


Pay Policy Statement 2024/2025



Walsall Council

Version Control

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Purpose	The Pay Policy Statement sets out council policy on pay and conditions for senior managers and employees, assisting the council to attract and retain skilled employees and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements under the Localism Act 2011.		

This policy links to:

- Our Council Plan
- Walsall Proud
- Job Evaluation & Grading Policy
- Redeployment Policy
- Market Supplements Policy
- Walsall Council Terms and Conditions Document (Orange Book)
- Standby and Call Out Guidance
- Reimbursement of Personal Expenses Policy
- Retention Payments Policy
- Workforce Strategy
- Organisational Development Strategy
- Behaviour & Standards Framework
- Relocation and Temporary Accommodation Expenses Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Officers Conditions of Service Handbook

This list is not exhaustive.

For further advice or guidance on this policy, or if you would like this information in another language or format please contact:

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Walsall Council is PROUD. We are proud of our past, our present and for our future. The council is committed to reducing inequalities and ensuring all potential is maximised and its employment policies, procedures and guidelines are designed to support this vision and deliver the council's priorities.
- 1.2 The council is committed to creating an environment that provides opportunities for all individuals and communities to fulfil their potential. This policy provides a framework in which employees will be supported to deliver the council's priorities in line with the council's expected behaviours and values; professionalism; leadership; accountability; transparency and ethical working.
- 1.3 The council's values and behaviours are at the core of everything the council deliver and through a culture of continuous improvement the council will increase performance, efficiency and champion the design of services to meet the needs of customers. As a digital by design council, employees will be empowered to deliver new ways of thinking and new ways of working, encouraging innovation and creativity in a learning environment. The council is committed to technological investment to deliver transformation in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its services, both internally and externally.
- 1.4 This policy framework promotes the council's strategic priority of internal focus ensuring all council services are customer focused, effective, efficient and equitable, and helps embed the behaviours and values expected of all employees as part of the Behaviour and Standards Framework.
- 1.5 Council employees have a duty to demonstrate principles of equality, diversity and inclusion across all interactions ensuring compliance with council policies, procedures and relevant legislation. The council adopts a zero tolerance approach to discrimination, and will not accept any form of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief (or no religion or belief), sexual orientation, class or social background, political belief or Trade Union affiliation. We are committed to equal opportunities and aspire to have a diverse workforce, and an inclusive workplace culture, all of which enable better outcomes for our employees and the local residents we serve. Employees should refer to the equality and diversity protocol for further information.
- 1.6 The Pay Policy Statement sets out council policy on pay and conditions for senior managers and employees for the year ending 31 March 2025.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all council employees, including Directors, Executive Directors and the Chief Executive, as well as fixed term and temporary employees and casual workers.
- 2.2 With the exception of;
- 2.2.1 Employees on teachers' pay & conditions and educational support staff (employed directly by the school and subject to the School Staffing (England) Regulations (2009)) who are covered separately by the Schools Model Pay Policy.
- 2.2.2 Unattached Teachers on Teachers Pay and Conditions who are covered separately by the Unattached Teachers Pay Policy.
- 2.3 This policy does not apply to contractors, consultants, agency workers or any self-employed individuals working for the council.

3.0 Principles

- 3.1 The council aims to attract and retain skilled employees motivated to deliver the priorities of the council. In determining the pay policy for Chief Officers and other employees, the council is committed to ensuring a fair, equitable and transparent approach to pay. Within this, it is recognised that different approaches may be required between groups of employees reflecting factors such as difficulties in attracting and retaining key employees and ensuring valuable skills are retained.
- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement outlines the remuneration arrangements within the council and aims to ensure:
- That employee's pay levels are set and reviewed using a clear, rational and transparent process that meets equal pay legislation.
 - That pay rates are both competitive in the marketplace, reflect the need to retain key skills and appropriately reward employees for their contribution to the council's achievements.
 - That pay and reward decisions support the provision of valued public services and are affordable.
 - That any decisions relating to pay and salary progression are consistent, fair and non-discriminatory.
- 3.3 The council will not promote employees through the grading system nor use other pay mechanisms in order to assist in securing an employee's improved pension entitlement on retirement or any other allowance/pay (such as maternity or redundancy).

