

# Gloucestershire County Council

## The Pay Policy Statement 2026-27

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### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Pay Policy Statement is to provide a clear and transparent policy on the Council's position on the remuneration of its Chief Officers and other employees which demonstrates to the public openness, accountability and value for money.

The policy also meets the Council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011 and the associated statutory guidance set out in the document *Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act 2011*, together with the *Local Government Transparency Code 2015*.

The Council's pay arrangements reflect the need to recruit, retain and motivate skilled and committed employees to ensure high levels of performance, balanced with accountability to the public purse. They also recognise the importance of maintaining an approach to pay and reward that supports the high levels of flexibility and adaptability essential to the effective delivery of a diverse range of services in a challenging and rapidly changing environment.

The Council's pay and grading arrangements are underpinned by the principles of fairness and equality set out in the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty and associated codes of practice.

The Council publishes an updated Pay Policy Statement (as approved by Full Council) each financial year (April to March).

This is the Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27.

## What's covered in the Pay Policy Statement?

1. This statement sets out the Council's policies for the financial year 2026-27 relating to the remuneration of all non-school employees, including explicitly:
  - Remuneration of Chief Officers
  - Remuneration of the lowest paid employees
  - Relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other employees
2. 'Remuneration' for the purposes of this statement includes:
  - Basic salary
  - Any other allowance or fee arising from employment
  - Pension on early termination of employment
  - Redundancy pay
3. The term 'Chief Officer' as used in this policy refers to those defined as such within the Localism Act 2011. The Chief Officer posts covered by this policy are therefore the Chief Executive and those posts which report directly to the Chief Executive, and also the next management tier below (excluding any secretarial, clerical or administrative support roles), as set out in the Council's constitution.

***All references to 'Chief Officers' in this policy statement are therefore in respect of the above roles (i.e. to be distinguished from the wider group of senior staff employed by the Council on Executive Reward Band grades, all of whom are subject to National Joint Council for Chief Officers national conditions of service – these staff are referred to in this Policy as Executive Reward Band employees).***

4. For the purposes of the Pay Policy Statement the term '**lowest paid**' is defined as a full-time employee on the lowest salary point of the Local Government Services (Green Book) pay scales.

## Who does the Pay Policy Statement apply to?

5. This Pay Policy Statement applies to all non-schools employees of Gloucestershire County Council (the 'Council'), including firefighters and support staff in Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service ('GFRS'), unattached teachers employed centrally by the Council and Educational Psychologists employed under the Soulbury Committee national conditions of service.

6. Maintained schools are not covered by this policy but are separately required to produce an annual pay policy setting out the terms on which the remuneration of their staff (including pay awards) is based. Subject to certain discretionary powers delegated to schools by statute, support staff employed by the Council (in community and voluntary controlled schools) are subject to the same Green Book pay and conditions applicable generally within the Council. Support staff in maintained schools where the governing body is the employer (foundation and voluntary aided schools) may be employed on such pay and conditions as determined by the employer, although in practice these schools have opted to apply the Green Book. Academy schools are stand-alone organisations independent of the Council and therefore not affected by this Pay Policy Statement.
7. For unattached teachers (employed centrally by the Council), pay decisions are as determined by the Unattached Teachers Pay Panel (UTPP), chaired by the Director of Education, in accordance with the national framework set out in the Statutory Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) for school teachers.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Job evaluation**

8. The job evaluation ('JE') process is applied to all jobs in the Council unless the salary is set nationally (e.g. firefighters). JE is a process by which organisations evaluate comparative job size by reference to a range of factors that measure and ascribe numerical values to the levels of responsibility to be carried by the job holder and the associated knowledge/skills required for effective job performance. The highest rated jobs are placed at the top of the grading structure and the lowest rated at the bottom. Objective application of a non-discriminatory JE scheme ensures that different jobs of 'equal value' are placed in the same grade.
9. The Council is committed to ensuring the fair and non-discriminatory determination of pay in accordance with equal pay legislation (Equality Act 2010) and the local government 'single status' agreement of 1997. The Council applies nationally recognised JE schemes, which were introduced locally in 2003 in consultation and agreement with our recognised trade unions.
10. The Hay JE scheme is used to evaluate senior manager jobs within the Council, which are those placed within the Executive Reward Band grades. The GLPC (Greater London Provincial Council) JE scheme is used to evaluate all other posts within the Council where the pay rates are not otherwise determined nationally.

11. The Council's JE process does not apply to those job roles for which the pay range is determined nationally through national conditions of service (e.g. the Grey Book for firefighters) or by statute (e.g. the STPCD for school teachers).

