

Pay Policy Statement – West Oxfordshire District Council 2018/19

1.0 Background

1.1 This statement is intended to meet the requirements of:

- s 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 which requires the Council to approve a Pay Policy Statement annually prior to the commencement of the financial year;
- the Council's obligations under the associated statutory guidance set out in the Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act (February 2012) together with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

2.0 Scope of this Policy Statement

2.1 To avoid confusion and provide transparency this statement will only apply to all officers that are employees of the Council although a number of officers hold dual employment contracts with Publica (a Council owned service company).

2.2 Details of senior staff pay at Publica can be found within their statement of accounts.

2.2 The current statement sets out the following elements:

- pay for each of the in scope officers;
- remuneration of lowest paid officer;
- the pay relationship between the highest paid Officers and other officers;
- performance related pay and bonuses, termination payments, transparency;
- other aspects of remuneration.

3.0 Officers covered by the Policy Statement

3.1 Below is a list of those Officers covered by the Policy Statement:

- Head of Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
- Group Manager GO Shared Services (s 151 officer)*
- Head of Planning & Strategic Housing (Head of Paid Service)
- Other officers of the Council

*Officer shared with and employed by Cotswold District Council..

3.2 Officers not covered by this statement include officers who are wholly or primarily employed by Publica and who retain dual employment contracts to deliver statutory elements of their roles such as Parking Appeal decisions or delegated planning decisions which require an employment relationship with the Council.

4.0 General Statements

4.1 The Council has a range of Human Resources Policies that apply equally to all officers across the Council from the highest paid to the lowest paid. These policies cover a wide range of Human Resources issues including annual leave arrangements and sickness arrangements.

4.2 As part of the formation of Publica the Council has determined that directly employed staff should in future adopt similar policies as the Publica employees in the interests of fairness and equity.

5.0 Policy on Remuneration of Senior Officers

5.1 The policy for the year 2018/19 is to maintain the level of pay in the same bands as the current year subject to any cost of living award that may be agreed nationally.

Heads of Service Two grades – M and N

M - £49,364 - £52,541 pay band made up of x 4 pay points

N - £53,259 - £57,155 pay band made up of x 4 pay points

(Plus local supplements as appropriate)

Group Managers – Fixed point salary - £75,750 (inclusive of all local supplements)
(subject to pay award)

5.2 Other factors relating to pay:

- Officers are generally placed upon the bottom pay point on appointment, but this can be varied by the approval of the appropriate appointments panel.
- A joint working supplement may be payable unless it has been incorporated into the job evaluation assessment.
- Incremental increases within the pay band are made annually and can be accelerated or withheld based upon outstanding or poor performance respectively.
- Once top of the band is reached no further increases are available.
- No performance related pay exists for any Senior Officer.
- No bonuses are available for any Senior Officer.
- Termination benefits payable will be in line with that available to all other officers as set out in the Redundancy and Retirement Policies in line with Employment Rights Act tables.
- Full Council will retain the decision to make any new appointment of an officer where the pay (incorporating all payments and benefits in kind) exceeds £100,000.
- Full Council will retain the decision to approve any severance payments where the compensation payments exceed £100,000.

5.3 The details of the payments in respect of these senior officers are set out in the Transparency page of the Council's website at: www.westoxon.gov.uk

5.4 None of the Senior Officers are entitled to receive overtime payments for time worked beyond the contracted hours and out of ordinary working hours.

5.5 The Returning Officer for election purposes also receives a payment for the statutory duties undertaken by virtue of the specific, additional appointment to that role in addition to other responsibilities. For national elections and referenda the amount is set and is payable by the government. For District and Town/Parish Council elections, the fees are payable by the District Council in accordance with an approved scale.

6.0 Tax Avoidance

6.1 The Council does not and will not employ senior managers in permanent positions via service companies that could be construed as avoiding tax and national insurance contributions. From time to time the Council may employ individuals via service companies to cover interim or short term project roles. However, the Council will comply with its responsibilities regarding the application of HMRC regulations on payments made to personal service companies (known as IR35) by applying income tax and national insurance deductions to the payment.

7.0 Relationship with Other Officers' Pay

7.1 Pay across the Council is determined by reference to the Job Evaluation scheme in place across the Council which determines the relative differences in pay between jobs based upon a range of factors.

7.2 All posts are evaluated using the West Oxfordshire District Council Job Evaluation Scheme (Genesys HR Solutions). Group Manager posts within the Partnership are evaluated by Hay (Public Sector market excluding London) and have a spot salary of £75,750 inclusive of all local supplements.

7.3 A full list of grades and associated spinal column pay points is attached to this policy.

7.4 A salary supplement / leased car benefit is payable on grades H and above except for Partnership posts where the pay grade is all inclusive. Any leased car provided for inclusive salary grades will require a sacrifice of salary.

7.5 For employees on grade F and above membership is available to a private health scheme with contributions paid by the Council up to a maximum budget with the excess being paid by employees – this is a taxable benefit. This is now a closed scheme and not available to new employees.

7.6 For employees on grades A to E overtime is payable at premium rates for hours worked above the basic 37 hours per week. Overtime for staff paid above these grades is only payable in exceptional circumstances and after senior management approval.

7.5 For employees that work for more than one Council (shared officers) then a shared working supplement may be payable based on Joint Working Protocols.

7.6 Where these shared posts/lead employer arrangements are agreed and set in place, the costs of any role are appropriately apportioned and recharged via the employment/secondment/management agreement. Such roles, where the Council is the employer, are evaluated according to the Council's existing job evaluation scheme.