4.0 Accountabilities

4.1 Managers are accountable for the following;

- Applying this policy consistently, fairly and objectively in accordance with the council's aim and priorities and clearly demonstrate the council's management behaviours and values, seeking further advice and guidance from Human Resources where necessary.

4.2 Employees are accountable for the following;

- All employees should support the delivery of the council's aim and priorities, clearly demonstrating the council's behaviours and values;
- Actively engage in employment practices and processes in which they are involved and ensure they understand this policy, seeking further advice and guidance from managers where necessary;
- Complying with the requirements of this policy.

5.0 Senior management pay structure

5.1 Senior management are defined for this purpose as the Chief Executive and Chief Officers (as defined under the Localism Act 2011 Part One Chapter 8, section 43(2), Government and Housing Act 1989 2(8), and for the avoidance of doubt include Executive Directors and Directors. Senior management grades are locally agreed salary scales, which are reviewed annually having regard to the JNC pay award for Local Authority Chief Executives and Chief Officers and market conditions. The senior management pay structure is attached at Appendix A.

5.2 The salary levels of the Chief Executive and Chief Officers on appointment are set by elected members at the relevant committee of the council. The council's relevant committee (or appointed sub committees) approves remuneration levels for the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, and Directors on appointment, subject to negotiation. The council's relevant committee has delegated authority from council in respect of the actual appointment and dismissal of Executive Directors and Deputy Chief Officers in accordance with the Employment Procedure Rules.

5.3 Pay levels are reviewed and locally agreed taking into account any cost of living increase negotiated nationally by the JNC for Chief Officers / Chief Executives of Local Authorities Conditions of Services. The 2024/25 pay awards for the Chief Officers and the Chief Executive is yet to be decided (where applicable).

5.4 The salary details for Chief Officers are published on the council's website and can be located on the open data pages; [Datasets](#)

5.5 The process for recruitment of Chief Officers is set out in Part 4.6 of the council's Constitution.

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- 5.6 The Chief Executive's total remuneration package includes fees payable for local election duties. Where appropriate fees for European, National and Regional elections and referenda are set out and paid by central government.
- 5.7 The council's Monitoring Officer (currently attached to a Director post) receives an additional allowance for the undertaking of this statutory function. The additional allowance would not be payable if the Monitoring Officer duties were to be attached to an Executive Director post.
- 5.8 The councils Section 151 statutory function is undertaken by an Executive Director (normally the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation) and does not attract an additional allowance. Where the Executive Director position is or becomes vacant and the Section 151 duties are delegated to an appropriate deputy an allowance will be awarded to undertake the statutory function.
- 5.9 In relation to the termination of the employment of Chief Officers, the council will consider making such payments, having regard to the law, the council's constitution, and where it is in the council's best interests. This will take into account any potential risks and liabilities to the council, including any legal costs, disruption to services, and impact on employee relations and management time. The council will only make special severance payments in exceptional circumstances where the application is fair, proportionate, lawful and demonstrates value for money for the taxpayer. Special severance payments will be defined by, and considered, in accordance with the statutory guidance issued under section 26 of the Local Government Act 1999. Refer to section 18.0 Special Severance Payments.

6.0 Others pay structure (including the lowest paid employees)

- 6.1 Remuneration for other employees is normally determined by the council's Job Evaluation (JE) scheme, which covers all employees on NJC Local Government Services (Green Book) terms and conditions of service. These employees have their pay based upon the NJC pay and grading structure which is extended locally up to spinal column point (SCP) 62 and is attached at Appendix B.
- 6.2 The council's pay and grading structure ranges from G1 to G16 and covers SCP 02 – 062. Each grade range contains a number of SCPs and this allows for annual incremental progression up to the top of the grade.
- 6.3 The council's Job Evaluation scheme is based on the NJC prescribed Job Evaluation scheme for posts graded G1 to G13 and the Hay Group Job Evaluation scheme for posts graded G14 to G16. Both schemes comply with equal pay requirements.
- 6.4 Currently (based on council structures as at 31 October 2023) apprentices pay starts at £10,288.49 (pay scales attached at Appendix C). From April