### **Grades and salary bands**

12. As noted above, once a job has been evaluated, the total JE score will determine the pay grade or band that will apply to the post.

13. The overarching pay structure for each employment group is as set out under the relevant national conditions of service and/or statute, for example the Green Book national pay spine.

14. The Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) is currently the only Chief Officer post paid on a spot salary.

The Council's policy is to apply the nationally negotiated pay awards for the following groups of employees:

- Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives – national Salary Framework and Conditions of Service Handbook.
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities (for employees attached to Executive Reward Bands). This pay award is also applied to the Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Fire Officer.
- National Joint Council for Local Government Services ('Green Book') conditions of service (for employees attached to Grades 1-11).
- Soulbury Committee national negotiating body (for Educational Psychologists).
- National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services ('Grey Book') for firefighters.
- National Conditions of Service for School Teachers in England and Wales ('Burgundy Book') for unattached teachers. However, most matters relating to the pay of teachers are determined by statute through the annual STPCD, and therefore outside the scope of this policy.

15. Unless otherwise prescribed through national agreements or subject to a different authorisation process specified under this Pay Policy, any changes to the Council's pay scales/grading structure or other local pay arrangements are developed through consultation and negotiation with the relevant recognised trade unions, and subject to final approval by the Council's Appointments Committee and/or Full Council as appropriate. Full details of the Council's Appointments Committee are set out in the Council's Constitution (a copy of which is available on the Council's web site).

16. Any future changes to the pay and grading structure for Chief Officers will be submitted to Full Council as an amendment to this Pay Policy Statement.

### **17. Senior salaries (over £100,000)**

The following senior employees have a full-time equivalent (FTE) salary of £100k or higher as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026:

- Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
- Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources
- Executive Director, Adults Social Care, Wellbeing & Communities (Statutory Director of Adult Social Care)
- Executive Director, Children's Services (Statutory Director of Children's Social Care)
- Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Chief Fire Officer
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer
- Director of Finance
- Director of People & Digital Services
- Director of Education
- Director, Children's Safeguarding & Care
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Adult Social Care Operations
- Director of Quality, Performance and Strategy
- Director of Commissioning
- Director of Transport and Highways
- Director of Policy, Performance & Governance
- Director of Economy and Environment
- Director of Children's Commissioning and Partnerships

### **Remuneration on recruitment**

*Subject to (1) the exceptions and flexibilities detailed in this Pay Policy Statement and (2) any overriding provisions set out in national conditions of service or through statute, the same recruitment and remuneration policies apply to all employees regardless of their grade or conditions of service.*

18. Where there are difficulties in recruiting to a particular type of post and it can be evidenced that the Council is paying below the market rate for the job, a market rate supplement (MRS) may be paid in addition to the evaluated pay rate. A MRS payment may also be appropriate in circumstances where recruitment difficulties arise due to a national shortage of suitably qualified individuals for highly-specialist professional roles.

19. The amount of the MRS is based on market rate data and is reviewed annually. The MRS is removed or adjusted when market data shows that it is appropriate to do so, or otherwise at the Council's discretion. In the case of Chief Officers the MRS must be agreed by Appointments Committee, and for all other employees it must be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of People & Digital Services who will ensure any equal pay considerations are appropriately addressed.
20. Candidates are normally appointed on the minimum salary point of the grade for the post. However, if a candidate is already being paid above the minimum point of the post they are applying for, the appointment may be made on the next increment(s) above their current salary subject to not exceeding the maximum of the grade.
21. Where it is considered necessary to support the recruitment and retention of staff in 'hard to fill' posts an employee may be appointed on a higher scale point within the grade than would normally be applicable (see above). However, any such agreement is subject (1) to prior approval of the relevant business case by the Chief Executive, and also (2) by the Director of People & Digital Services, who will ensure any such proposal is compatible with equal pay legislation.
22. The Appointments Committee is responsible for recommending to Full Council the appointment (on a permanent or temporary or acting up basis) of the Chief Executive. The Committee is also responsible for the appointment (on a permanent or temporary or acting up basis) of the Deputy Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Fire Officer, the Director of Public Health and all executive directors, including the statutory posts of Executive Director of Children's Services and Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Wellbeing & Communities. Appointments to these roles are made within the approved salary range for the post.
23. Where it is necessary for a newly appointed employee to relocate in order to take up an appointment the Council may, in exceptional circumstances, make a contribution towards the reimbursement of relocation expenses. Any such recommendation will be subject to the approval of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of People & Digital Services who will ensure compatibility with equal pay legislation.

