

1 Introduction

This policy outlines the key principles of Durham County Council's (DCC) pay policy for 2015/16 aimed at supporting the recruitment and remuneration of the workforce in a fair and transparent way. The policy complies with Government Guidance issued under the Localism Act 2011 and includes commentary upon:

- The approach towards the remuneration of Chief Officers.
- The remuneration of the lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not Chief Officers.

The Local Government Transparency Code, published in October 2014 by the Government also sets out key principles for local authorities in creating greater transparency through the publication of public data. As part of the code, the Government recommends that local authorities should publish details of senior employee salaries. This pay policy forms part of the Council's response to transparency of senior pay through the publication of a list of job titles and remuneration.

Durham County Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and is an equal opportunity employer. The overall aim of our Single Equality Scheme is to ensure that people are treated fairly and with respect. The scheme also contains a specific objective to be a diverse organisation which includes recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and promoting equality and diversity through working practices. This pay policy forms part of our policies to promote equality in pay practices. By ensuring transparency of senior pay and the relationship with pay of other employees, it will help ensure a fair approach which meets our equality objectives.

In setting the pay policy arrangements for the workforce the Council seeks to pay competitive salaries within the constraints of a public sector organisation.

As a result of Local Government Review in the County, the significant opportunity existed to bring together the pay and conditions arrangements of the eight previous authorities into one cohesive pay policy for the new organisation. In response, Durham County Council's approach towards the workforce pay and conditions of employment were fundamentally reviewed and a new pay structure and revised conditions of employment for the majority of the workforce was agreed during 2012, in order to ensure that the council is able to operate as a modern, fit for purpose and streamlined organisation.

2 Posts defined within the Act as Chief Officers

2.1 The policy in relation to Chief Officers relates to the posts of Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive, four Corporate Directors and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (who undertakes the Monitoring Officer Role for the Authority).

2.2 Governance Arrangements

The Chief Officer Appointments Committee is defined within the Council's Constitution as performing the functions under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to these officers. This includes the setting of the pay arrangements for these posts and in doing so the Committee takes into account:

- The prevailing market in which the organisation operates.
- The short and long term objectives of the Council.
- The Council's senior structure, financial situation and foreseeable future changes to these.
- The expectations of the community and stakeholders.
- The total remuneration package.
- The links with how the wider workforce is remunerated and national negotiating frameworks.
- The cost of the policy over the short, medium and long term.

The Committee also has access to appropriate external independent expert advice on the subject where required.

2.3 Key Principles

- The Chief Officer Pay policy is designed to be easily understood and to be transparent to the post holders and key stakeholders. The structure and level of the pay arrangements will enable the Council to attract, motivate and retain key senior talent for the authority.
- The policy is based upon spot salaries with clear differentials between levels of work/job size, within a range that is affordable now, will remain so for the medium term, and will be subject to review to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose. In the first instance it is intended that the Authority will market test the rates of pay when vacancies arise, as part of consideration on whether or not roles continue to be required within the context of the Council's priorities and commitments at that time.

- A competency based performance management framework is established within the organisation linked to individual job descriptions, person specifications, with performance reviewed annually. This ensures that the individual standards of achievement are met and clearly linked to the achievement of the council's objectives and priorities, and the authority's expectations are delivered by post holders within these roles.
- These posts do not attract performance related pay, bonuses or any other additions to basic salary. This approach enables the council to assess and budget accurately in advance for the total senior pay bill over a number of years.
- The Council is currently the sixth largest single tier authority in the Country and in setting the pay policy for this group, a market position has been established that aims to attract and retain the best talent available at a senior level within a national recruitment context, to lead and motivate the council's workforce that is rewarded under a nationally agreed negotiating framework.
- Roles at this level have all been subject to an externally ratified job evaluation scheme that is transparent and auditable to ensure equality proofing of pay levels.
- Other terms and conditions of employment for this group are as defined within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities Conditions of Service handbook, with discretion to set actual pay levels at a local level, but within a national negotiating framework. These posts are part of the nationally defined Local Government final salary pension scheme.

2.4 Pay Levels

Individual elements of the remuneration package are established as follows at the point of recruitment into the posts:

Role	Spot Salary	Additional Variable Pay
	£	£
Chief Executive	200,000	0
Assistant Chief Executive	120,000	0
Corporate Directors	140,000	0
Head of Legal and Democratic Services	110,000	0

In addition to Chief Officers there are a range of senior roles identified as Heads of Service that are evaluated using the same principles and scheme as

the Chief Officers and these roles are remunerated at three levels based on job size, these being:

	£
Heads of Service	110,000
	95,000
	75,000

The Corporate Management Team Pay and Heads of Service pay levels were actually assessed in 2008 in preparation for the new authority by external assessors and the levels set have not been increased since that time.