2024 apprentices pay starts at £12,463. These pay scales include a 1% increase on the national minimum wage rates due to a corporate pay increase agreed by Personnel Committee in March 2021. The council pay age-appropriate rates for all levels of apprenticeships plus the additional 1% pay increase (with the exception of those covered by 6.5) and will not apply the 12-month minimum apprenticeship rate.

- 6.5 The council has paid the Real Living Wage, since April 2015, in the form of an additional allowance to basic hourly rate, implemented in April each year and subject to an annual review. All council employees (excluding interns, intermediate and advanced apprentices) casual workers, higher and degree level apprentices are eligible for the living wage allowance where their substantive pay falls below the living wage rate including all non-standard hours such as overtime.
- 6.6 The council pay spot salaries to Interns and Graduates (none currently employed based on council structures as at 31 October 2023).
- 6.7 Pay levels are reviewed and locally agreed taking into account any cost of living increase negotiated nationally by the NJC for Local Government Services. The 2024/25 pay award for NJC is yet to be agreed.

7.0 Non-standard terms and conditions

- 7.1 Employees transferring into the council under TUPE arrangements have the right to retain their existing terms and conditions and as such retain the pay scales applicable to their employment prior to transfer unless otherwise agreed. This paragraph would not preclude any changes, which were not by reason of the TUPE transfer or where there were economic, technical or organisational reasons for such changes.
- 7.2 Some specialist employees, mainly in education related services, such as Educational Psychologists, and the Youth Service are paid on the national pay scales relevant to their specialist employment, namely Soulbury and JNC for Youth and Community Workers respectively attached at Appendix D & E.
- 7.3 Pay levels are reviewed and locally agreed taking into account any cost of living increase negotiated nationally by Soulbury and the JNC for Youth and Community. The pay offer for Soulbury is yet to be agreed for 2024/25 (where applicable). The pay offer for JNC for Youth and Community Workers is yet to be agreed for 2024/25 (where applicable).

8.0 Starting pay

- 8.1 Employees are usually paid on an incremental scale and will normally be appointed at the minimum point of the pay grade for that post or at the minimum point of advantage (applicable to internal appointments) where grade boundaries overlap with the new higher grade, with normal incremental progression in line with 9.3 below. In the case of internal appointments to

posts at the same grade, appointment will normally be made on the existing SCP with incremental progression in line with 9.4 below. However, in certain circumstances it may be appropriate to appoint internal or external candidates to a higher point within the pay grade to support the appointment and retention of high calibre candidates. Such practice must be objectively justified and within current budgetary constraints. In order to ensure a level of control and consistency of such appointments, the Head of Service (or delegated manager with the relevant level of salary authorisation) should seek advice from Human Resources before they appoint on a higher spinal column point within the grade.

- 8.2 Internal appointments moving into an additional / second post of equivalent grade and nature will be appointed on the same SCP as their existing post with incremental progression in line with 9.4 below.
- 8.3 Where employees are appointed into posts where there is a grade reduction, they will normally be appointed at the top of the grade unless their current SCP is already below this level in which case they will transfer across on their existing SCP with no further increase until incremental progression is due in line with 9.4 below.
- 8.4 Casual workers will be appointed on the minimum point within the pay grade and will not receive incremental progression. Existing casuals (pre 2017/2018 pay policy) will be frozen on their current SCP and will not receive any further incremental pay progression.
- 8.5 Casuals who have not worked and therefore have not been paid within a 12 month period will automatically be removed from the payroll.

