

Somerset Council Pay Policy Statement 1st of April 2025

1. Purpose

This Pay Policy Statement (PPS) is provided in accordance with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 and will be updated annually or in-year as required. It sets out Somerset Council's policies relating to the pay of its workforce (excluding schools' employees) for the year 2025/26; in particular, it includes:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The remuneration of its Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers.
- The remuneration of its lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Executive and other officers.
- Other specific aspects of chief officer remuneration such as levels and elements of such remuneration, remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, termination payments, and transparency.

2. Scope

The PPS covers the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) as outlined in Part I 1 of the Constitution and deputy chief officers, including the following statutory roles at Somerset Council:

- a. The Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
- b. Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)
- c. Executive Director - Children, Families, and Education Service (DCS)
- d. Executive Director - Adult Services and Housing (DASS)
- e. Executive Director – Resources, Strategy and Transformation (Interim Monitoring Officer)
- f. Director of Public Health

And non-statutory roles:

- g. Executive Director – Community, Place and Economy Services

And additionally;

- h. Service Directors, and any other officer who reports or is directly accountable to the officers listed in (a) to (g) above.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of the PPS the following definitions will apply:

- 3.1. The Localism Act (section 43) defines remuneration widely. In this policy 'remuneration/pay', in addition to salary includes charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, increases in or enhancements to pension entitlement and termination payments.

3.2. The legal definition of 'Chief Officer' is set out in section 43(2) of the Act as follows:

- (a) the head of paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (b) the monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
- (c) the statutory chief officers mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
- (d) the non-statutory chief officers mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
- (e) the deputy chief officers mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act.

Note: section 2(9) of the 1989 Act provides that an individual who reports directly to the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), or a statutory or non – statutory chief officer but whose duties are solely secretarial or clerical or of a similar nature does not fall within section 2(8) definition of deputy chief officer.

3.3. The definition of 'lowest paid employee' is a fully competent employee undertaking a defined role and excludes apprentices who are undertaking approved training.

4. Accountability and decision making

4.1. In accordance with Part D.3 of the constitution of the council, the Human Resources (HR) Committee acts as the Council's Remuneration Committee for Chief Officer pay. In exercising this function, the HR Committee reviews at least on an annual basis the pay and grading structure of the Council (including CLT Officer grades and salaries) and makes recommendations for any changes considered necessary to Full Council by way of a revised PPS.

4.2. The PPS must be approved formally by Full Council each year by the end of March for the following financial year.

4.3. As outlined in Part I2 and I5 of the constitution of the Council, the Chief Executive as 'Head of the Paid Service', is responsible for the Council's Corporate Leadership Team and supporting officer structures. The Chief Executive has authority to approve changes to the terms and conditions of all chief officer and deputy chief officer posts specified in paragraph 2 above on the recommendation of the Appointments Panel and the Appointments Committee or on their own initiative and having obtained the agreement of the Leader of the Council. All decisions taken by the Chief Executive on such matters will be the subject of a formal Officer Decision which will be published on the Council's website as soon as it is confirmed.

4.4. Before making decisions in relation to the staffing structure or individual posts, the Chief Executive is required to consider:

- The views of the relevant Executive Member, the Chair of the HR Committee, and the Opposition Spokesperson, and as appropriate:
 - The outcome of job evaluation.
 - Any data/advice/evidence or views collated from appropriate sources, including: the Council's HR function; National and/or Regional Employers' Organisations; independent external pay data.
 - The needs of the business to recruit and retain senior officers.
 - The performance of individual CLT Officers.
 - The requirements of the PPS.
 - Fluctuations in the local and national job market.

5. Pay Principles

The key principles underpinning this PPS are:

Affordability – ensuring remuneration policies represent value-for-money for the taxpayer.

Fairness – ensuring remuneration policies are fair to all staff, ranging from the most senior post to the most junior post.

Meet Legislative Requirements – ensuring remuneration policies comply with all legal obligations, such as the Equal Pay Act

Market Facing – ensuring due regard is taken of the market, both nationally and locally in the Southwest, and that this policy is in-line with Councils of a similar size and / or in a similar labour market.