### **Flexibility to address recruitment issues for vacant posts**

24. In nearly all circumstances the provisions of this Pay Policy Statement will enable the Council to ensure that it can recruit effectively to any vacant post. However, exceptional circumstances may arise where there are recruitment

difficulties for a particular post and evidence to show that the provisions of this Pay Policy Statement are not sufficient to secure an effective appointment.

25. This Pay Policy Statement recognises that the above situation may arise in exceptional circumstances and that a departure from the Policy can be implemented without having to seek Full Council approval for an in-year change to the Pay Policy Statement. However, any such departure will be expressly justified in each case and will be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader or, in the case of the Chief Executive, a special meeting of Cabinet.

### **Off-payroll appointments**

26. For these purposes an off-payroll appointment will be an engagement other than through a regular contract of employment on standard Council terms and conditions of service (e.g. engagement through an agency or consultancy arrangement, or through a personal service company).
27. The Council is conscious of the need to secure value for money in the contractual arrangements for all appointments, including the need to ensure no one is inappropriately enabled to achieve a more favourable position in respect of their tax liabilities ('tax avoidance') than might otherwise apply. The Council will therefore have proper regard to this principle in applying the HMRC test for tax status under the IR35 tax provisions for any 'off-payroll' engagements.

### **Increases and additions to remuneration**

28. The Council's policy is to apply any nationally negotiated pay awards to employees at all levels of the Council. An exception to this will be where employees have transferred to the Council under the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ('TUPE'), retaining statutory protection of the pay and conditions that applied with their previous employer. Any post-transfer local government pay award in such circumstances will not be automatically applied but entitlement will be considered on a case-by-case basis and with due regard to TUPE and equal pay legislation.
29. For those employed on the Executive Reward Bands, incremental progression through the band is based on verification of satisfactory performance measured over a 12 month period. Increments are paid on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year; or six months after the start date if commencing employment between October and April, with April increments payable annually thereafter, subject to the performance review.

30. For employees on the Green Book pay scales, annual increments are awarded up to the maximum of the grade subject to the employee meeting the requirements of the job. Increments are paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year; or six months after the start date if commencing employment between October and April, with April increments payable annually thereafter.
31. Incremental or other pay progression for other staff groups will be as specified under the relevant national conditions of service.
32. In appropriate circumstances and subject to the approval arrangements set out at para 53 (Recruitment and Retention Payments), accelerated incremental progression may be applied to support the recruitment and/or retention of key Green Book, Chief Officer or Executive Reward Band employees. (See also the section on Recruitment and Retention payments at paras 52-53, below).
33. There is no provision for payment of an increment at any other time or in any other circumstances for employees covered by this Pay Policy Statement.
34. For Green Book, Chief Officer and Executive Reward Band employees the next annual increment will be withheld from any employee issued a formal warning under the Council's Disciplinary or Capability procedures.
35. Any pay increases for unattached teachers will be as determined by the Unattached Teachers Pay Panel (UTPP) and subject to the relevant provisions of the statutory STPCD. Pay determinations made by UTPP will be formally recorded in the annual Unattached Teachers Pay Policy document.

### **The use of bonuses**

36. The Council does not make any bonus payments.

### **Payment on ceasing to be employed by the Council**

37. With the exception of firefighters and unattached teachers (see paragraphs 38, 41 and 42 below) the Council operates the same redundancy policy for all staff, including Chief Officers and the lowest paid. The payment is based on the statutory redundancy table in respect of the 'age' and 'length of service' factors, but provides a multiplier of 1.75 to the number of weeks' pay due, and payment is calculated on actual weekly pay rather than being restricted to the statutory maximum. The application of a multiplier and use of actual pay are discretions permitted under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the Council's policy in this regard has previously been approved by the Appointments Committee.

38. For those posts that fall within the remit of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, redundancy pay is calculated using the statutory redundancy scheme but based on actual weeks' pay, rather than the statutory minimum. This group falls outside the regulations specified above and therefore the Council does not have the discretion to consider further enhancing the redundancy payment for a firefighter.
39. Full Council is responsible for approving any dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer, or the S.151 Officer. The dismissal any of the executive directors or the Chief Fire Officer is the responsibility of the Appointments Committee.
40. The Council will only make early payment of pension benefits in line with the relevant pension scheme regulations and the relevant pension policy statement which applies to all those staff who are scheme members. This applies irrespective of grade.
41. Any payments made in respect of early retirement for firefighters will be in accordance with the provisions of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme(s) and/or Firefighters' Compensation Scheme 2006; and for unattached teachers in accordance with the Teachers' Pension Scheme.
42. Any employee of the council employed in a teaching role that is not within in a school's staffing establishment (i.e. an 'unattached teacher') and who is subject to the Burgundy Book (teachers' national conditions of service) will receive only the statutory redundancy payment if permitted under the Teachers' Pension Scheme to take an enhanced pension.

