

Pay policy statement

2026/2027

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Introduction and purpose

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as authority thinks fit”. This Pay Policy Statement (the ‘statement’) sets out Tewkesbury Borough Council’s (the ‘council’) approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the council’s approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:

- the methods by which salaries of all employees are determined
- the detail and level of remuneration of its most senior staff ie ‘chief officers’, as defined by the relevant legislation
- the Employee Appointments and Disciplinary Committee is responsible for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the council and recommending any amendments to the full council.

This Pay Policy Statement applies to the financial year 2026/27 and is effective from 1 April 2026 and has been approved by the council. It will be subject to review annually and in accordance with new or proposed legislation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Accountability and decision making

In accordance with the constitution of the council, the Employee Appointments and Disciplinary Committee oversee the decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the council, with responsibility for all but the most senior posts delegated to the Head of Paid Service.

Responsibility and scale

For 2026/27 the council is directly responsible for a net revenue budget of £13.94m and for the employment of 249 staff. There is a capital programme of £8.9m over the next 5 years. The council’s capital receipt reserves stand at £1.18 m with earmarked reserves of £19.67m and a general fund balance of £1m. Our Band D council tax is one of the lowest in England.

The council provides services to a total population of approximately 97,032 residents (ONS mid year 2022 updated) made up of 45,783 households (CTB1 October 2024) spread across 160 square miles.

The council’s pay strategy

The council’s pay approach is designed to support workforce stability, organisational performance and the delivery of high-quality services, ensuring fairness, transparency and value for money for residents.

In determining the pay and remuneration of its employees, the council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE). With regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the council ensures that all pay arrangements can be objectively justified through the use of Job Evaluation methods.

The council takes the following approach (or equivalent) to assessing individual and overall pay levels.

- Defining the role: this describes the activities, responsibilities, accountabilities and behaviours which relate to each job and helps ensure that the role and its requirements is fully understood by the individual and the manager. This allows the council to assess the performance of its staff and so improves efficiency and effectiveness.
- Determining the job size: this process ranks all the council's jobs by using job evaluation techniques to ensure fairness and transparency and to allow for direct comparison between roles.
- Determining overall pay levels: this allows the council to assess the right pay policy and pay levels based on several key factors, including ability to pay, national pay comparators, local and regional pay comparators, etc
- Determining pay structure – pay is frequently made up of several elements. This council has adopted an approach which includes (basic pay, incremental progression related to service or performance, financial and non-financial benefits etc). The council uses fixed point salaries (where there is no pay progression) and pay grades made up of incremental pay levels. Where different pay arrangements apply to different groups of staff the reasons are clearly evidenced and documented. The council's approach to pay is detailed below and where different arrangements are in place these are explained.
- Recruiting and retaining the right staff – where necessary the council may apply market supplements or other individual pay levels for specific roles to ensure that it can recruit and retain the best staff. This approach will only be adopted where there is robust, evidence based

justification and will be subject to formal approval, regular review, and time limitations.

- All market supplements and additional payments are time-limited, formally approved, reviewed at least annually, and withdrawn where the evidenced recruitment or retention pressure no longer applies.

Pay design

The council's pay policy is based on the National Joint Council (NJC) and the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers of Local Authorities conditions of service, which include pay scales, supported by the associated job evaluation processes. Any pay schemes increases are negotiated nationally and one or more of the nationally negotiated pay schemes which apply to local government employees.

The last pay award agreement reached between Local Government National Employers and the unions was for 3.2% increase to be applied to all points on local and national pay scales below deputy chief officer, and for SCP2 to be deleted from 1 April 2026. A national pay award for 2026/27 is pending and will be applied in line with national agreements once confirmed.

In determining its grading structure and setting overall pay levels for all posts the council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered

effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.

Pay structure

Pay grades and progression

To encourage employees to develop in their role and to improve their performance the council has arranged its pay levels within 11 pay grades (Grade A to Grade K) and where grades contain between 3 and 5 pay levels or increments. There is a secondary payscale for senior manager roles which is arranged in 7 pay grades (SM6 to SM1) where grades have 5 pay levels. New employees will usually be appointed to the minimum pay level for the relevant grade, unless a higher pay point can be objectively justified, and will go up an increment following successful completion of their probationary period and annually in each April thereafter to the top of grade.

Fixed pay rates

The council also uses fixed pay rates or points, primarily for those who have TUPE transferred from other authorities who used fixed pay points.