8. Market Forces Supplement

8.1 The Council is committed to the principles of single status employment and seeks to ensure employees receive equal pay for work of equal value.

8.2 In professions where there is a particular skills shortage, as a temporary arrangement, it may be necessary to consider a market supplement to attract high quality applicants. The level and duration of premium will be determined by reference

to a combination of national comparators, local conditions, recruitment difficulties, inflation and whether the post has recently been advertised and the process has been unsuccessful.

9. Lowest Paid Employees

9.1 Lowest paid employees of the Council are defined as those employees (excluding Apprentices) who are in a full time or part time role, who are above the age of 21.

9.2 For pay comparison purposes the top of pay grade will always be used.

9.3 The pay differential between the highest paid officer and the median officer is set out below:

Highest £ 75,750*

Median Employee £ 52,541

Multiple 1.44

*Note – this is a joint post and employed by Cotswold DC

9.5 Other than incremental progression through the pay grade of a post the Council does not operate performance related pay for any staff including Chief Officers.

9.6 Details of senior management pay bands and the senior management organisation chart are available at:

<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/1705755/Senior-Management-Structure-West-Oxfordshire-District-Council-November-2017.pdf>

11 Pay Protection

11.1 The Council seeks to ensure that all employees receive equal pay for work of equal value. To be consistent with equal pay principles the Council's protection arrangements will not create the potential for pay inequalities (e.g. open-ended protection).

11.2 There may be times when the grade for an individual's role changes for reasons unrelated to their performance e.g. restructures. In such cases the protection arrangements outlined will apply for 3 years from the date of the change.

12 Severance Payments

12.1 The Council has a consistent method of calculating severance payments which it applies to all employees without differentiation. The payment is intended to recompense employees for the loss of their livelihood and provide financial support whilst they seek alternative employment.

12.2 In line with the statutory redundancy payment scheme, the Council calculates redundancy severance payments using the following calculation. The calculation is based on an employee's age and length of continuous local government service (please note that employees must have a minimum of 2 years' continuous service to qualify for a redundancy payment) the multiplier for the number of weeks is then applied to the employee's actual weekly earnings.

- 12.3 The amount of redundancy pay will be calculated as:
- 0.5 weeks pay for each full year of service where age at time of redundancy is less than 22 years of age;
 - 1 weeks pay for each full year of service where age at time of redundancy is 22 years of age or above, but less than 41 years of age;
 - 1.5 weeks pay for each full year of service where age at time of redundancy is 41+ years of age.
- 12.4 The maximum number of service years taken into account is 20. The maximum number of weeks pay is 30 for anyone aged 61 years of age or older with 20 years or more service.

13 Honorarium Payments

- 13.1 Payment of honoraria is a method by which the Authority may reward an employee who has temporarily undertaken the duties and responsibilities of a higher graded post, or who has worked excessive hours whilst not being entitled to overtime payments.

14 The Real Living Wage

- 14.1 The Council and Publica are committed to paying the Real Living Wage. The Real Living Wage rate from 1st April 2018 is:

- £8.75 per hour across UK (except London - £10.75) for workers 18 years and older.

- 14.2 The Real Living Wage is a voluntary and is independently-calculated based on what people need to get by. The Government encourages all employers that can afford to do so to ensure their employees earn a wage that meets the costs of living, not just the government minimum.

- 14.3 For Council employees whose substantive post is less than the Real Living Wage they will automatically receive the rate set out in 14.1 above.

15. Other pay and conditions in operation, are as follows:

- Stand by and call out payments;
- Long Service Award;
- Childcare Vouchers Salary Sacrifice Scheme;

16 The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- 16.1 The LGPS provides for the exercise of discretion that allow for retirement benefits to be enhanced. The Council will consider each case on its merits but has determined that it does not normally enhance pension benefits for any of its employees, nor does it operate any discretions under the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) (injury Allowances) Regulations 2011.

- 16.2 Further information regarding the Oxfordshire County Pension Scheme pensions administering body for the Council can be found at:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/pensions>

WODC PAY SCALE APRIL 2017				
Grade	SCP	2017 Salary	2017 Hourly	
	B	Living Wage	16302	8.75
		13	16499	8.55
C		14	16778	8.70
		15	17074	8.85
		16	17427	9.03
		17	17775	9.21
	D	18	18070	9.37
		19	18745	9.72
		20	19431	10.07
		21	20139	10.44
E		22	20660	10.71
		23	21268	11.02
		24	21963	11.38
		25	22658	11.74
		26	23398	12.13
		27	24174	12.53
		28	24964	12.94
	F	29	25951	13.45
		30	26821	13.90
		31	27668	14.34
		32	28485	14.76
		33	29324	15.20
		34	30153	15.63
G		35	30785	15.96
		36	31601	16.38
		37	32485	16.84
	I	38	33436	17.33
	Lease car Benefit	39	34538	17.90
		40	35444	18.37
		41	36379	18.86
J		42	37307	19.34
Lease car Benefit		43	38236	19.82
		44	39177	20.31
	K	45	40057	20.76
		46	41024	21.26
		47	41966	21.75
	Lease car Benefit	48	42899	22.24
		49	43820	22.71

Service Managers	2017 Salary
258	49364
259	50422
260	51486
261	52541
SMN	431
	53259
	432
	54558
	433
	55857
	434
	57155

Group Managers (includes any benefits)		
GM	1	75750

Leased Car Allowance	
Amount	Grade
£2,999	H
£3,999	I/J
£4,998	K
£5,284	L/M/N
£6,083	CO

UPDATED December 2017 - SG/PM