

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	Friday 26 January 2018
Title of report:	Pay Policy Statement
Report by:	Chair of Employment Panel

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To approve the 2018 pay policy statement for publication. It is a statutory requirement for Council to approve an annual pay policy statement. Key changes from the 2017 statement are to include elements of the reward policy, make reference to school support staff, and some rewording to improve clarity.

Recommendation(s)

That: the pay policy statement at appendix A summarising council policies is approved.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options to the recommendation; the annual approval by Council of the pay policy statement is a statutory requirement arising from the Localism Act 2011 to provide transparency with regard to the council's approach to setting the pay of its employees. The statement does not of itself make any policy changes, but provides a summary of those policies already in place.

2. It is open to the Council to determine any changes it wishes to make to the statement to improve transparency, having regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Key considerations

3. The Localism Act places a requirement on the council to produce an annual pay policy statement for each financial year and for this statement to be approved by full Council before the start of the financial year to which it relates.
4. The statement must set out the council's policies relating to:
 - a) The remuneration of its chief officers
 - b) The remuneration of its lowest paid employees; and
 - c) The relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.
5. The statement must include the council's definition of 'lowest paid employees' and the reasons for adopting that definition.
6. The statement must include policies relating to:
 - a) The level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer
 - b) Remuneration of chief officers on recruitment
 - c) Increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer
 - d) The use of performance related pay for chief officers
 - e) The use of bonuses for chief officers
 - f) The approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office under, or to be employed by the authority; and
 - g) The publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of chief officers
7. The statement draws together factual material and provides a summary of the current pay policies of the council.
8. All posts, whether chief officer or not, have their level of remuneration established through assessment by a nationally recognised and independent job evaluation scheme. Council must approve any new salary packages, or severance payments, exceeding £100,000.
9. In approving its statement, Council must have regard to any guidance issued by the secretary of state. This has been taken into consideration in the development of the statement.
10. The 2018 statement has been reviewed against the statutory requirements and re-ordered to better match the headings in the regulations. Elements from the current reward policy have been included for completeness. Appendix B contains a summary of the changes.

Community impact

11. By complying with the legal requirement the council continues to ensure that the resources available are used in the most effective way and there is transparency in how public money is used. This contributes to the corporate plan priority to secure better services, quality of life and value for money.
12. By publishing the statement the council is demonstrating the code of corporate governance principles of implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability, and behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.

Equality duty

13. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
14. The pay policy statement makes clear that the council's employment policies, and the processes by which pay levels for a post are set, have full regard to equality legislation.

Resource implications

15. There are no financial implications relating to the pay policy statement arising from the report; the statement simply summarises current policies and pay levels.

Legal implications

16. Sections 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 require that the council prepare a pay policy statement for each financial year. It must be prepared and approved before 31 March and once approved published. This policy statement meets the requirements of the Localism Act and also meets the requirements of the guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which the council is required to have regard under Section 40 of that Act.

Risk management

17. Failure to approve and publish a statement would result in non-compliance with a statutory requirement. Arrangements are in place to ensure publication of the statement following approval by Council.

Consultees

18. The Employment Panel has been consulted. Based on their comments additional wording has been added to the section on performance related pay, bonuses and pension enhancements to clarify that honoraria payments are made in exceptional circumstances.

Appendices

Appendix A – draft pay policy statement

Appendix B – changes from 2017 pay policy statement

Background papers

None identified.