Other employment-related arrangements

Local government pension scheme

All employees are automatically enrolled into the Local Government Pension Scheme. The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently range between 5.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent of pensionable pay. The Employer contribution rates are set by Actuaries advising each of the 89 local LGPS funds and reviewed on a triennial basis in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded. For the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 the employer contribution rate is 22.9%.

Benefits schemes

The council believes that it has a responsibility to help support the health, wellbeing and welfare of its employees to ensure that they are able to perform at their best. As part of this approach, and in common with other large employers it provides or makes arrangements which include salary sacrifice schemes (this includes the Cycle To Work scheme and the Electric and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle car scheme), an employee discount platform, a cashback card and discounted membership to Tewkesbury Leisure Centre.

Employment arrangements

The council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of chief officers is set out within the council's Constitution. Chief officers are defined in accordance with section 43 of the Localism Act 2011 and the council's Constitution and include Chief Executive (who fulfils the role of Head of Paid Service), the Executive Director: Resources and Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

When recruiting to all posts the council will take full and proper account of equal opportunities requirements, fair recruitment processes and the relevant legislation. The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed chief officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment and will only be approved in accordance with the Constitution

Where the council is unable to recruit to a post at the designated grade, it may consider the use of temporary market forces supplements in accordance with its relevant policies.

In exceptional circumstances, where the council remains unable to recruit to a chief officer or senior manager post or where there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant post, the council may consider engaging an individual through a 'contract for service', in line with HMRC, IR35 and procurement requirements. Such arrangements can

be advantageous because they can reduce employment costs and are flexible because they can be used for short periods of time without the need to pay termination payments.

Such arrangements will be kept under regular review.

Pay arrangements

The council has chosen to apply the JNC paycales (Senior Managers Payscale) to senior management posts including chief officers.

For the purposes of this statement, “senior management” refers to statutory chief officers only, as defined by section 43 of the Localism Act 2011. In accordance with the council’s constitution, chief officers are the Chief Executive (who fulfils the role of Head of Paid Service), the Executive Director: Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer.

While the council employs other senior roles below statutory chief officer level, these are not defined as “chief officers” for the purposes of this Pay Policy Statement.

All payments are pensionable, except where it is specified otherwise.

The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out below, with details of their basic salary as of 1 April 2026 (latest confirmed position pending national pay award):

- Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) – the current salary of the post is £135,408 annum.

The salary falls within a range of 5 incremental points between £123,292 FTE, rising to a maximum of £135,408 FTE. The postholder is an employee on a permanent employment contract.

- Executive Director: Resources and S151 Officer – the current salary of the post is £107,539. The salary falls within a range of 5 incremental points between £96,628 FTE, rising to a maximum of £107,539 FTE. The postholder is an employee on a permanent employment contract
- Monitoring Officer – the current salary of the post is £75,129 pro rata. The salary falls within a range of 5 incremental points between £69,502 FTE, rising to a maximum of £75,129 FTE. The postholder is an employee on a permanent employment contract
- The salaries of posts designated as senior managers fall within a range of 30 incremental points between SM6 £69,960 FTE rising to a maximum of SM1 £136,234 FTE.

Performance-related pay and bonuses

The council does not operate performance related pay, bonuses, or incentive schemes for chief officers or senior managers.

Other pay arrangements (not limited to Chief Officers)

Pay supplements

From time to time it may be necessary to pay special allowances or supplements to individual employees

as part of their employment contract where specific circumstances require this and where it can be justified in accordance with council policies. Such allowances are negotiated nationally or locally through collective bargaining arrangements and/or as determined by council policy. The council will ensure that the requirement for additional allowance or supplement is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence.

The council uses the following payments:

Additional hours payments

The council primarily operates a flexi-time scheme rather than a formal TOIL system, with any exceptions managed in line with policy and Leadership Team approval. All hours will be recorded under the flexi-scheme. Additional hours worked must be taken as flexi under the rules of the scheme unless exceptionally, it is pre-agreed to be paid by the relevant Leadership Team member for that department. Any payment will be at flat-rate except where the hours are undertaken in unsocial periods. Directors may also arrange for additional hours accrued to be taken over a longer period than usually acceptable within the flexi-time scheme. Where a director requires an employee on the main payscale (not those on the senior management payscale) or below to occasionally work in unsocial hours (8pm – 7am on week days, weekends and bank holidays), those hours will be remunerated at time-and-a-half. This will not apply where the standard working hours fall during unsocial hours (eg for Tourist Information Centres).