### **Re-engagement**

43. The Council will not, for at least two years, re-engage an ex-employee who has left with a redundancy, early pension or other severance payment, unless in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where an employee may have retrained in an area of skills shortage). However, for the avoidance of doubt, these provisions are not intended to apply to the re-engagement of an ex-employee who has simply exercised their right under the relevant pension scheme regulations to retire early and who is in receipt of a pension that has incurred no cost to the Council (this will generally be where any cost associated with the early release of the pension has been met by the employee through an actuarial reduction to the value of their pension entitlement).
44. A business case approved at director level and agreed by the Chief Executive is required before a final decision is made to re-engage within the two year period.

45. Any re-engagement of an ex-employee who is in receipt of pension will also be subject to any regulations and related policies on abatement that may apply under the terms of the relevant pension scheme.

The same policy regarding re-engagement and/or abatement of pension will be applied to all employees irrespective of grade.

### **Any other allowances arising from employment**

*The following allowances apply to all employees, with the exception of unattached teachers, firefighters and Soulbury staff whose pay and allowances in such circumstances will be determined in accordance with the relevant national conditions of service and/or STPCD:*

### **Payment for acting up or additional duties**

46. Chief Officers and Executive Reward Band employees are expected to be flexible in managing changing requirements. Therefore an honorarium will only be paid in exceptional circumstances and subject to approval by the Chief Executive. Any such arrangement must be for a designated time-limited period only, and will also be subject to agreement by the Director of People & Digital Services that it does not infringe equal pay legislation.

47. For other staff, in limited situations where an employee may be required or requested temporarily to carry out work of a higher grade, or otherwise undertake significant duties outside the scope of their contract of employment, the Council may consider an honorarium payment, the value of which must be consistent with equal pay and JE principles.

48. Any such payments are subject to review and are entirely at the Council's discretion and will only be made for a specified time-limited period.

### **Unsocial hours, overtime and other additional payments**

49. The Council does not make unsocial hours, overtime or other additional payments to Chief Officers or Executive Reward Band employees.

50. For Green Book employees, the Council recognises that certain roles and services require employees to work unsocial hours or be available to work outside normal hours and therefore on standby. In these circumstances the Council has a policy to provide additional payments or time off in lieu for eligible employees (those up to and including Grade 8 of the Council's Green Book grading structure), and has discretion to extend such arrangements to Green Book employees on higher salary points, subject to approval of a business

case by the relevant director and agreed by Director of People & Digital Services. Full details are set out in the Additional Payments Policy in the Employment Handbook on Staffnet.

51. Any such payments applicable to other staff groups will be as set out in the relevant national conditions of service (Grey Book, Gold Book, Soulbury Committee and Burgundy Book/STPCD), but if any local arrangements are proposed for such staff this will be subject to the approval of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of People & Digital Services.

### **Recruitment and retention payments**

52. The Council has discretion to apply recruitment and/or retention payments in appropriate cases (e.g. evidenced recruitment or retention difficulties in respect of a particular type of post). This includes the discretion to apply accelerated increments within an employee's grade where this is considered to be the most effective option in the particular circumstances of the case.

53. The Appointments Committee would agree any such payments for Chief Officers and for all other employees the decision would be made, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member, by (1) the Chief Executive in respect of the business case and (2) the Director of People & Digital Services, to ensure the proposed arrangement is compatible with equal pay legislation.

### **Travel, vehicle provision and car leasing**

54. Unless national conditions of service prescribe otherwise, reimbursement of approved business mileage is made in accordance with the Council's locally agreed mileage rates, which currently mirror the approved HMRC rates.

55. All operational officers in the fire service (GFRS) at Station Manager level and above must be afforded access to an operational response vehicle for the effective performance of their role. The vehicle must meet a range of prescribed standards, which are set out in Service Policy 047 '*Response Vehicle Policy for Operational Officers*'. The Policy sets out full details of the conditions governing the scheme.

56. The Principal Officers in GFRS (CFO, DCFO and ACFO) are subject to a Continuous Standby Duty requirement, operated through a three-level locally determined rota commitment. In this regard choice of an appropriate vehicle with an MRRP valued up to 33.3% of salary and compliant with fleet policy, or the currently provided officers' response vehicle, is available to Principal Officers. Similarly fuel for the vehicle is provided in accordance with HMRC rules exempting such provision from tax liability. Principal Officers have

entered into a voluntary commitment to contribute to the cost of private travel, determined by reference to mileage incurred in respect of Level Three standby.

