



PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25

1. Introduction

Southend City Council recognises that, in the context of managing scarce public resources, remuneration at all levels needs to be adequate to secure and retain high quality employees dedicated to the service of the public; but at the same time needs to avoid being unnecessarily generous or otherwise excessive.

It is important that Local Authorities are able to determine their own pay structures in order to address local priorities and to compete in the local labour market. For Southend this is particularly critical given our proximity to London where higher salaries, often for less complex roles, continue to prove a challenge for our pay policy.

Since the Covid pandemic there have been further pressures on recruitment and retention as staff expect to be able to work in a more flexible environment and do not necessarily have to live in the area in which they wish to work.

It is recognised that senior management roles in local government are complex and diverse functions in a highly politicised environment where often national and local pressures conflict. Southend's ability to continue to attract and retain high calibre leaders capable of delivering this complex agenda, particularly during times of financial challenge, is crucial if the Council is to maintain high performance levels and to deliver for local people.

2. Background

Southend City Council's approach to pay and reward is detailed in its Reward Policy. This policy applies to all staff employed by the Council and details how the workforce at all levels will be rewarded for the work they perform. Where there are differences between different categories of staff, these are explained in the policy.

This statement serves to outline the Council's policy in respect of the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 (see paragraph 3) but must be read with reference to the more detailed reward policy to understand the Council's position on pay and reward and how this underpins its organisational values and is used to drive up performance.

3. Legislation

Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires English and Welsh Local Authorities to produce a pay policy statement for 2012/13 and for each financial year after that.

This statement must include the Council's policy on the following:

- a. Level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer (for Southend City

- Council this is defined as Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Directors).
- b. The remuneration of the Council's lowest paid employees.
- c. The relationship between the remuneration of the Council's chief officers and others.
- d. Other specific aspects of chief officer's remuneration; remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, use of performance related pay and bonuses, termination payments and transparency.

4. Level and Elements of Remuneration for each Chief Officer

Southend will have the following posts at chief officer level with effect from 1 April 2024:

Chief Executive x1
 Executive Directors x 5
 Directors x 11
 Director of Public Health x 1

These posts (with the exception of the Director of Public Health) have been evaluated using the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme* which is also used for all other posts at Level 8 and above. This ensures that the relative "weight" of these roles can be objectively measured using consistent and robust criteria.

The Council's chief officer pay structure consists of senior management grades, as follows:

SMG1 (Chief Executive)	£196,818
SMG3A Executive Directors	£131,525
SMG3 (Directors)	£101,916
Director of Public Health	£107,805

The grade SMG2 (Deputy Chief Executive) was removed from the structure in February 2023.

These are spot salaries and reflect 'rate for the job'. However there is the facility to recruit to these posts on a 'development' rate for the first 12 months where a candidate needs to grow into the full role. The rate is calculated at 90% of the 'rate for the job'. The development rate is not applicable for the Director of Public Health as this rate is in line with NHS terms and conditions.

Chief Officer salaries do not attract annual increments. Chief Officers in Southend are employed on JNC terms and conditions for everything EXCEPT pay. Although the Council is not part of the national negotiating body, since 2024/2025 Chief Officers pay awards are based on the nationally agreed pay award for Chief Executives and Chief Officers, as determined by the Senior Managers Pay Panel.

**At the time of updating this Statement, a decision has been made to replace the Hay Job Evaluation scheme with the sector specific JNC Senior Managers Job Evaluation scheme. The NJC scheme will continue to be used, alongside this new scheme. The change will take place during 2024/25 after due process has been completed, and after which this Statement will be updated to reflect the new arrangements.*

Allowances and additional payments which may be paid to other staff as appropriate do not apply to chief officers except for:

a. Market Supplements

Where market fluctuations and demands are such that an additional payment is necessary in order to recruit or retain high calibre staff with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience.

This is a discretionary payment and will be determined by the Senior Managers Pay Panel and or Appointments & Disciplinary Committee on an individual basis.

In 2022/23, Southend reviewed market supplements paid to Chief Officers. As a result, the Senior Managers Pay Panel agreed to the Chief Executive salary being uplifted, and, the market supplements paid to Executive Directors being integrated into the substantive salary of the role.