Returning officer fees

The Returning Officer fees for national elections are determined by regulation. Fees for Returning Officers in respect of local elections are set down in the Gloucestershire scale of fees and use the same methodology as that for national elections. Returning officer fees may be pensionable, dependent on the type of election they are claimed for.

Real living wage enhancement

The council has made a commitment to providing a Real Living Wage and therefore any officer who would fall below this level on the payscales is paid an enhancement to bring them in line with the Real Living Wage hourly rate.

Standby allowances

A standby allowance (sometimes known as on call) is paid to members of staff who are contractually required to provide cover for unscheduled out of hours work. This is a fixed weekly payment, multiplied by the number of weeks in the year that the member of staff is required to be on standby.

Honorarium payments

The council has a scheme for the payment of allowances for undertaking additional duties. These allowances are divided into two classifications, either employees temporarily undertaking the full range of work of a higher graded post or a proportion of additional duties.

Subsistence allowance (non-pensionable)

There is no automatic entitlement to a subsistence allowance merely because employees' duties involve them in spending a proportion of working time away from their administrative centres or bases. Before employees become entitled to receive subsistence allowances they must, for business reasons, have been prevented from following their normal meal arrangements and they will have had to incur additional expenditure on the purchase of a meal.

Professional fees (non-pensionable)

The council will pay one professional subscription per year to an employee where it is requirement to be a member of a professional organisation in order to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their post.

First aid and mental health first aid

A monthly allowance is paid to trained officers who undertake first aid and mental health first aid duties for the council.

Additional responsibilities payments

This is an extra-ordinary payment where the honorarium scheme is not appropriate, but where an officer is required to take on significant additional responsibility / seniority for a period of time.

Lowest paid employees

The lowest paid persons employed under a contract of employment with the council are employed on full time (37 hours) equivalent salaries in accordance with the minimum spinal column point currently in use within the council's grading structure. As at 1 April 2026 (pay award pending), this is £24,413 per annum pro rata (£12.65 per hour, £13.45 per hour with Real Living Wage top up).

The council employs some apprentices who are not included within the definition of 'lowest paid employees' as they are employed under separate apprenticeship pay guidelines set by the government.

The council reviews its lowest pay points annually to ensure continued compliance with Real Living Wage expectations

Pay multiple

As described above the council uses an established process of defining roles, determining job size and salary levels. This process determines the relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and senior manager post, including chief officers, described as the pay multiple. The current pay multiple between the lowest paid (full time)

employee and the Chief Executive is 1:5.5 and; between the lowest paid (full time) employee and average chief officer is 1:4.34. The multiple between the median (average) full time equivalent earnings and the Chief Executive is 1:3.54.

This is broadly in line with the multipliers published by neighbouring councils and is well within the limits of the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (2010), which recommends a maximum of 1:20 ratio between the highest and lowest remunerated posts. 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.

This demonstrates that pay relationships within the council are proportionate, transparent, and consistent with national expectations for public sector organisations

Payments on termination of employment

On the termination of employment, all officers, including chief officers, are subject to the same pension discretions and redundancy arrangements. No enhanced pension would be awarded outside the council's approved pension discretions policy, and any redundancy payments would be calculated in line with the council's relevant policies.

Any other payments falling outside the provisions within the constitution or the relevant periods of contractual notice are subject to a formal decision made by the full council or relevant elected members, committee or panel of elected members

with delegated authority to approve such payments and will be determined on a case by case basis.

It is not the council's policy to re-employ or to contract with senior managers who have been made redundant from the council unless there are exceptional circumstances where their specialist knowledge and expertise is required for a defined period of time or unless a period of 2 years has elapsed since the redundancy and circumstances have changed.

Where an employee has been made redundant and receives a redundancy payment (without a pension) there should be no reemployment/engagement until the expiry of the period for which the number of weeks' redundancy payment has been given, e.g. if the employee has received a redundancy payment equal to 16 weeks pay, the earliest re-employment/engagement could be considered would be 16 weeks after the date of termination. An earlier date may be approved by exception following authorisation by the Chief Executive, in accordance with the constitution and reported transparently, but in all cases the minimum break of service will be four calendar weeks. Any such exception would be reported transparently and in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code.

Publication of pay statement

Upon approval by the full council, this statement will be published on the council's website.

