

Pay Policy Statement 2026/2027

Organisational Development

March 2026

Document Control

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Approvals

Approved by	Date
Council	Annually

Associated Documentation

Description of Documentation	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Pay Policy Statement for 2026/2027 has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 (The Act), which requires the Council to publish a Pay Policy Statement on an annual basis. The Council's Statement takes into account the guidance provided as well as the current provisions of the Act.

1.2 Local Authorities are required to include in their Pay Policy Statements information in relation to:

- The remuneration of their most senior employees.
- The remuneration of their lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of their most senior employees and that of other employees.

2.0 STATUS OF THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 The Act requires the Pay Policy Statement for each financial year to be approved by the Council. The approved Statement will be published on the Council's website.

2.2 The Pay Policy Statement is reviewed on an annual basis. Each version of the Statement will be approved by the Council and take place at the nearest meeting of the Council to the 1 April each year.

2.3 The Pay Policy Statement can be amended during the course of a financial year with approval by the Council.

3.0 TRANSPARENCY AND AUTONOMY

3.1 The Council recognises and welcomes the aims behind the requirement for a Pay Policy Statement which are to:

- Ensure that the Council's approach to pay is accessible for all.
- Enable local people to take an informed view of whether local decisions by the Council are fair and make the best use of public funds.

3.2 The Council also welcomes the Government's recognition that each local authority remains an employer in its own right and has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and continue to deliver value for money for the community.

4.0 **REMUNERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR EMPLOYEES**

4.1 The Council's senior employees are:

- Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.
- Four posts at Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director level. These posts report to the Chief Executive. The Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Directors are:
 - Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director – Law and People (This role also undertakes the statutory role of Monitoring Officer).
 - Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director – Resources and Transformation. (This role also undertakes the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in accordance with section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act that requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs).
 - Executive Director – Environment and Communities
 - Executive Director – Place and Prosperity
- Four posts at Assistant Director level. These posts report into an Executive Director and deputise for them. It should be noted that each Assistant Director also retains responsibility for a service area. The Assistant Directors are:
 - Assistant Director – Law and People (also Head of Legal and Democratic Services)
 - Assistant Director – Resources and Transformation (also Head of Customer Services)
 - Assistant Director – Environment and Communities (also Head of Environmental Services)
 - Assistant Director – Place and Prosperity (also Head of Economic Development and Growth)
- Heads of Service. These eight posts are responsible for specific service areas and report to an Executive Director. The Heads of Service are:
 - Head of Planning
 - Head of Cultural and Community Services
 - Head of Operational Services
 - Head of Housing
 - Head of Finance
 - Head of Transformation
 - Head of Organisational Development
 - Head of Corporate Property

The above structure is effective as of 1 April 2026.

4.2 For information on the Council's Monitoring Officer please see paragraph 5.12.

Background

4.3 The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executives, the Executive Directors and Assistant Directors are the Council's Leadership Team. These senior employees are responsible for working with Elected Members to deliver the overall strategic direction of the Council, to manage the Council's financial and other resources, to ensure high levels of compliance and governance and for effective delivery of all the services provided by the Council.

Overall policy on the remuneration of senior posts

- 4.4 The Council's overall approach to the remuneration of its senior posts is based on:
- Compliance with equalities (including equal pay) legislation.
 - Ensuring that its overall remuneration packages align with comparable posts in local government whilst taking into account:
 - Relevant pay data from similar authorities to allow meaningful benchmarking to be undertaken.
 - The responsibility of posts and their level in the Council.
 - National terms and conditions of employment that apply to senior posts.
 - External independent professional advice provided by appointed partners such as the regional employers' organisation, East Midlands Councils.
- 4.5 The Council will seek to maintain this overall approach by periodically monitoring pay data provided by such organisations as East Midlands Councils. This period is determined by the Council.
- 4.6 In terms of pay differentials for its senior posts, the Council recognises that:
- The role of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service is directly accountable for the Council workforce and has the greatest level of accountability. This post therefore demands the highest level of pay in the Council.
 - The Deputy Chief Executives and Executive Directors report directly to the Chief Executive. These posts have a wide span of responsibility for a number of service areas and in turn have an Assistant Director and a number of Heads of Service reporting to them. These posts therefore warrant the next highest pay level below that of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.

