

APPENDIX A



Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 (in accordance with Section 38, Localism Act 2011)

Introduction

1. This document sets out the Council's Pay Policy in relation to the remuneration of its Chief Officers and staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.
2. The policy is subject to annual review and must be approved by the Council each financial year. This statement is valid from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.
3. Subject to specific circumstances it may be necessary to amend the Pay Policy statement during the financial year. Any changes or amendments made will be subject to full Council approval.
4. The policy will be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after Council approval or amendment.
5. The arrangements set out within this document do not extend to those members of staff who are employed within schools. This is because the scope of the Localism Act does not require Council's to consider individual schools.
6. The Council is mindful of its duty as defined in the Equality Act 2010. This Pay Policy Statement forms part of a range of Pay Policies to promote equality in pay practices and assists in ensuring that the Council is promoting transparency of senior managers pay and a fair approach to pay related equalities objectives.

Definitions

7. The following definitions will apply throughout this policy statement:
 - (a) '**Lowest-paid employees**' are those who are employed in jobs which are paid at Band 1, spinal column point 3 (£12.45 per hour). This is the lowest salary paid other than National Minimum Wage Apprentices.

The salaries attributable to Apprentices depend on age and rates set out within the National Minimum Wage legislation or national agreements. Given

the specific nature of these appointments, it is felt inappropriate to include apprentices within the definition of lowest paid for the purposes of this policy statement.

- (b) '**Chief Officers**' are those who are defined as:
- (i) Head of Paid Service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
 - (ii) Monitoring Officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
 - (iii) Any statutory Chief Officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
 - (iv) Any non-statutory Chief Officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
 - (v) Any deputy Chief Officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act.
- (c) '**Remuneration**' as defined in the Localism Act associated with Chief Officers relates to
- (i) The Chief Officer's salary;
 - (ii) Any bonuses payable by the authority to the Chief Officer;
 - (iii) Any charges, fees or allowances payable by the authority to the Chief Officer;
 - (iv) Any benefits in kind to which the Chief Officer is entitled as a result of employment;
 - (v) Any increase in or enhancement of the Chief Officer's pension entitlement where the increase or enhancement is as a result of a resolution of the authority;
 - (vi) Any amounts payable by the authority to the Chief Officer on the Chief Officer ceasing to hold office or be employed by the authority, other than amounts that may be payable by virtue of any enactment.

Remuneration of Chief Officers and Second Tier officers

8. Chief Officers and the attributable salaries (which are payable from appointment and with incremental progression) are as follows:

Post	Terms	Salary / Salary Band	Other variable Pay
Darlington Borough Council Chief Officers			
<i>Note: the salaries quoted below are based on full time equivalent hours, salary bands are from 1st April 2024.</i>			
Chief Executive	JNC ¹	£162,484 p.a (Spot Salary)	None
Director (Director 2)	JNC ¹	£122,247 - £137,930 p.a.	None
Assistant Director (AD1)	JNC ¹	£85,883 - £102,652 p.a.	None
Darlington Partnership	JNC ¹	£61,927 p.a. (Spot Salary)	None

¹ JNC - Joint National Council

Level of Remuneration Paid Upon Recruitment

9. The Council's policy on pay upon recruitment is set out in the Council's Recruitment and Selection policy which applies to all employees.
10. The Council's Constitution states that any salaries / salary packages assigned to new appointments which exceed £100,000 will be subject to full Council vote prior to an appointment being made. For Council to make an informed vote on the proposed salary package, detail of the component parts of the package will be disclosed, for example, the basic salary, any additional fees, charges or allowances that would be routinely payable as part of undertaking the duties of the post.
11. The salaries attributable to Chief Officer posts are subject to job evaluation and are based on:
- (a) Clear salary differentials which reflect the level of responsibility attached to any particular role; and
 - (b) Rates which are reasonably sufficient to recruit and retain senior officers taking into account market conditions.
12. Increases in pay for Chief Officers will occur only as a result of the following:
- (a) Pay awards agreed by way of national / local collective pay bargaining arrangements; or
 - (b) Significant changes to a Chief Officer's role which result in a higher salary being appropriate as confirmed by the outcome of an appropriate job-evaluation process and subject to a report to Council; or
 - (c) Recruitment and / or retention payments which, in all the given circumstances at the relevant time, are deemed necessary in the best interests of the Council

and which are determined under a relevant policy relating to such payments and subject to a report to Council.

13. It is expected that senior officers will perform to the highest level and performance related pay and bonuses do not, therefore, form part of current remuneration arrangements. This position will be reviewed if legislation and / or guidance relating to senior posts changes.

