

Meeting: COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

15

Portfolio Area: Resources

Date: 26 FEBRUARY 2014

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

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1. PURPOSE

1.1.1 To approve the pay policy statement for the financial year 2014/15.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 as Appendix One to this report be approved.
- 2.2 That the pay policy be placed on the Council's web site and that a notice of the policy be published in the next edition of Chronicle.

3. BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

- 3.1 The Localism Act requires local authorities to adopt annually a statutory pay policy statement which must then be published (in addition to placing it on the Council's website) 'to help local people understand how public money is being spent in their area and to hold the Town Hall to account'. The first of these Pay Policy Statements was approved on 29 February 2012.
- 3.2 No remuneration may be made to officers which falls outside the Pay Policy Statement although it will be possible for a meeting of the Council to amend the Statement at any time.
- 3.3 The Pay Policy Statement must include its policies on the following matters:-
- the remuneration of its chief officers
 - the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer,
 - the remuneration of chief officers on recruitment
 - increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer
 - the use of performance related pay
 - the use of bonuses for chief officers

- the approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office
- 3.4 'Remuneration' of chief officers includes pay and terms and conditions which may apply in the future and to chief officer appointments which may be made in the future.
- 3.5 The Statement may also set out policies relating to other terms and conditions relating of Chief Officers.
- 3.6 The Statement must also set out:
- The relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and that of its employees who are not chief officers.
 - The Authority's definition of its 'lowest paid employees' for these purposes and the reasons for this definition and
 - The remuneration of its 'lowest paid employees'
- 3.7 For clarity, 'Chief Officer' includes the Head of Paid Service (the Chief Executive) the Chief Finance Officer (Strategic Director (Resources) the Monitoring Officer (Borough Solicitor), non statutory chief officers (the Strategic Directors) and deputy chief officers (Heads of Service).
- 3.8 In approving its pay policy statement the Council must have regard to any guidance issued or approved by the Secretary of State. He has issued guidance 'Openness and accountability in local pay'. As a result the Council is not bound to follow the guidance but should take it into account in approving the Statement.
- 3.9 The Act itself does not require local authorities to publish specific salary details in the Pay Policy Statement. However, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 also require the publication in the accounts of salary bands and the salaries of Chief Officers. Salary bands for these posts have therefore been included in the Pay Policy Statement as suggested in the Guidance.
- 3.10 The Guidance refers extensively to the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector. This Review comments on fairness in pay and that the salary gap between the highest and lowest paid officers has grown in recent years. Hutton suggests that the relationship between chief officers and other employees is explained and taken into account in remuneration decisions for all staff. This relationship he recommends can be illustrated by the publication of pay multiples – the ratio between the highest paid employee and mean average earnings.
- 3.11 The Statement therefore includes pay multiples comparing the Chief Executive's remuneration against the lowest paid employees and mean average earnings across the Council.

The Guidance also expresses concerns that senior staff moving posts within the public sector could be seen as driving up average pay levels particularly where the sector as a whole is paying twice through a salary and a pension. As a closely related issue 'Authorities should use their Pay Policy Statement to explain their policies towards reengaging chief officers who have received severance or redundancy payments from that authority'. Although it is not envisaged that any such appointments will be made the Council has adopted a policy which relates to all Council officers, including chief officers and states that "Any employee who takes voluntary redundancy will not be permitted to return to the employment of Stevenage Borough Council, either as a permanent, fixed term employee, or as a casual worker, for a minimum period of 12 months following the date of their redundancy. (There is no restriction on returning to the employment of Stevenage Borough Council following compulsory redundancy.)"

- 3.12 The proposed pay policy has been amended since last year to take account of the new statutory guidance issued under the Localism Act 2011, in February 2013 by the Secretary of State, on pay policy statements, relating to appointments and severance packages of £100,000 or above.
- 3.13 There have been no changes to the terms and conditions of Chief Officers or Deputy Chief Officers since last year and pay bands have remained unchanged.