57. The availability of vehicles to employees elsewhere in the council remains covered by the Use of Council Vehicles Policy (Employment Handbook), which includes the conditions that apply to employees undertaking private mileage in council vehicles.

58. The County Council offers a range of salary sacrifice benefit schemes. These are envisaged to assist with recruitment and retention.

### **Returning Officer**

59. The Council is obliged to appoint a County Returning Officer who has specific duties in relation to council elections. A Returning Officer Payment is made in relation to this role, which is reviewed every four years in line with the Council's election cycle.

### **The relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other employees**

60. The Council is not obliged to (and does not) have a specific policy on pay ratios but recognises that the Hutton Review of *Fair Pay in the Public Sector* recommended a maximum ratio of 1:20 between the highest and lowest remunerated posts.

61. In accordance with the *Local Government Transparency Code (2015)*, the Council uses the principle of pay ratios to inform a wider understanding of the relationship between its highest and lowest paid employees; and information regarding the ratio between the Council's highest and median taxable earnings is published annually on the Council's website in accordance with the Code.

### **Publication of and access to information relating to the remuneration of Chief Officers**

62. Further information is available in the following documents on the Council's website:

- Statement of Accounts
- LGPS Pension Policy Statement
- Pay Ratios

### **Apprenticeships**

63. Entry Level (Level 2 and Level 3) Apprentices are paid on spot-point salaries that are increased annually in line with the national pay award.
64. Higher Level (Levels 4-7) Apprentices are graded at Grade 5 and above and are paid at a rate equivalent to 80% of the bottom point of the grade for the job in which they are engaged for the apprenticeship. Pay is increased annually in line with the national pay award.
65. Existing staff undertaking an apprenticeship to upskill in their current role will retain their normal pay and conditions of service throughout the apprenticeship period.

### **Gender Pay Gap Reporting**

66. From April 2018 all organisations with 250 or more employees are required to publish an annual Gender Pay Gap Report showing the difference in pay between male and female employees both for the organisation as a whole and for each earnings quartile.

The Gender Pay Gap Report is published on the Council's website and also through the government's national data base.

### **Record of pay-related decisions**

67. To ensure appropriate openness and transparency, and compliance with equal pay requirements, where this Pay Policy Statement indicates a pay-related determination is subject to the agreement of a specified officer or officers, this should be recorded as a formal Written Decision.

### **Pensions**

68. The council is designated as a 'scheme employer' under the statutory regulations governing the following public sector pension schemes:

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)  
Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)  
Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS)  
National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS)

69. Being designated as a scheme employer means we are required by law to enrol all relevant staff into the appropriate scheme or, in certain circumstances, to permit an employee to opt-in to the scheme if they do not meet its criteria for automatic contractual enrolment (generally this would be employees on very short-term contracts). After enrolment into the scheme, staff have an

option to 'opt out' should they wish to do so but under the regulations, no one can opt-out before they have first been enrolled.

70. The schemes are all 'defined benefit' and since 2015 (2014 in the case of the LGPS) are based on 'career average revalued earnings' (CARE). Staff in service before 2015 (2014 for LGPS) also have benefits in the legacy 'final salary' schemes that will be based on their pensionable service up to the date of the closure of the legacy scheme and their salary at date of retirement. Public sector defined benefit schemes guarantee by law that the amount of pension to be received will be as directed by the scheme rules and unlike 'defined contribution' schemes (common in the private sector) is not dependent on investment returns.
71. Under the scheme rules both employer and employee are required to contribute a set percentage of the relevant pensionable pay, with the level of employees' contributions increasing with income. In all cases, an employee's contributions attract tax relief and are therefore deducted from their gross pay before their tax and national insurance liability is assessed.
72. In addition to providing an annual pension the schemes also provide a range of additional benefits typically including life cover, ill-health retirement benefits, survivors' benefits for partners and eligible children in the event of death in service and the facility to convert part of the pension to a lump sum payment on retirement.
73. The council's policies on use of discretions potentially available to scheme employers under the LGPS and FPS regulations are published on the council's website under Council & Democracy / Transparency.

### **Policy review**

74. The Council may amend this policy at any time with Full Council approval. Unless otherwise prescribed within this Pay Policy Statement any in-year amendments will be published on the Council's website at that time, or otherwise included in the following year's Pay Policy Statement.
75. This policy will be reviewed again no later than 31st March 2027.