in the Annual Report and Accounts and on the West Sussex Data Store on the County Council's website. In addition, the County Council publishes the pay ratio between the highest paid salary and the lowest salary, and this information is available on the County Council's website.
- 15.2 Gender pay reporting will be published annually in accordance with legislative requirements.
- 15.3 The County Council will ensure that all of its arrangements for managing personal data in relation to staff contractual, payment and performance arrangements are managed in accordance with all Data Protection legislation and the County Council's current Data Protection Policies. The County Council is committed to ensuring the security and maintaining the confidentiality of all personal staff data.