

Brighton & Hove City Council Pay Policy Statement 2013/4

1 Aim

Brighton & Hove City Council wants to ensure that the City and its residents receive high quality services and excellent value for money. In the context of managing scarce resources, pay levels need to be set at a level that will enable the council to attract and retain high calibre individuals without being overly generous or imprudent with public funds.

To achieve this the council requires a workforce at all levels that is conscientious, professional and reliable and which has the relevant up-to-date skills and knowledge to deliver high quality services to the residents of and visitors to Brighton and Hove.

The council depends on a high calibre senior management team able to provide leadership and to work in close partnership with other private, public and voluntary agencies across the City. The senior team need to work with partners to assess and understand the level of need across the City and to commission and deliver services. At the same time they need to be able to lead change programmes and reduce costs to deliver better outcomes for customers. An innovative, skilled and experienced workforce is vital to the delivery of our vision and this is at the heart of our pay policy. This principle applies from the lowest to highest paid employee.

Whilst recognising the market rates for pay, the council seeks to ensure that pay policies are based on fairness and equality and allow the workforce to live healthy and happy lives. The council has introduced a 'Living Wage' and is working to reduce the pay gap between the highest and the lowest paid. The pay multiple between the Chief Executive and the median earnings of the rest of the workforce will be published annually on the council's website.

2 Scope

This document complies with our statutory responsibility to produce a pay policy statement annually pursuant to s38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. This policy statement requires approval by full council. The council wishes to ensure that local taxpayers are able to take an informed view on all aspects of the council's remuneration arrangements and the pay policy statement will be published on the council's website.

The statement applies to all employees of the council and 'casual workers', except for those staff based in schools.

3 Definitions

Brighton & Hove City Council defines its lowest paid employees as those who are paid on the lowest spinal column point of our grading structure. This is our local 'Living Wage' and is applied to casual workers as well as employees. A full time post is based on a 37 hour week. Chief officers are defined as those

who report directly to the Chief Executive. In Brighton & Hove these are currently the members of the Executive Leadership Team. Those who report to these posts, for the purpose of this policy statement, are also defined as Chief Officers.

Senior Structure

For the purposes of this pay policy statement the Executive Leadership Team comprises the following posts; Chief Executive, Executive Director of Children's Services (DCS), Executive Director of Adult Social Services (DASS), Executive Director of Environment, Development & Housing, Executive Director Finance and Resources, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer, Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Public Health.

The Corporate Management Team comprises members of the Executive Leadership Team and those Heads of Service appointed on JNC conditions of service.

National Pay and Conditions

There are a number of national agreements produced through collective bargaining arrangements for different groups of local government staff. The main negotiating bodies relevant to our workforce and their scope are listed below. Brighton & Hove City Council operates these national conditions as amended by local agreements.

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services negotiates collective agreements on pay and conditions for local authority employees who are not covered by other specialist negotiating bodies (eg teachers).

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities (JNC) covers the pay and conditions for Chief Officers.

The Soulbury Committee negotiates the pay and conditions for advisory staff in local education authorities (LEAs), such as: educational improvement professionals (previously advisers and inspectors) and educational psychologists.

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers covers the pay and conditions of youth and community workers.

4 Governance

The Policy & Resources Committee is responsible for setting policy on pay and conditions of employment within Brighton & Hove City Council. The council has adopted the National Joint Council terms and conditions for local authority staff. Chief Officers, including the Chief Executive, are similarly employed on nationally negotiated JNC terms and conditions but their pay is determined locally.

The relevant sub-committee, committee or the Chief Executive makes the appointment of staff in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure

Rules. The Council's Appointments and Remuneration Panel is responsible for advising on the remuneration applicable to;

- a) the permanent appointment of Chief Officers,
- b) any proposal to offer a permanent appointment with a salary package of £100,000 or more.

The Appointments and Remuneration Panel may also be consulted for its views in connection with the statement of pay policy. The policy in respect of the remuneration of interims and consultants is set out under paragraph 17 below.

5 Grading Structure

The council uses a recognised, analytical job evaluation scheme to ensure that there is an objective process for determining the relative size of jobs and thus allocating jobs to the appropriate grade. This is used for all posts, apart from those of the Chief Executive and Executive Directors and staff employed on Soulbury and Youth Worker conditions of service. Our current pay and grading structure was implemented during 2010 and our new minimum spinal column point was set at the level of the Council's 'Living Wage'.