Developing pay scales for senior posts

- 4.7 The Council has determined the pay scales for its senior posts locally and for these to be approved by the Finance and Management Committee. When the last review covering the current pay scales for senior posts at the Council was completed a Remuneration Panel was appointed consisting of Elected Members to develop and recommend, in accordance with a project brief, the relevant pay scales.
- 4.8 An independent organisation, the Local Government Association (LGA), was commissioned by the Council to advise the Remuneration Panel.
- 4.9 Part of the LGA's remit is to assist local authorities to create pay solutions. Its work also leads to the development of national conditions of service and pay scales. The LGA has access to national pay data surveys e.g. the salary and numbers surveys for the Joint National Councils for Chief Executives and for Chief Officers. Using its experience of developing pay models and pay scales the LGA identified relevant pay data which enabled the Council's pay scales for the Chief Executive's post and the Executive Directors posts to be benchmarked against the pay scales for similar posts in comparable sized Councils.
- 4.10 Based on this information recommendations were made to the Finance and Management Committee by the Remuneration Panel on the pay scales for the Council's senior posts. The current pay scales for the Council's senior posts are discussed below.

Remuneration of senior posts

- 4.11 The pay scale for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service consists of five incremental points. Progression through the scale is usually on an annual basis that takes effect on 1 April each year.
- 4.12 The pay scale for the Council's Executive Directors consists of four incremental points. Progression through the scale is usually on an annual basis that takes effect on 1 April each year.
- 4.13 Details of actual Chief Executive and Executive Director remuneration are included in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts (Note 28).
- 4.14 The last national pay award for senior officers was effective from 1 April 2025.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- 4.15 Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is subject to the rules of the scheme and contribution rates are set by legislation. When individuals are already in

receipt of a local government pension they are subject to the rules on abatement of pension within the scheme.

Pay awards

- 4.16 The salaries of senior posts are increased in line with any national pay award agreed by either the Joint National Council for Chief Executives or the Joint National Council for Chief Officers whichever is appropriate. Any changes are normally implemented with effect from 1 April each year.

Overtime and other payments

- 4.17 There are no other additional elements of remuneration in respect of overtime, flexitime, bank holiday working, standby payments paid to senior posts as they are expected to undertake duties outside their contractual hours and working patterns without additional payment.

Remuneration of senior posts on recruitment

- 4.18 The Council's practice is that any newly appointed senior officer will start at the lowest pay point in the pay range for their job, other than when the particular skills and experience of the successful candidate merit a higher starting salary.
- 4.19 In line with the Council's procedure for Senior Officer Appointments the recruitment of a Chief Executive must be approved by the Council.

5.0 EMPLOYEES IN POSTS BELOW AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Key Principles

- 5.1 The Council aims to provide fair and equitable remuneration arrangements which enable it to recruit, retain, motivate, and develop staff with the skills and capabilities to ensure the continued provision of high-quality services that are cost effective and provide value for money.
- 5.2 The Council's employment policies comply with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, which includes equal pay, and other relevant employment legislation.
- 5.3 Currently an employee's pay is based on either a pay scale, through which employees may progress until the top of the scale is reached, or a fixed salary point. In some cases, progression through a grade is dependent upon specified criteria (e.g. the attainment of a qualification). The Council's pay structure is based on the national pay spine, as set out in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service. The national pay spine has

been amended with effect from 1 April 2025 and the Council's pay structure has been amended to reflect this. This structure has been subject to Equal Pay Audits.

- 5.4 The Council undertook a review of its senior leadership structure in 2024, which included the creation of two additional posts at Executive Director level as well as creating four Assistant Director posts. To coincide with this, a review was undertaken of the pay and grading of senior posts below Executive Director level, this covered the posts of Assistant Director and Head of Service. The review was carried out on behalf of the Council by an independent consultant from East Midlands Councils. Two posts of Deputy Chief Executive were created in 2025, which came from two existing Executive Director posts.
- 5.5 The Council reviewed its pay and grading structure for the posts below Head of Service level in 2018, which included undertaking a job evaluation exercise. This was carried out by an external independent consultant in conjunction with the recognised Trade Unions and members of the Leadership Team. A revised pay and grading structure, for posts below Head of Service level was implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.

National Conditions of Service

- 5.6 The employment terms and conditions of service for most of the Council's employees below Chief Executive/Chief Officer level are those of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services as amended and/or supplemented by any local agreements with the Council. Any annual pay award is agreed by this NJC and is usually effective on 1 April each year.
- 5.7 A small number of craft employees (Joiners, Bricklayers, Plumbers and Plasterers) have some of their conditions of service determined by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Local Authority Craft & Associated Employees. During 2022/2023 changes were made to the grading structure for craft employees and a new development scheme is in place which allows incremental progression. Grades have been aligned with the existing NJC for Local Government Services pay grades.
- 5.8 As a result of a TUPE transfer of staff in April 2018, the Council has a small number of employees on terms and conditions of employment that are outside of national conditions of service but that are protected under the terms of the TUPE regulations and existing employment law.

Definition of lowest paid employees

- 5.9 The definition of the "lowest-paid employees" for the purposes of this Pay Policy Statement is those full-time employees who are paid on Grade Two spinal column point 3.