This Council has agreed a salary structure for its senior posts and agrees that appointment to any vacancies on this structure at the salaries referred to in this statement are permitted. The creation of any new appointments paying over £100,000 should however be presented to Council for approval.

The designated Returning Officer for the Council, who is the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, also carries out the role of Acting Returning Officer in Parliamentary and European elections and other national referenda or electoral processes. These additional roles usually carry an entitlement to payment from central government at levels set by order in relation to each national poll and according to scale of fees agreed by the Council in relation to Local Elections.

Set out in Annex 1 is a scale of fees for the conduct of the County Council and Parish elections. The fees are based on the principle that the Returning Officer and nominated deputies will be remunerated in view of personal responsibilities, but at a rate below that of national elections. National rates are given for other posts such as Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Count Staff and postal vote sessions to ensure sufficient interest is maintained in undertaking these roles.

3 The Authority's Policy on the Remuneration of its Lowest Paid Workers

3.1 Definition of Lowest Paid Workers

In order to promote equity, former manual worker grades in the authority have been incorporated into the national framework, as outlined in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services "Agreements on Pay and Conditions of Service".

This ensures that the lowest paid workers and the wider workforce share equitable terms and conditions and access to pay and condition arrangements that are set within a national negotiating framework.

This approach ensures fairness, provides market rates in the region for jobs, graded by job size, but with a reference also to the national local government family.

It was agreed at Full Council on 3 December 2014 to remove Spinal Column Points 5-9 from the Council's pay and grading structure with effect from 1 January 2015 and implement a 'Durham Living Wage' of Spinal Column Point 10 (£7.43 per hour) for all Durham County Council employees. This equates to workers (outside of apprenticeship schemes) remunerated in Durham on a minimum full time equivalent annual rate of pay of £14,338 (excluding allowances). This is the Council's definition of 'lowest paid workers'.

4 The Policy Relationship between Chief Officers Pay, the Lowest Paid Workers, and the Wider Workforce

4.1 Current Position

At the inception of the new unitary Council in 2009 the authority had defined:

- The strategy for senior pay within the authority and had recruited into these posts.
- The plan for the approach towards harmonising the pay and conditions of the workforce longer term.
- Taking this approach, also now enables the authority to publish and support recommendations within Will Hutton's review 2011 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' around publishing the ratio of pay of the organisation's top earner to that of a median earner and tracking this over time, taking corrective action where necessary.
- In setting the relevant pay levels a range of background factors outlined at paragraph 2.2 were taken into consideration for senior pay alongside the significant scope and scale of the authority in the national context.

For example, the scope and scale of the Chief Executive's post encompasses responsibilities commensurate with the largest authorities in the country including responsibility for:

- The provision of wide ranging services to over 500,000 residents of County Durham.
- A gross budget of £1.3bn for service delivery.
- Undertaking the role of the Head of Paid Service to over approximately 17,500 employees.
- Lead Policy Advisor to the Council's 126 Elected Members.

The ratio between the pay of the Chief Executive in Durham County Council and the lowest paid workers is 14:1, against figures published by Government of an expectation to always be below 20:1 in local government.

In addition, during 2015/16 the employer will contribute 13.8% of pensionable pay to the pension fund for all employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

4.2 Long Term Planning

In line with the original long term plan, Durham County Council has successfully completed the implementation of a new pay and conditions framework for the wider workforce. This pay scheme is based upon a nationally agreed job evaluation system and the national spinal column points of pay, and will see the authority remain within the existing national pay negotiating machinery.

4.3 Pay Policy Objectives

This planned approach towards pay for the wider workforce, and the use of established and equality impact assessed job evaluation schemes in the exercise will ensure:

- A planned approach towards pay policy for the organisation that enables the council to establish a relationship between pay for senior officers, the low paid and the wider workforce to align to the national guidance
- The provision of accountability, transparency and fairness in setting pay for Durham County Council.

4.4 Pay Policy Decisions for the Wider Workforce

The decision making powers for the implementation of the new pay arrangements is one for the Full Council for the Authority, ensuring that decisions in relation to workforce pay are taken by those who are directly accountable to local people.

5 The Approach towards Payment for those Officers Ceasing to Hold Office Under or be Employed by the Authority

The Council has an agreed policy in relation to officers whose employment is terminated via either voluntary or compulsory redundancy. This policy provides a clear, fair and consistent approach towards handling early retirements and redundancy for the wider workforce, including Chief Officers. In setting policy, the Authority does at this time retain its discretion to utilise the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales Regulations) 2006.

6 Policy towards the Reward of Chief Officers Previously Employed by the Authority.

The Council's arrangements for payments on severance are outlined in the Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy policy approved by Full Council on 29 October 2014.