9.0 Pay progression

- 9.1 Where employees are on annual incremental scales progression within grade boundaries is automatic (with the exception of casual workers and those on spot salaries, such as Interns and Graduates).
- 9.2 Annual incremental pay progression takes place until the maximum SCP within the grade for the post is achieved. Thereafter the employee is only eligible to receive the annual cost of living award as negotiated by the appropriate bodies and implemented by the council.
- 9.3 Increments are usually due on the 01 April each year, or 6 months after appointment where the employee has been in the post for less than 6 months by 01 April, i.e. if the employee is appointed between 01 October and 31 March the increment will be paid after 6 months in post and then annually on the 01 April thereafter up to the maximum SCP within the grade. There are a couple of exceptions to this rule, (see 9.4 below).
- 9.4 Where an internal employee moves into either;

- a new post at the same grade;
- an additional/second post at the same grade;
- or, a lower graded post;

the increment that would have been due in the previous/first post in the coming April, will be awarded (where relevant) in the new/additional post from the same point in time i.e., the coming April, so the employee is not subject to a detriment from moving roles.

- 9.5 Employees are able to request re-evaluations of the grade of their post where they believe that work duties have substantially altered. All re-evaluation requests will be graded using the council's JE scheme in line with the job evaluation and grading policy that provides the right of appeal against any grade outcomes. Where a manager or employee led job evaluation request results in a grade increase the appointment will be made at the bottom of the grade or at the minimum point of advantage.
- 9.6 The council does not operate merit increments and therefore will not accelerate pay progression for employees for any other reason except those stated above in this section.

10.0 Performance related pay (PRP)

- 10.1 The council does not operate a corporate performance related pay scheme or any type of bonus pay scheme.

11.0 Pay protection

- 11.1 Pay protection will be granted for a maximum period of 12 months and will apply where the council is enforcing a reduction in an employee's pay due to one of the following situations:
- 11.1.1 redeployment as a result of a restructure and/or compulsory redundancy in accordance with the councils' redeployment policy;
 - 11.1.2 redeployment as a result of a dismissal on health grounds in accordance with the councils' redeployment policy;
 - 11.1.3 as a result of a re-grade in accordance with the council's job evaluation and grading policy.
- 11.2 Pay protection will only apply where the post/re-grade is no more than 2 grades below the employee's substantive post.
- 11.3 Pay protection will apply to the grade of the substantive post and not the amount of hours worked, therefore pay protection will be pro-rata if the employee accepts a post at fewer hours. However, where an employee accepts a post with increased hours, pay protection will only apply to their previous substantive hours.

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- 11.4 Where pay protection applies, any loss in annual leave (affected by a grade reduction) will also be protected for a maximum period of 12 months on a pro-rata basis.
- 11.5 All other terms of the employee's substantive post will not be protected (e.g. unsocial hours payments, allowances etc.).

12.0 Market supplements

- 12.1 The council recognises that at times it may be difficult to recruit new employees or retain existing employees in certain key posts. To ensure that the council attracts and maintains a skilled and experienced workforce, supplements may be paid in addition to the grade of the post in accordance with the council's market supplements policy.

13.0 Retention payments

- 13.1 Retention payments may be paid where there are risks associated with workforce instability and concerns regarding retaining suitably skilled employees in the mid to long term in accordance with the council's retention payments policy.

14.0 Relocation and temporary accommodation allowances

- 14.1 Relocation and temporary accommodation expenses may be paid to employees to cover costs associated with relocating in order to take up new employment with the council. These expenses are paid in accordance with the council's relocation and temporary accommodation expenses policy.

15.0 Honorarium payments

- 15.1 Honorarium payments are additional monies that may be paid to remunerate employee's where;
- a) Employees are 'acting up' into a higher graded post and undertaking the full range of duties of the post on either a full time or part time basis. Such payments are temporary in nature normally for a maximum of 12 months and are appointed to in accordance with the recruitment and selection policy. In exceptional circumstances an honoraria may be extended beyond 12 months up to a maximum of 3 months, discretion to extend will normally only be permitted once. Incremental pay progression will apply to acting up honorarium payments in line with 9.3 above.
- Or
- b) Employees are undertaking additional work duties that are outside the scope of the employee's normal role AND such duties are graded at a

higher level than the employee's substantive post. Such payments are temporary in nature, normally for a maximum period of 12 months and are paid in accordance with the council's job evaluation scheme to ensure principles of fairness and equality are maintained. In exceptional circumstances an honoraria may be extended beyond 12 months up to a maximum of 3 months, discretion to extend will normally only be permitted once. Incremental pay progression will not apply to additional duties honorarium payments.