6 Progression

All posts, apart from that of the Chief Executive and Members of the Executive Leadership Team (but not the Assistant Chief Executive) are employed on grades containing spinal column points. Employees progress through their grade each year, rising by one incremental point, until reaching the maximum point of the grade. Pay awards for NJC and JNC staff are negotiated nationally. Where a member of staff is the subject of formal disciplinary and capability processes, increments may be withheld.

Employees may be accelerated up the pay grade by a maximum of two spinal column points to recognise exceptional performance.

7 Remuneration on Appointment

Staff are usually appointed on the minimum spinal column point of the grade. However, where there are difficulties recruiting to a post or where an individual can demonstrate significant valuable previous experience, appointment may be agreed at a higher spinal column point within the grade.

The Council's Appointments and Remuneration Panel is responsible for advising the Chief Executive on the appropriate starting salary for any new permanent JNC appointments.

8 Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's salary is set to ensure that it is competitive when compared to roles of similar size and complexity elsewhere and with regard to the challenges, additional hours and working arrangements required to

achieve the requirements of the role. The salary is on a single fixed salary point.

The Chief Executive is entitled to receive a fee as set by the Ministry of Justice for acting as the local returning officer for elections.

The Chief Executive will be reimbursed the cost of one professional association fee in addition to the membership fee of one local authority association relevant to the duties and responsibilities inherent in the role.

9 Executive Directors

The pay and grading of Executive Directors is determined by the requirements of the role and by reference to the labour market for roles of a similar size and complexity. They are on a single fixed salary point. Nationally negotiated cost of living awards are applied.

Executive Directors are entitled to be reimbursed the cost of one professional association fee in addition to the membership fee of one local authority association relevant to the duties and responsibilities inherent in their role.

10 Corporate Management Team (excluding Directors)

As part of the change to the Council's senior management structure in 2010, the Council commissioned the 'Local Government Employers' to undertake a review of the pay structure. This was to enable the council to attract and retain suitably skilled staff. The new pay structure for these posts places the jobs at or just below the mid-market level when the salaries are compared to those paid by other similar local authorities for jobs of a similar size and complexity.

11 Additional Payments

In order to ensure sufficient flexibility to reward staff who are undertaking additional responsibilities the Council's policy on Additional Payments provides for Acting Up Allowances or a one-off Honorarium Payment to be made in specific circumstances.

12 Market Supplements

The Council may pay a market supplement where there are shortages of individuals with particular skills and experience.

13 Travel and Expenses

Travel and Expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with the NJC policy limited to Band 2 for mileage expenses.

14 Annual Leave

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

15 Pension Scheme

Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is subject to the rules of the scheme and contribution rates are set by legislation. These rates can be found on the East Sussex County Council website. Where individuals are already in receipt of a local government pension they are subject to the rules on abatement of pension within the scheme.

16 Redundancy, Retirement and other Compensation Payments

The council's approach to dismissals on the grounds of redundancy, efficiency of the service or early retirement can be found in the following policies on our website: Redundancy, Retirement, and other Compensation Payments policy statement and Retirement at Brighton and Hove.

In exceptional circumstances the council will agree to settle a claim or potential dispute upon the termination of employment by way of a compensation payment. This is agreed by an officer panel comprised of the Head of Human Resources, the Monitoring Officer and the s151 Officer (or their delegates). In cases where the proposed payment is £100,000 or more the case will be referred to the Appointments and Remuneration Panel for consideration and recommendation to the Chief Executive. The District Auditor will also be consulted about any such compensation payments to Chief Officers.

17 Remuneration of Staff – Contract for Services

Individuals employed on a contract for services will be paid at a rate consistent with the pay of directly employed staff performing a comparable role and will consider where relevant, a premium to take into account any relevant market factors. It is the council's policy to minimise the use of consultants wherever possible and the approval of the Chief Executive is required prior to any commitment to expenditure on consultants in excess of £10,000.

18 Remuneration of Staff – Publication of Information

The council publishes details of staff earnings in accordance with legal requirements on transparency. Further information is contained in the Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with the Audit of Accounts legislation.