Tax Avoidance – ensuring that all remuneration arrangements comply fully with HMRC regulations.

6. Pay Data

The Council complies with Data Protection Act obligations and will only publish information about an individual officer's pay where it is required to do so by law.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 to publish pay information about the Chief Executive and the statutory and non-statutory chief officers, the Council publishes pay information about the individual posts on its website and in the Annual Statement of Accounts. Only employees whose salaries are more than £150,000 must be named.

In relation to other senior officers of the Council, pay information is published on the Council's website relating to:

- Salaries of £50,000 or more by reference to total numbers within bands (grouped in bands of £5,000).



Details of remuneration and job titles of certain senior employees whose salary is at least £50,000 including role responsibilities (for example, the services and functions they are responsible for, budget held, and number of staff) and details of bonuses and 'benefits in kind', for all employees whose salary exceeds £50,000. The data detailed within the Pay Policy Statement reflects the pay award for 2024/25 as the 2025/26 pay award has not been agreed at the point of publishing this PPS.

7. Lowest Paid Employee

The lowest paid posts in the Council which include posts of Cleaner, Domestic Assistant, Distribution Assistant, and General Kitchen Assistant, are paid on national spinal point 2 with a salary of £23,656 as at 1st April 2024 (excluding the pay award for 2025/26)

8. Pay Multiples

The recommendation of the Hutton Report into "Fair Pay in the Public Sector", as recognised in the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, was that the Council should publish the pay ratio of the salary of the Chief Executive compared to the median average salary in the organisation.

The ratio of the pay of the new Council's median earner (£32,115) to that of its Chief Executive (£206,870) was 1:6.44 based on salaries at the end of November 2024.

Note: This figure excludes apprentices, casuals, and those on zero hours contracts.

9. Pay and Grading Structure

9.1. Grading and Job Evaluation

The grading structure reflects the need to continue to modernise, facilitate new ways of working, and ensure equal pay for work of equal value in a large and diverse organisation.

- Job evaluation is a consistent process used for determining the relative worth of jobs. The Council uses two schemes to evaluate jobs, covering virtually all employees, except centrally employed teachers and Soulbury staff, which are subject to national grading schemes. The Hay Scheme is used for the Chief Executive, CLT, and other senior/management posts from grade 8.
- The New Somerset Scheme, based on the Greater London Provincial Council scheme (formerly GLEA), is used for posts up to Grade 9. The relationship between pay at the lowest and highest levels is controlled by job evaluation. The job evaluation score is set within a pay structure and linked to the pay spinal column points which determines what posts are paid. The Greater London Provincial Scheme job families are used when matching roles.

9.2. Pay scales

- The Chief Executive and CLT pay, and cost of living progression is locally agreed and subject to annual review by the HR Committee.
- The Chief Executive current annual salary is £206,870 including the 2024/25 pay award.

9.2.1. Executive Director Pay Structure

The pay structure for Executive Directors has been agreed by the Appointments Panel for the posts, following benchmarking with other organisations and similar roles. Salaries are on a spot pay basis, within the following levels and are based on job evaluation outcomes and market comparisons.

- £132,225 - £153,750 (This includes 2024/2025 pay award)

9.2.2. Service Director Pay Structure

The following salary ranges have been agreed for Service Director posts, following benchmarking with other organisations and similar roles. These include 2024/25 pay award. They will be made on a spot rate basis, in line with Job Evaluation scores for the level.

Service Director Grade	Salary Range
SD1	£117,875 - £120,950
SD2	£112,750 - £117,875
SD3	£102,500 - £107,625

9.2.3. Staff Below Corporate Leadership Team Level

The Somerset Pay and Grading structure for staff below CLT and on Green Book terms and conditions incorporates National Pay Points up to spinal column point (scp) 38 and locally determined pay points above. The current pay and grading structure is shown at Appendix 1.

NJC for Local Government Services (Green Book) pay, terms and conditions apply to posts on Grades 17 to 4 inclusive. Annual pay awards are determined by national agreement. The 2025/26 pay award has not been agreed at this point of publishing this PPS.

