



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire Interim Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

West Northamptonshire Council's interim pay policy statement (originally approved by the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority at the start of February 2021) reflected the fact that pay terms and conditions of employment had not yet been determined for all employees of the new council. This position has not changed and therefore this revised statement remains an interim pay statement for 2022/23.

This Pay Policy Statement is effective from 1 April 2022. It will be subject to review annually for approval by 31 March, and in accordance with new or proposed legislation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. It is published on the Council's website.

1. Introduction and purpose

West Northamptonshire Council is a new unitary authority created on 1 April 2021, replacing Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire District Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the council has the "power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as authority thinks fit".

This interim Pay Policy Statement sets out the approach to pay policy at this point in time, in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its directly employed workforce by identifying:

- The remuneration of its Chief Officers
- The remuneration of its 'lowest paid employees'

and the relationship between:

- The remuneration of its chief officers; and
- The remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers

The definition of chief officers (as set out in section 43(2)) is not limited to Heads of Paid Service or Statutory Chief Officers, it also includes Non-Statutory Chief Officers and those who report directly to Statutory or Non-Statutory Chief Officers (i.e., Deputy Chief Officers).

2. Scope

The council is directly responsible for a budget of £342m (excluding schools) and for the employment of approximately 2,800 staff.

This interim pay policy statement covers Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer roles.

It also covers, for the purpose of identifying the lowest paid, employees who TUPE transfer on their current terms and conditions from the district, borough, and county councils into West Northamptonshire Council on 1 April 2021.

3. Definitions

'Pay' - in addition to salary this includes charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, increases in or enhancements to pension entitlements and termination payments.

'Chief Officer' refers to the following roles within West Northamptonshire Council:

Definition under the Localism Act 2011	Post held at West Northamptonshire Council
Head of Paid Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of Legal & Democratic
Section 151 Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Director, Finance
Statutory Chief Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS)• Director of Children's Services (DCS)• Director of Public Health (DPH)
Non-Statutory Chief Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Director, Place and Economy• Executive Director, Corporate• Director of Communities & Opportunities

'Deputy Chief Officer' refers to Tier 3 roles within West Northamptonshire Council and includes Assistant Directors and Assistant Chief Executive.

'Lowest paid employees' refers to those staff employed from the population of employees who TUPE transferred into the Council who are on the lowest pay point of their pay scale.

For clarity, chief officer, and deputy chief officers' roles, whether filled on a permanent employment basis or interim agency basis, are within scope of this pay policy statement.

4. Accountability and decision making

Remuneration

The appointment and remuneration packages of the Head of Paid Service and other Statutory Chief Officers were approved by the Shadow Authority on 18 August 2020 and 15 September 2020 respectively; the appointment and remuneration package for non-statutory Chief Officers was approved by the Shadow Leader.

Chief Officer salaries were benchmarked to be competitive and cost effective against roles in comparable unitary councils, both in terms of the size and complexity of services delivered.

On appointment salaries were offered within the relevant benchmarked salary range for the role and commensurate with the candidates most recent salary and experience. The benchmarked salary ranges are set out in **Section 7** (including 2021/22 pay award uplift).

The Deputy Chief Executive designation attracts an additional allowance of £10,000 to reflect the responsibilities associated with deputising for the Chief Executive on occasions, in addition to their core responsibilities. The Director role to take on this designation is the Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS).

The Chief Executive is the appointed Returning Officer and will receive a fee for running local and parliamentary elections and referendums. This role is separate to that of Chief Executive and carries with it personal accountabilities. The fee paid will vary but be in accordance with the relevant scales of fees agreed by the Shadow Executive Committee on 26 January 2021. For national elections and referendums, fees are met by the body responsible for funding the poll.

The West Northamptonshire Constitution confirmed delegated responsibility to the Senior Appointments Committee for the appointment and dismissal of Chief Officers with effect from 1 April 2021.

The constitution also confirms delegated responsibility to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) or their nominee for the appointment and dismissal of officers below Chief Officer, including Deputy Chief Officer (Tier 3 Assistant Director). Salaries have been benchmarked to be competitive and cost effective against roles in comparable unitary councils, both in terms of the size and complexity of services delivered.

The responsibility for determining pay, terms and conditions for West Northamptonshire Council is also delegated to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive). Negotiations on these pay terms and conditions are ongoing with the recognised trade unions at this time; the financial implications of the final package will be brought to the Shadow Executive/Cabinet for approval.

Where any appointment, including an interim agency appointment, proposes a remuneration package that could exceed £100,000, approval will be sought from Full Council.

Severance

Severance packages in excess of £100,000 will be taken to Full Council for approval.

5. Remuneration – pay multiples

Following a local pay award settlement reached in October 2021, the lowest paid full-time equivalent employee in the period 2021/22 will be paid at £18,328 per annum full time equivalent (FTE). The definition of lowest paid employee is a fully competent employee undertaking a defined role and excludes apprentices who are undertaking approved training. The highest paid employee is the Chief Executive who will be paid in the period a salary of £172,975.

The Hutton report on Fair Pay in the public sector was asked to explore the case for a fixed limit on pay dispersion in the public sector, through a requirement that no public sector manager can earn more than 20 times the lowest paid person in the organisation. There are advantages and disadvantages of using a maximum pay multiple. The Hutton Report concluded that the most appropriate metric is top to median earnings.

A median earnings figure cannot be provided at the time of writing; this figure will be drawn from the median earnings of those employees who transferred into West Northamptonshire Council on 1 April 2021.

For this interim pay policy statement, the pay multiple between the anticipated lowest paid (full time equivalent) employee and Chief Executive is 1:9.4 and the lowest paid employee and average chief officer is 1:7.5

These ratios are within the expected multiples of 8.1 – 12.1 for the public sector as identified in the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (March 2011) Report.

6. Pay strategy

In determining the pay and remuneration of its employees, the council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes 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 Earnings) Regulations.

With regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the council ensures that all pay arrangements can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation methods.

The council will take the following approach to assessing individual and overall pay levels:

- to recruit and retain staff in a way which is externally competitive and internally fair.
- the appropriate grade for a job is established through a process of job evaluation

that takes into account the level of knowledge, skills and accountability required for the role.

- in determining the grading structure and setting overall pay levels for all posts, take account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.
- the principle of encouraging employees to develop in their role and to improve their performance will inform the design, with pay grades containing a number of pay steps and an annual opportunity to progress up pay steps within the relevant job grade
- any requirement for additional allowance or supplement will be objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence and where market supplements are considered, that this is with reference to data available from within and outside the local government sector.
- where different pay arrangements apply to different groups of staff, the reasons will be clearly evidenced and documented.
- policies about **termination payments** and **employer discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme** will be reviewed and published for all staff. These will be produced with the intention of only making additional payments when in the best interests of the Authority and maintaining consistency through all pay grades.

7. Benchmarked salary ranges – Chief Officers

Role	Salary range
Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)	£170,000 - £180,000
Director of Children’s Services and Statutory DCS	£145,000 - £155,000
Director of Finance and Statutory Section 151 Officer	£133,000 - £143,000
Director of Adult Social Service and Statutory DASS	£133,000 - £143,000
Director Place & Economy	£133,000 - £143,000
Director, Corporate	£130,000 - £140,000
Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Statutory Monitoring Officer	£110, 000 - £115,000
Director of Public Health	£100,000 - £114,000
Director of Communities & Opportunities	£100,000 - £114,000