Chief Officers leaving the authority under regulations allowing for early access to pension are leaving in circumstances where there is no longer a suitable role for them, and in such circumstances they leave the employment of the Council. Immediate re-engagement in another role would negate redundancy by operation of the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government, etc.) (Modification) Order 1999.

The Council would not expect such officers to be offered further remunerated employment with the Council or any controlled company without such post being subject to external competition.

The administering authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme does not currently have a policy of abating pensions for former employees who are in receipt of a pension, although this is an area that is kept under review.

The Council is mindful of its obligations under equality legislation and as such is limited in its ability to adopt a policy that it will not employ people of an age that has entitled them to pension access on leaving former employment in the public sector or to propose that such applicants be employed on less favourable terms than other applicants. It expects all applicants for any posts to compete and be appointed on merit.

Annex 1: Proposed Scale of Fees for Whole Area Local Elections

Set out in Annex 1 is a scale of fees for the conduct of the 2013 whole County and Parish Council elections. The fees are based on the principle that the Returning Officer and nominated deputies will be remunerated in view of personal responsibilities, but at a rate below that of national elections. National rates are given for other posts such as Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Count Staff and postal vote sessions to ensure sufficient interest is maintained in undertaking these roles.

Core Election Team members will receive an 'election fee' covering overtime worked and additional responsibilities undertaken during the election period. The overall fee will reflect the amount received at National Elections for example the Alternative Vote Referendum and the Police and Crime Commissioner Election. Any Election Team member who is paid an 'election fee' will not receive any additional payment if undertaking a Deputy Returning Officer role or other roles.

Role	Fee	Comments
Returning Officer	£100 per division or per contested parish council area	Just over half the rate paid at national elections
Deputy Returning Officers	Capped up to £60 per division or per contested parish council area	Fee dependant on role undertaken and level of fee paid to be determined by the Returning Officer
Election Day		
Presiding Officer	£195 (plus 20% for combination)	National Rate
Poll Clerk	£115 (plus 20% for combination)	National Rate
Polling staff – training fee	£40.00	As at PCC Election
Polling Station-Staff Trainer	£120.00 per session	As at PCC Election
Polling Station Inspector	£19.50 per Polling Station (plus 20% for combination)	National Rate
Postal Votes		
Postal Vote Supervisors including Scanners	£12.50 per hour	National Rate
Postal Vote Assistants	£10 per hour	National Rate
Postal Vote Opening - Training	£20.00	As at PCC Election
Postal Vote Opening - Trainer	£60.00 per session	As at PCC Election

Role	Fee	Comments
Ballot Box Receipt and Document Sort		
Ballot Box Supervisor	£100.00	As at PCC Election
Ballot Box Receipt Asst	£50.00 per session of up to 4 hours	As at PCC Election
The Count		
Count Supervisor/Adjudicator	£250.00	As at PCC Election
Count Supervisor-Trainer	£50.00	As at PCC Election
Count Senior Assistant	£160.00	
Count Supervisor and Senior Assistant Training	£40.00	As at PCC Election
Count Assistant	£50.00 per session of up to 4 hours	As at PCC Election
Security	£100	
General		
Clerical Assistance – use of temporary staff	£200 per division	National rate
Car Mileage	48p per mile	DCC mileage rate
Poll Card Delivery	12p per card (plus 2p mgt)	As at PCC Election

Annex 2: Proposed Scale of Fees for the conduct of Individual By-Elections

Set out in Annex 2 is a scale of fees for the conduct of individual By-Elections. These fees were agreed by the former District Authorities of the County in 2007.

Election Fees – By-Elections

Returning Officer	£67.00 per 1000 electors or part thereof (per division/ward)
Polling Station:	
Presiding Officer	£180.50 (plus ¼ fee for combined election)
Poll Clerk	£108.75 (plus ¼ fee for combined election)
Polling Station Inspector	£17.00 per station
Mileage	0.45p
Postal Votes Issue:	
Postal Votes Issuing Manager	£120.00
Postal Votes Issuing Supervisor	£60.00
Postal Votes Issuing Assistant	£40.00
Postal Votes Opening:	
Postal Votes Opening Manager	£150.00
Postal Votes Opening Supervisor	£75.00
Postal Votes Opening Assistant	£60.00
Count:	
Count Manager	£260.00
Count Supervisor	£140.00
Count Assistant	£80.00
Miscellaneous:	
Elector Assistance	£17.00 per visit
Attending Training	£40.00
Providing Training	£150.00
Scanning of Returned Ballot Papers	£1.5 per 100 papers or part thereof
Clerical	£89.00 per 1000 electors or part thereof
Preparation of Poll Cards	£1.90 per 100 cards or part thereof
Delivery of Poll Cards	12p per card
Ballot Box Preparation	£5.15
Checking of Ballot Papers	£1.60 per 1000 or part thereof