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The council has a legal obligation to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and in particular Section 149 of the Act, which is the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires local authorities to report equality profiling information for its workforce annually. Information relating to staff pay and equality can be found in our current annual report, Equality and Diversity Information for Stevenage 2012, that can be found on our website."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Council report 26 February 2013

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Stevenage Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2014/15.

APPENDIX 1 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

This Pay Policy Statement is made in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Localism Act, 2011.

This policy shall apply from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 subject to amendment by Council.

Chief officers and deputy chief officers shall be paid according to the following bands:

Remuneration bands of senior officers are set out here:

Head of Paid Service/ Chief Executive (incl. elections)	£102,788 to £118,799 (includes Returning Officer pay of £4,067)
Deputy Chief Executive	£80,942 to £94,073 (Strategic Directors pay band plus 10%)
Strategic Directors	£73,584 to £85,521
Monitoring Officer/ Borough Solicitor	£56,696 to £65,570 (HoS 1 plus £2,000 p.a.)
Assistant Directors	£61,104 to £71,016
Heads of Service 1 -	£54,696 to £63,570
Heads of Service 2	£52,338 to £57,852

*Lowest Paid Employees with effect from 1 st January 2014	£14,759
**'Mean Average Basic Earnings'	£25,295

**Excludes apprentices

Notes:

1 'Lowest Paid Employee' means the employees on the lowest grade assuming that the posts are full time (excluding apprentices). No bonuses or other forms of additional remuneration are paid for these posts.

2. *With effect from 1st January 2014 the Council commenced paying the Living Wage to all employees, excluding apprentices. From 1st April 2013 – 30th September 2013 the pay of the lowest paid employees was £12,266, and from 1st October - 31st December 2013 the pay of the lowest paid employee was £12,435.

3. The pay of the Chief Executive (including payments for elections) is currently 8.05 times the pay of the lowest paid worker and this ratio is not expected to change significantly. The pay of the Chief Executive is currently 4.69 times the pay of mean average earnings.

4. Chief Officers (except the Monitoring Officer) are paid an allowance of £24.95 per month for expenses but otherwise no bonuses performance related pay or other forms of additional remuneration are paid to Chief Officers or Deputy Chief Officers.

5. Many of the Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers and other employees receive a payment for attending and performing certain duties at elections. These payments are typically between £28 and £1,320.
6. Salary packages amounting to £100,000 or more for new appointments will be approved by Full Council.
7. Salary increments are paid annually by default for all employees of the Council up to the top of the pay grade
8. The pay of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is based on job evaluations undertaken through the Inbucon scheme.
9. The terms and conditions of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is set in accordance with the JNC.
10. Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers including any new appointments at this level will be made in accordance with the pay scales set out above.
11. All employees including Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers are entitled to redundancy payments based on the same multiple of 2.5 times statutory provision and based on actual weekly pay.
12. Any redundancy or severance packages of £100,000 or more will be approved by Full Council.
13. All employees including Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers are entitled to retirement pensions calculated in the same way under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008. These Regulations require the Council to publish its policy on increasing an employee's total pension and on awarding additional pension ¹
14. The Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 require the Council to formulate, review and publish its policy on making discretionary payments on early termination of employment.
15. The terms and payment of terminating the employment of any officer of the Council in any contentious circumstances which do not result from an award made by an Employment Tribunal or Court are settled by the Council on the basis of the legal merits of the case, the time and disruption which protracted litigation would involve, any limit of statutory entitlement on monetary claim available to an employee and what is considered prudent in all the circumstances.
15. Staff formerly employed by Stevenage Homes Limited and who transferred through TUPE to the employment of Stevenage Borough Council on 1 December 2011 are entitled to an additional Life Assurance provision with payment of one times annual salary on death.

¹ Stevenage Borough Council Executive minutes dated 28 March 2007, Section 5 refers.

16. An employee who is made redundant must have a break of at least four weeks in order to retain a redundancy payment before they can be re-employed by the council in a different position.