Post holders on Grades 15 – 9 are eligible for annual incremental increases up the pay scale until they reach the top of their grade.

With effect from 1st April 2023 the lowest point on the NJC Green Book pay scale, spinal column point (SCP) 1 has been removed so the new lowest point will be SCP2. As an interim arrangement, Somerset Grade 17 will be merged with Grade 16 from this date and both grades will receive the spot salary aligned

to national spinal column point 2, while a review of the Council's Green Book pay, and grading structure is undertaken.

Post holders on Grades 4 – 8 (Strategic and Service Managers) have some localised terms and conditions. Each Grade (4 – 8) has a fixed spot salary and there is no incremental progression.

Staff who have transferred into Somerset Council under TUPE regulations, may be subject to different pay scales.

10. Other pay arrangements for Chief Officers

10.1. Performance related pay and bonuses

The Council does not operate a performance-related pay scheme and does not pay a bonus to any Council employees.

10.2. Allowances

Allowances are paid in line with NJC terms and conditions (Green Book), or by local agreements where relevant.

Any allowances paid to The Chief Executive, Executive and Service Directors or CLT Officers are disclosed in the Annual Statement of Accounts.

10.3. Election payments

No additional payments are made by the Council for election duties. This statement does not affect Chief Officers who receive separate payments that are recoverable from central government and others for returning officer and deputy returning officer positions.

10.4. Professional subscriptions

- The Council does not pay fees and subscriptions payable by the Chief Executive, CLT Officers, and other employees to professional qualification bodies and local government-based societies and associations, with the exception of qualified lawyers and for approved employee retention cases (approved by the Service Director HR and OD).
- Fees and subscriptions payable by the Chief Executive, CLT Officers and other employees, to associations that are inter-Council networking organisations (as distinct from subscriptions to professional bodies) should be reimbursed subject to individual cases being approved by the Chief Executive, Executive Director and Service Director – HR and OD, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

10.5. Recruitment and Retention Allowances

- External recruitment and internal retention problems are tackled by temporarily increasing the total pay awarded to a post, when it can be shown that the pay on the evaluated grade is significantly lower than competitors' rates of pay.
- The payment of an allowance is temporary and will not be renewed if a review finds evidence that demonstrates the payment of the allowance is no longer justified.
- An allowance forms part of an employee's pay (all the salary, wages, fees, and other payments paid to them for their own use in respect of their employment) and as such is pensionable. An allowance is expressed as a cash lump sum, pro-rata to the contracted hours, and is not subject to annual cost of living/inflation pay awards.

Approval of recruitment and retention allowances in respect of:

- Executive and Service Director posts (with the exception of the post of Chief Executive) shall be determined by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council and on the recommendation of the appropriate Appointments Panel in relation to new appointments.
- The post of Chief Executive will be agreed by Full Council.

11. Other Employment-Related Arrangements

11.1 Appointment of Agency Interims

- Where the Council is unable to permanently recruit officers at the most senior level, there could be a requirement for that substantive post to be covered by an interim appointment.
- The Council has various options to supply interims in adherence with relevant Procurement, Legal, and Financial Regulations.
- The Council has a requirement to assess the employment status of the interim prior to the recruitment of interims being approved. An interim's terms of employment and contract is direct with the supplier and not the Council.
- In respect of the appointment of interims to CLT. A business case to the Chief Executive will take into account:
 - Value-for-money for the taxpayer
 - The evaluated grade of the post to be covered
 - The public profile of the post
 - Risks to the Council
 - The labour market, both nationally and locally in the South West, for interims providing cover for similar posts in councils of a similar size.
- If the interim is below Chief Officer level and the proposed rate of pay is over £350 per day, the appointment will be subject to formal approval by the Resource Management Board (RMB) comprising the Executive Director Resources, Strategy and Transformation and Service Director Finance and



Procurement (deputy section 151 officer) and will be subject to review processes before extensions are agreed.

