

Part A

Report to:	Full Council
Date of meeting:	26 January 2021
Report author:	Executive Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Title:	Council Pay Policy Statement 2021

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Council's success relies on the talent and contribution of its workforce enabling and ensuring it meets its objectives. The Council's Pay Policy Statement seeks to ensure the Council is able to attract, recruit, retain and engage the right people in order to achieve this.
- 1.2 The Pay Policy Statement pulls together all the elements that make up the Council's financial reward practices. It provides assurances of our consistency, fairness and transparency and gives clarity to all our stakeholders about how and what our people are rewarded for. It defines the level and elements of remuneration for Chief Officers in accordance with the requirements of section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.3 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to publish its position prior to the 1 April each year in relation to specific areas of chief officers pay as follows: - remuneration levels, all other payments, incremental progression, performance related pay, bonus payments, redundancy, severance/ compensation, and retirement payments, and the Council's policy on the re-engagement of chief officers. This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's position in these areas. The report is the same as in previous years with updated staffing and pay rate information.
- 1.4 The recommendation of the Hutton Report into "Fair Pay in the Public Sector" as recognised by the Government in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, was that a pay ratio of the salary of the Chief Executive compared to the median average salary in the organisation should be published. This is set out in Section 19 of the Pay Policy Statement, which shows the ratio to be 1:4.3. The Council does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific pay multiple but is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive but is consistent with the needs of the Council as expressed in this policy statement.
- 1.5 The Hutton report raised concerns about multiples in the order of 1:20 or higher between the lowest and highest paid employees in local authorities. The Council's current lowest to highest ratio, including apprenticeships, is 1:6.1, which, is considerably lower. Excluding apprenticeship posts, the lowest pay in use by Watford Borough Council is within Band 4 paying £11.73 per hour excluding LW. This is above the real living wage of £9.50 per hour for 2020/21.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Council does not fulfil requirements of Localism Act 2011 in publishing the pay policy	Localism Act not complied with	The Council Pay Policy Statement is published	treat	2

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Council approve the Council Pay Policy Statement.

Further information:

For further information on this report please contact: Terry Baldwin, Executive Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development: telephone extension: 8133 email: terry.baldwin@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Terry Baldwin

4.0 Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that the financial implications of the pay policy are within approved budgets.

4.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that it is a legal requirement for council to consider and publish its pay policy annually preceding the financial year to which it relates.

4.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection

4.3.1 There are no implications.

Appendices

Appendix A - Council Pay Policy Statement 2021