In 2024/2025 the following market supplements will be paid to Directors:-

Director of Public Health:	£7,213
Director of Digital and ICT:	£5,000
Director of Adult Social Care Operations:	£12,116
Director Children's Social Work, Early Help and Youth Support:	£10,116
Director of Financial Services (Deputy S151 Officer):	£15,000
Director of Highways Transportation & Waste	£6,531
Director of Education, Inclusion & Early Years	£10,000
Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	£14,531

b. Returning Officer

The Chief Executive undertakes the role of Returning Officer in respect of local, national and European elections.

The Returning Officer is an officer of the Borough Council who is appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. Whilst appointed by the Borough Council, the role of the Returning Officer is one which involves and incurs personal responsibility and accountability and is statutorily separate from their duties as an employee of the Borough Council. As Returning Officer, they are paid a separate allowance for each election for which they are responsible.

There are no other additional elements of remuneration in respect of overtime, flexi time, bank holiday working, stand-by payments, etc., paid to chief officers as these staff are expected to undertake duties outside their contractual hours and working patterns without additional payment.

5. The Remuneration of the Council's Lowest Paid Employees

The Council's lowest paid employees (excluding trainees) are paid at Level 1 £22,737. The Council currently employs 5 staff at this level.

6. The relationship between the remuneration of the Council's chief officers and other officers

As detailed in paragraph 4, all posts at Level 8 or above (including chief officer roles) are evaluated using the internationally adopted Hay Job Evaluation scheme. This ensures that all roles are measured against a consistent and robust set of criteria enabling roles to be "weighted" and placed in a hierarchy that meets any equal pay challenge.

Posts below Level 8 are also evaluated but using the NJC Job Evaluation scheme which is recognised by employers and trades unions nationally and is better suited to jobs at this level. This scheme also allows for robust measurement against set criteria resulting in fair and objective evaluations.

Pay multiple: The idea of publishing the ratio of the pay of an organisation's top earner to that of its median earner has been recommended to support the principles of Fair Pay (Will Hutton 2011) and transparency.

Southend Council's current ratio in this respect is 4.4:1 i.e. the Chief Executive (top earner) earns 4.4 times more than the Council's median earner (£34,381).

The Government has also recommended publishing the ratio in respect of the mean earner. Southend Council's current ratio in this respect is 4.2:1 i.e. the Chief Executive (top earner) earns 4.2 times more than the Council's mean earner (£35,884).

These ratios are based on the Chief Executive's current actual salary.

The number of employees paid at each salary level across the Council is attached at Appendix 1.

Terms and Conditions of employment for Chief Officers have been harmonised with the rest of the workforce. The only remaining differences are:

- (i) Annual leave – annual leave entitlement is higher for Chief Officers to reflect the additional working requirements in these posts and the fact that flexi-time, overtime, etc., is not applicable.

7. Other specific aspects of chief officer remuneration

- a. Salary at recruitment. This is detailed in paragraph 11 of the Council's Reward Policy and is in line with the approach taken for all staff.
- b. Performance reviews. This is detailed in Appendix 3 of the Council's Reward Policy.
- c. Termination Payments. This is detailed in paragraph 16 of the Council's Reward Policy and is in line with the approach taken for all staff.
- d. Ex Gratia Payments. Ex Gratia Payments must be agreed in advance by the Council's Appointments & Disciplinary Committee.

8. Disclosure

This Pay Policy Statement and the Council's Reward Policy will be published on the Council's website. In addition, details of all staff paid £50,000 or more will also be disclosed.

SOUTHEND CITY COUNCIL
STAFF NUMBERS (HEADCOUNT) BY PAY GRADE (EXCLUDING TEACHERS)
(DECEMBER 2023)

Staff Numbers	Pay Grade
5	Level 1
1	Level 2
1	Level 3
79	Level 4
174	Level 5
315	Level 6
341	Level 7
366	Level 8
241	Level 9
147	Level 10
56	Level 11
21	Level 12
30	Level 13
11	SMG3
5	SMG3a
0	SMG2
1	SMG1
1	HV03 (Health Visitor)
0	Soulbury A (Educational Psychologists)
2	Soulbury B (Senior Educational Psychologists)
0	Soulbury C (Educational Improvement Specialists)
4	Youth & Community – Support Workers – Range 1
1	Youth & Community – Professional Range
8	Teacher Grades
1810	TOTAL