11.2 Pension

Subject to qualifying conditions, employees are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Council has the ability to determine certain Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions. The Council's Pension Discretion Policy applies equally to the whole workforce and are subject to the approval of the HR Committee.

Employee pension contribution rates are defined by statute in accordance with the LGPS and employer contributions rates are set by Actuaries advising the Somerset Pension Fund and reviewed on a triennial basis to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded.

If the Council employs a Chief Officer already in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme pension, the Council will apply the normal pension abatement rules that apply to all employees (the combined pension and salary of their new post should not exceed the salary of their previous post).

A number of employees have transferred to the Council under a specific staff transfer arrangement which allowed them to continue membership of the NHS pension scheme. The Council makes contributions on their behalf and complies with Pension Legislation in respect of the NHS scheme.

11.3 Salary Protection

Protection will not apply to redeployed employees with less than two years local government service.

Salary protection arrangements for Chief Officers is one year frozen pay protection during which annual cost of living pay increases will be awarded. At the end of this period the substantive grade of the new post will be applicable.

Salary protection is in place to ease the financial implications on those being redeployed and does not extend beyond salary.

12. Termination payments

Chief Officers follow the same arrangements and policies for redundancy as applied to all other staff.

In exceptional circumstances to avoid or settle a claim or potential dispute, the Council may agree payment of a settlement sum on termination.

All cases must take account of all legal, financial, contractual, and other responsibilities.

A proposed financial settlement for an officer leaving the Council in excess of £100,000 must be agreed by a meeting of the Full Council, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and outlined in Part I5 para 3.3.4 of the constitution.



Aside from the provisions set out in Part 15 Officer Employment Procedures/Arrangements of the Council's constitution for the Chief Executive, chief officer and deputy chief officer posts, all other settlement payments on termination of the contract of a post require the approval of the relevant Senior Officer in line with HR Policy.

Appendix 1

Somerset Council Pay Scale April 2024					
SCP	Grade		Salary 01/04/24	Hourly Rate 01/04/24	SCC Spot Points
1	17		N/A	N/A	
2	17	16	£23,656	£12.26	
3	15		£24,027	£12.45	
4	15	14	£24,404	£12.65	
5		14	£24,790	£12.85	
6	13	14	£25,183	£13.05	
7	13		£25,584	£13.26	
8	13		£25,992	£13.47	
9	13		£26,409	£13.69	
10	13		£26,835	£13.91	
11	13		£27,269	£14.13	
12		12	£27,711	£14.36	
13		12	£28,163	£14.60	
14		12	£28,624	£14.84	
15		12	£29,093	£15.08	
16		12	£29,572	£15.33	
17		12	£30,060	£15.58	
18		12	£30,559	£15.84	
19		12	£31,067	£16.10	
20	11		£31,586	£16.37	
21	11		£32,115	£16.65	
22	11		£32,654	£16.93	
23	11		£33,366	£17.29	
24	11		£34,314	£17.79	
25	11		£35,235	£18.26	
26		10	£36,124	£18.72	
27		10	£37,035	£19.20	
28		10	£37,938	£19.66	
29		10	£38,626	£20.02	
30		10	£39,513	£20.48	
31	9	10	£40,476	£20.98	
32	9		£41,511	£21.52	
33	9		£42,708	£22.14	
34	9		£43,693	£22.65	
35	9	8	£44,711	£23.17	
36		8	£45,718	£23.70	
37		8	£46,731	£24.22	
38		8	£47,754	£24.75	SCC Spot Point

39	7	8	£48,826	£25.31	
40	7		£49,903	£25.87	
41	7		£51,034	£26.45	
42	7		£52,396	£27.16	
43	7		£53,392	£27.67	SCC Spot Point
44	7		£54,672	£28.34	
45		6	£55,983	£29.02	
46		6	£57,341	£29.72	
47		6	£58,711	£30.43	
48		6	£60,136	£31.17	
49		6	£61,589	£31.92	
50		6	£63,071	£32.69	SCC Spot Point
51		5	£78,168	£40.52	SCC Spot Point
52		4	£88,230	£45.73	SCC Spot Point