Election Duties undertaken by Chief Officers

14. Fees for election duties undertaken by Chief Officers are not included in their salaries. For Parliamentary, Police and Crime Commissioner and national referenda, payments are set by central government and vary depending on the nature of the poll and the size of the electorate. For the Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayoral election, the fee is set by the Combined Authority. In respect of local elections, the fees are determined separately in consultation with the other Tees Valley Councils. For contested elections, the fees are based on an agreed sum for the first 1000 electors and a further sum for each additional 1000 electors or fraction thereof, and a set agreed sum for uncontested elections.

Payments to Chief Officers on Termination of Employment / Severance

15. Chief Officers who cease to hold office or be employed by the Council will receive payments calculated using the same principles as any other member of staff; based on entitlement within their contract of employment, their general terms and conditions and existing policies.
16. In the case of termination of employment by way of early retirement, redundancy (voluntary or otherwise) or on the grounds of efficiency of the service, the Council's "Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) 2014 and Local Provisions Policy" and "Management of Change" Policies set out provisions which apply to all employees, regardless of their level of seniority.
17. For any severance packages, the Council follow the terms set out in the in the Governments statutory guidance on the making and the disclosure of special severance payments by local authorities in England (Published in May 2022). Where a termination of employment / severance payment equates to be single payment in excess of £100,000, full Council will be given an opportunity to vote prior to the package being approved.
18. As part of making an informed vote on severance / termination payments full Council will be presented with detailed components of severance payments including, where appropriate, salary paid in lieu of notice, redundancy compensation, pension entitlement, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid.
19. The detail of Council voting on severance payments is set out in the Council's Constitution which is available on the Council's internet pages.

Publication of and access to Information Relating to Remuneration of Chief Officers

20. The Council publishes on its website all senior salaries in line with The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and Local Government Transparency Code 2014 which have been published by the Department of Communities and Local Government. These Codes stipulate that Councils should make senior employee salaries available to the public where they exceed £50,000.
21. For transparency purposes the Council also publishes details of any posts who have received a total pay in excess of £50,000, the number of redundancies and payment bands of all relevant employees. These figures are updated annually based on figures as at 31 March of the relevant year. This is in line with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
22. The Council also publishes responsibilities (for example, the services and functions Senior officers are responsible for, together with the budget held and the number of staff) for all employees whose salary exceeds £50,000.

Remuneration of Lowest Paid Employees within the Council

23. The Council introduced 'single status arrangements' in July 2006. The lowest paid employees within the authority are appointed to posts which have been evaluated using an agreed job evaluation scheme and are remunerated accordingly or are determined within national or local agreements.
24. The Council will comply with the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage rate of £12.21 from April 2025, for all its employees, this is exceeded (with the exception of Apprentices as detailed in paragraph 7a) as Council's National Terms and Conditions have a minimum hourly rate of £12.45ph (April 2024).

Relationship between Chief Officer and non-Chief Officer Remuneration

25. The Pay Multiple is calculated in line with the revised Local Government Transparency Code 2014, using the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year (including base salary, variable pay, bonuses, allowances and the cash value of any benefits in kind) and the median earnings figure of the whole authority's workforce.
26. The Council's Pay Multiple based on highest paid taxable earnings and median taxable earnings for the whole authority (excluding casuals, apprentices and Community Schools) is:

	Highest paid Employee based on taxable earnings	Workforce Median Taxable earnings	Median taxable earnings Pay Multiple
Taxable Earnings Pay Multiple 2024/2025 ¹	£13,540.33	£2,511.67	5.4

¹ – Based on figures December 2024 pay

27. Using December 2024 taxable pay figures, the Pay Multiple based on the Median pay was 5.4. The Council aims to ensure that the pay multiple does not exceed ten. This figure was agreed across the Tees Valley.
28. In line with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Pay Multiple will be calculated each year on a fixed date coinciding with reporting at the end of the financial year. Locally the Pay multiple will also be calculated each December for the approval of the Pay Policy by Council to allow publication and approval before 31 March each year. Pay Multiples will be published on the Council's internet pages alongside other Transparency Code information requirements.

General Principles Regarding Remuneration of Staff

29. The salaries attributable to posts are determined via job evaluation. Employees are remunerated according to the evaluated score of the post they hold and by reference to the salary band existing at any given time. Most posts include an entitlement to incremental progression.
30. New appointments are subject to the Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy and will generally be made at the bottom spinal column point of all pay bands (unless there are special circumstances and payment at a higher level can be objectively justified).
31. The Council will appoint employees based on the best person for the role in line with the Recruitment and Selection policy. The Council does not exclude the re-employment of former employees who have previously worked for the Council and is in receipt of a redundancy / compensation payment.
32. Where an employee secures a higher-graded post via internal promotion / recruitment then the Council will generally pay the salary on the next nearest point to the previous spinal column point.
33. Where an employee is redeployed because of redundancy or ill health, they will generally be appointed to the highest spinal column point within the lower grade to minimise financial loss.