Or

c) In exceptional circumstances, where employees are performing additional duties outside the scope of the employee's normal role and these duties do not fall into a) or b) above, and cannot be graded through job evaluation, an additional payment of an amount to be determined can be paid. Job Evaluation advise must be sought and equal pay implications considered.

15.2 All honorariums require authorisation from a Head of Service (or delegated manager) with the relevant level of salary authorisation, and Human Resources approval. In addition, requests for honorariums paid under c) above also require approval from the relevant Executive Director and Director of HR.

15.3 Where honorarium payments are approved, the employee will normally be awarded the bottom SCP of the higher grade. However, where this represents less than a 2 spinal column point increase from the existing SCP, the SCP will be adjusted to reflect a 2 point increase.

16.0 Allowance / expenses

Overtime – any overtime worked over 37 hours regardless of when the hours are worked will be paid at time plus 1/2. This is usually only applicable to those on grades G6 or below, however in exceptional circumstances and where pre-agreed in advance, can be extended to those above G6. Overtime is not normally paid to those on senior management grades (G14 and above). All overtime must be agreed by the relevant manager and approved by the Head of Service (or delegated manager with the relevant level of salary authorisation).

16.1 The council also pays an additional payment in certain circumstances, which fall under the overtime and holiday pay ruling.

16.3 Unsocial hours payment – where employees work unsocial hours (Monday – Saturday between the hours of 22.00 – 06.00 and all day on Sunday), they will receive additional unsocial hours payments based on the percentage of their standard contractual 37 hour working week worked in unsocial hours and this will equate to either a 5%, 10% or 15% enhancement to their basic pay in accordance with Walsall Council local terms and conditions document.

The unsocial hours allowance is specific to posts that are, or become:

a) subject to working in the unsocial hours window on a regularised working pattern/rota,

And

b) on a permanent or long-term basis.

In exceptional circumstances authorisation of shorter term temporary unsocial hours payments may be applied. Consideration of a temporary payment will be considered on a case by case basis where the work undertaken in the unsocial window is deemed as ongoing (usually more than 2 consecutive months) and regular.

For temporary application of an unsocial hours payment please discuss the circumstances with Human Resources.

- 16.4 Standby payment – where employees are required to be on standby they will receive a standardised payment in accordance with the guidance on standby and call out payments, currently £20 per session and £180 weekly rate. This is usually only applicable to those on grades G12 or below, however in exceptional circumstances and where pre-agreed by the Head of Service (or delegated manager with the relevant level of salary authorisation), can be extended to those above G12.
- 16.5 Callout payment – where employees are called out to required locations they will receive the appropriate additional hours (payment for additional hours up to and including G6 and TOIL for those G7 and above in accordance with the standby and call out guidance) or overtime rate subject to a minimum of two hours for any single call out period in accordance with the guidance on standby and call out payments. This is usually only applicable to those on grades G12 or below, however in exceptional circumstances and where pre-agreed by the Head of Service (or delegated manager with the relevant level of salary authorisation), can be extended to those above G12. Where an employee provides telephone advice and the response time is in excess of one hour, a call out payment will be made.
- 16.6 Professional subscriptions / registration fees – These may be paid by the council where it is an essential requirement of the job. Essential would normally relate to a statutory function, and to support recruitment and retention (see the reimbursement of personal expenses policy).
- 16.7 Car allowances – employees using a private vehicle on official business will be entitled to claim business mileage at the HMRC rate as detailed in Appendix B.