- 5.10 The current annual full-time equivalent value of this pay level, based on a 37-hour standard working week, is £24,796 per annum (last pay award 1st April 2025). This equates to an hourly rate of £12.85 which is above the National Living Wage of £12.71 per hour that is effective from 1 April 2026.

Remuneration of lowest paid employees

- 5.11 For the purposes of this Statement, remuneration includes the employee's basic annual salary and any allowances or other similar payments, benefits in kind, any increases or enhancements to any pension entitlement and any termination or other severance payments.

The Council's Monitoring Officer

- 5.12 The statutory role of Monitoring Officer had been assigned to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Law and People. Remuneration for this additional statutory responsibility is included within the substantive grade for the post.

Modern Apprentices

- 5.13 The Council employs Modern Apprenticeships in line with the national scheme. Apprentices are paid on rates that reflect the particular nature of their role, take account of the development nature of their employment, the need to undertake vocational training and obtain different job-related skills and experience. The rates paid are above the National Living Wage.

Other elements of remuneration

- 5.14 Other elements of remuneration which the Council can pay to its employees is set out in the table in Appendix One. The element of remuneration offered depends on the job role and any job-related requirements e.g. to have a relevant qualification or travelling in order to perform the duties of the job.

6.0 PAY RELATIONSHIPS

- 6.1 The Council recognises that the principle of fair pay is important to the provision of high quality and well-managed services and is committed to ensuring fairness and equity in its remuneration practices. The Council's pay policies, processes and procedures are designed to ensure that pay levels are appropriately aligned with, and accurately reflect, the relative demands and responsibilities of each post, together with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities necessary to ensure that the post's duties are undertaken to the required standard. This includes ensuring that there is an appropriate relationship between the pay levels of its senior managers and of all other employees.

Pay differences - senior posts

- 6.2 The pay differential from the senior posts has been set following research undertaken on behalf of the Council by the LGA, an independent organisation and subsequently approved by the Council's Finance and Management Committee.

Pay multiples

- 6.3 A "pay multiple" is the ratio between the highest paid salary and median average salary of the Council's workforce. On this basis, the current pay multiple is **1:4.68** (2025/26 – 1:4.79). This is based on the median basic salary for the whole workforce of £32,061 (£30,060 in 2025/26).
- 6.4 The pay multiple between the basic salary and allowances of its highest paid employee and the lowest paid employees, as defined in this Statement is **1:6.05** (2025/26 – 1:6.05).

7.0 DECISIONS ON PAY

- 7.1 The Council recognises the importance of ensuring openness and transparency and high standards of corporate governance, with clear lines of accountability, in its pay decision-making processes and procedures. Any pay-related decisions must be capable of public scrutiny, be able to demonstrate proper and appropriate use of public funds and ensure value for money. The arrangements adopted by the Council are designed to reflect these requirements, as well as ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and other statutory regulation.
- 7.2 When the need arises for the Council to appoint a Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Deputy Executive Director or Executive Director, the Council will comply with its Senior Officer Appointment Procedure. This includes the appointment of a Recruitment and Selection Panel of Elected Members.
- 7.3 The authority to delegate the appointment to a Recruitment and Selection Panel is sought in the case of:
- Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service: From the Council.
 - Executive Director: From the Finance and Management Committee.
- 7.4 The appointment of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service will require a decision by the Council.

7.5 Appointments below Executive Director are made by a panel of appropriate managers.

8.0 AMENDMENTS TO THIS PAY POLICY STATEMENT

8.1 This Pay Policy Statement relates to the financial year 2026/2027.

8.2 The Council may agree any amendments to this Statement during the financial year to which it relates.

9.0 PUBLICATION OF AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

9.1 This Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website after it has been approved by the Council. Any subsequent amendments made during the financial year will also be similarly published.

9.2 For further information about this Statement please contact Ardip Sandhu, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director – Law and People (Monitoring Officer) by email ardip.sandhu@southderbyshire.gov.uk or email Human Resources at hr@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Appendix One

OTHER PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES

The Council operates a transparent pay structure that reflects the relevant duties and responsibilities of each post. The Council recognises that it must pay other payments and allowances to certain individuals or groups of employees to reflect their duties or to attract and/or retain employees. Any payments or allowances are open to all employees. The Council considers this to be justified on the basis to maintain services for the District demands a properly resourced and skilled workforce.

Pay progression

For most posts on pay scales incremental progression through each scale will be applied on the 1 April each year. Employees with less than six months service in the scale by April will be granted their first increment six months after their appointment, promotion, or re-grading. The exception would be where an employee's salary on the 1 April following, promotion or re-grading would be less than one spinal column point in excess of the salary they would have received on that day in their old scale with the Council; in which case they shall be entitled to their first increment on the 1 April.

