

Pay Policy Statement 2017 / 2018

Cabinet

Date: 8th February 2017

Author: Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services
Head of People, Performance and Engagement

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to agree and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 1st April each year. This report sets out the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017 / 2018 for consideration by Cabinet, prior to referral to Full Council for approval.
- 1.2 The Council's policies in respect of pay and terms and conditions support the Council's strategic objectives as part of ensuring that services to the community can be delivered to the required standards and with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Review the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017 / 2018, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and recommend it to the Council for approval.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 placed a requirement on local authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each new financial year. The Pay Policy Statement for 2016 / 2017 has been updated for 2017 / 2018 and must be approved by Full Council before the 31st March 2017. It must be published as soon as is reasonably practicable after approval and this must include publication on the authority's website. The Statement must set out the Council's policies relating to the following:
- Remuneration of its Chief Officers;
 - Remuneration of its lowest paid employees;
 - The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not Chief Officers; and
 - The Pay Policy Statement does not cover or include school employees and is not required to do so.

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- 3.2 Each Council is an individual employer in its own right and has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. The provisions of the Localism Act do not seek to change this or determine what decisions on pay should be taken. They do, however, require Councils to be open about their policies in relation to pay and how decisions are made.
- 3.3 The proposed Swindon Pay Policy Statement has been put together, taking into account the relevant sections within Chapter 8 “Pay Accountability” of the Localism Act 2011. In its development, consideration has also been given to the guidance produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government – Openness and Accountability in Local Pay (February 2012) – guidance under Section 40 of the Localism Act” and the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.
- 3.4 The Pay Policy Statement is broadly the same as that published for 2016 / 2017, with the following changes and updates having been made:
- 3.4.1 Pages 3 - 5: **Structure Overview**, – this section has been amended to reflect the changes to the organisation.
- 3.4.2 Pages 7: **Senior Officers, Exit Payments Cap** – a new section has been added to reflect the upcoming legislation on public sector exit payments.
- 3.5 The proposed Pay Policy Statement 2017-18 is attached as Appendix A. The Statement sets out the Council’s policies in relation to pay of its workforce, particularly its Chief Officers.
- 3.6 The Statement aims to ensure the Council’s approach to pay and reward attracts and retains a high performing workforce whilst ensuring value for money. The Council has previously published information on pay as part of its responsibilities under the Code of Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.
- 3.7 The Council is required to approve the Statement before 31st March each year and as soon as possible publish it on its website demonstrating an open and transparent approach to pay. The Statement may be amended by resolution of Full Council during the year to which it relates.
- 3.8 The Pay Policy Statement references a number of existing policies and other information that will be linked to the Statement on the Council’s website. These links will be made available as soon as the Statement is made available on the internet in April. The majority of these are already available to Members and employees via the intranet.
- 4. Alternative Options**
- 4.1 As this is a requirement under the Localism Act, there are no alternative options being put forward.
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sam Mowbray, Direct Dial Telephone Number: 07823 525337 E-mail: smowbray@swindon.gov.uk.

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as the Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's policies relating to remuneration. It does not serve to set or agree specific rates or numerical amounts.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The attached Pay Policy Statement completed with Section 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011. All other legal and human rights implications have been considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the report and its recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications arising from this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 The Pay Policy Statement is not a policy in its own right but brings together and references existing policies. All these existing policies have been through the DIA process.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No other risks have been identified other than those mentioned in the body of the report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Corporate Director Resources and Transformation and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports. The Pay Policy Statement has been consulted on with the trade unions.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 LGA and ALACE Pay Policy Statement Guidance including Supplementary Note 1 and Note 2.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A: Pay Policy Statement

9. Key Decision/Decision in Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan

- 9.1 This is not a Key Decision for the Council (as adoption is by the Council) and is included in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan for January 2017.