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- 16.8 Sleep-in allowance - The council will pay a sleep-in allowance (in accordance with the Green Book) to specific roles to ensure the council operates in accordance with legislation in specific service areas.
- 16.9 Executive Directors using a private vehicle on official business will be entitled to claim business mileage at the HMRC rate as detailed in Appendix B. With the exception of those Executive Directors commencing in post prior to 01 April 2018 who receive a lump sum payment equivalent to 2.3% of their annual salary, which covers, the first 60 miles, after which business mileage claims can be made at the HMRC rate as detailed in Appendix B.

17.0 Long Service Award

- 17.1 A long service award will be paid to employees after competing 20 years continuous service with Walsall Council. The award is £125 per employee regardless of the number of hours worked. It is a one-off payment, paid as a cash payment through payroll, attracting tax and national insurance contributions as applicable.

18.0 Special Severance payments

- 18.1 The payment of special severance payments will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and where their application is fair, proportionate, lawful and demonstrates value for money for the tax payer.
- 18.2 Special severance payments will be defined and considered in accordance with the statutory guidance issued under section 26 of the Local Government Act 1999.
- 18.3 Special Severance payments in excess £100,000 will be approved by Personnel Committee as per the delegation of full council.
- 18.4 Special severance payments of £20,000 and above, but below £100,000, will be personally approved and signed off by the Chief Executive, with a clear record of the Leader's approval.
- 18.5 Special severance payments below £20,000 will be approved and signed off by the Head of Service (with the relevant level of salary authorisation in accordance with the council's scheme of delegations), following consultation with the relevant Director, and having taken HR, legal and financial advice.
- 18.6 Where the proposed payment is to the Head of Paid Service, to avoid a conflict of interest it is expected that the payment should be approved by Personnel Committee (which must include at least two independent persons).
- 18.7 Appropriate HR, legal and financial advice will be sought and considered in respect of all special severance payments. Where it is thought appropriate, the council's external auditors will be consulted in relation to substantial severance packages.

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- 18.8 In addition to the Special Severance Payments authorisation policy and process detailed in this section (18) and in accordance with the statutory guidance on Special Severance Payments, the council's S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer will take a close interest in and be able to justify any Special Severance Payments made by the council and in particular any payments that are made that are not consistent with the statutory guidance.

19.0 Exit payments


- 19.1 Exit payments will be paid in accordance with any prevailing legislation.
- 19.2 Exit payments will be subject to recovery in accordance with any prevailing legislative requirements.

20.0 Pensions

- 20.1 Employees of the council are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. The benefits and contributions payable under the scheme are set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (subject to 20.4).
- 20.2 Under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, each scheme employer must publish and keep under review a Statement of Policy to explain how it will apply certain discretions allowed under the Pension Regulations.
- 20.3 The council's current published LGPS discretionary policy is contained in Appendix F of this document and was effective from 1st April 2014. This document also incorporates discretionary provisions that are still in force under the former LGPS regulations that the employer is required to publish within its current policy.
- 20.4 The council has been granted an NHS Pension Scheme Open Public Health Direction Order, effective from 13th September 2021. From this date, the council has been granted powers to provide access to the NHS Pension Scheme for new entrants who carry out specific roles within Public Health. Further details of these roles are available upon request from the Payroll and Pensions Team.

21.0 Pay multiples (or pay dispersion)

- 21.1 There is no formal mechanism for direct comparison between pay levels of the wider workforce with senior manager pay and there are no council policies on reaching or maintaining a specific pay multiple.
- 21.2 The pay multiple recommended for adoption by the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector is the ratio between the salary of the highest paid employee and the median full time equivalent (FTE) salary of the organisation.

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- 21.3 The council's current (31 October 2023) pay multiple from the highest pay (£171,789 per annum) to the median pay of the organisation (£30,151 per annum) is 1:6. This pay multiple ratio has reduced slightly from previous year.
- 21.4 The council's current (31 October 2023) pay multiple from the median pay of Chief Officers within the Corporate Management Team (£148,533.36 per annum) to the median pay of the organisation (£30,151 per annum) is 1:5. This pay multiple is the same ratio as the previous year.
- 21.5 The council will monitor these ratios on an annual basis to ensure that there is no undue wage inflation in senior management pay rates.