There are some posts that have a bar that prevents incremental progression through the scale. To go beyond the bar the post holder must satisfy certain criteria (e.g. the attainment of specified competencies or the attainment of a required qualification).

Market supplements

The Council recognises that pressures in the labour market can mean that pay levels for a particular type of job or profession can be such that the Council's normal pay level would not be competitive to enable it to recruit or retain an employee in that function. In that case, the Council would consider the application of a market supplement.

At the present time, a market supplement payment is in place within Operational Services which is applicable to one occupation group.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

There are a number of discretions available under the Local Government Pension Scheme which is applicable to all employees. The details of these can be seen in the Council's published Policy Statement on Pensions Discretions.

These discretions were reviewed in 2025 and approved by Finance and Management Committee on 24 April 2025.

The Council also has policies on Flexible Retirement, Redundancy, Voluntary Redundancy and Retirement on Efficient Exercise Grounds.

Employees who are members pay a contribution to the LGPS which is based on their annual full-time equivalent pensionable pay (including pensionable allowances). Contribution rates are nationally set and currently range from 5.5% and 12.5%.

The Council's contribution towards the pension scheme for the year 2026/2027 is 18.6% of an individual's pensionable pay. There is no additional lump sum payment due in respect of past service deficit on the current Pension Fund for 2026/2027.

Payments on termination of employment

The Council's approach to the termination of employment of Senior Officers (and all other employees) is set out in:

- The discretions the Council has adopted under the regulations of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Its policies on Flexible Retirement, Redundancy, Voluntary Redundancy and Retirement on Efficient Exercise Grounds.

All payment/costs arising from the application of the above must be approved beforehand by the Council's Finance and Management Committee.

Removal/relocation expenses

Where employees need to move house in order to take up an appointment with the Council, the Council will reimburse their removal, legal and other associated relocation costs in accordance with its Relocation Policy. The Policy requires repayment in full if the employee leaves within two years of appointment.

Additional responsibility payments

Where employees are required to undertake additional responsibilities for a temporary period of time, they may receive an additional payment in recognition of these. This does not apply to Executive Directors and above.

Mileage payments

Specific posts identified by the Council attract a Car Allowance. These are paid in accordance with nationally agreed rates set by the NJC for Local Government Services. They are:

	Electric Vehicles and 451 to 999cc	1000 to 1199cc	1200 to 1450cc
Essential Users			
Lump sum per annum	£846	£963	£1,239
Per mile first 8,500	36.9p	40.9p	50.5p

Per mile after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p
Casual Users			
Per mile first 8,500	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p
Per mile after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p

The above rates are current at 1st April 2026 but may be subject to change during the period of this Pay Policy Statement as a result of changes made by the NJC for Local Government Services or as a result of the review of the Council Expenses Policy. The Policy was last updated in November 2025 with the inclusion of reimbursement for electric vehicles.

Professional Subscriptions

The Council pays one professional subscription in relation to specific posts. This applies where it is a requirement of the post for the employee to be a member of a professional body and it is a payment of the annual membership only.

Reimbursement of Subsistence or Other Expenses

In accordance with the requirements of the National Conditions of Service set by the NJC for Local Government Services, the Council makes provision for the reimbursement, up to a maximum specified limit, of approved expenses by employees. Actual expenditure only can be claimed and the current maximum amounts claimable are as follows:

Minimum time away from normal workplace or home outside of normal working hours	Maximum Allowance
5 hours	£5.00
10 hours	£10.00
15 hours (and ongoing at 8pm)	£25.00

Car Parking: Fee incurred

Certain conditions must be met for approval of reimbursement of the car parking fees.

Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones are provided to employees when necessary for them to undertake their duties effectively and safely. The Council pays the cost of line rental, and business calls. Employees are required to pay for any personal use.

Landline telephones

A scheme of reimbursement applies to certain officers who are required to have a landline installed, in particular those officers who are listed in the Council's Emergency Plan.

Election fees

The Deputy Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer), Executive Director – Law and People receives fee payments pursuant to their appointment as Returning Officer for elections and referendums. The fees paid vary according to the type of election, the size of the electorate and the number of postal voters.

Fee payments for national, referenda and other elections are set by central government and are, in effect, not paid by the Council, as the fees are reclaimed. Separate payments are made to the Deputy Returning Officer(s) and other members of staff who work as part of the elections team and are commensurate with time spent undertaking election duties.

Payments for additional working

The NJC Conditions of Service make provision for employees graded up to spinal column point 22 (currently £33,699 per annum) who undertake work outside of normal working hours, to receive appropriate overtime payments. Those above point 22 are permitted to take time off in lieu for any agreed additional hours worked. This provision is not available to senior posts whose Conditions of Service are determined by the JNC for Chief Executives or Chief Officers.