



Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

Status of this statement

A pay policy statement is required to be produced annually under section 38 of the Localism Act. Regard is to be had to any guidance from the Secretary of State in producing this statement.

Any decision under powers delegated in the Council's Constitution with regard to remuneration to be taken during 2026/27 will be bound by and must comply with this Statement.

The Head of HR must be consulted prior to any decision impacting on remuneration where there is any question regarding compliance with the Statement.

Coverage

This statement sets out the Council's policy with regards to:

- the remuneration of Chief Officers
- the remuneration of the lowest paid employees
- the relationship between Chief Officers remuneration and that of other officers

"Remuneration" for the purposes of this statement includes three elements:

- basic salary
- pension
- all other allowances arising from employment

The Council regards the following as its "Chief Officers":

- Chief Executive
- Deputy Chief Executive
- Executive Directors

For the purpose of the pay policy statement the following posts will also be referred to as “Chief Officers”.

- Assistant Director Planning & Building Control
- Assistant Director Health & Housing
- Assistant Director Finance
- Assistant Director Economy & Growth
- Assistant Director People & Technology
- Assistant Director Contracts & Governance
- Assistant Director Property & Infrastructure

In this policy statement the term “Chief Officers” refers to the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Assistant Directors/Senior Managers in that where there are any differences in terms of the policy it is between this group and all other employees.

The Policy for 2026/27

Objectives of the policy

(a) to ensure a capable and high performing workforce

In respect of the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and all other employees the Council’s policy is to set remuneration sufficient to attract and retain adequately experienced, trained and qualified individuals to deliver the Council’s priorities.

(b) simplicity, clarity and fairness between employees and between the Council and the community

The Council aims to be transparent on pay to its staff, prospective staff and the wider community.

(c) To differentiate between remuneration and other employee related expenses

The Council will meet or reimburse authorised travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for attendance at approved business meetings and training events. The Council does not regard such costs as remuneration but as non pay operational costs. This policy is applied consistently to the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and other employees.

Remuneration subject to national and local determination

❖ Pay bargaining

The Council has its own Pay Progression scheme with awards being set locally and agreed by the Corporate Management Team in line with the budget agreed by Full Council, including consultation with the recognised Union.

The scheme is applied consistently to the Chief Officers and other employees.

The Council's Pay bands were last increased in April 2025.

❖ Car Allowances

The Council pays car allowances for use of private vehicles on council business in accordance with the National Joint Council agreement on pay and conditions of service. The current rates are:

| Essential User Rates | 451 - 999cc | 1000 - 1199cc | 1200 & Above |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Lump sum per annum (Monthly payment pro rata) | £846 £70.50 | £963 £80.25 | £1,239 £103.25 |
| Per mile - first 8,500 miles | 36.9p | 40.9p | 50.5p |
| Per mile - after 8,500 miles | 13.7p | 14.4p | 16.4p |
| Casual User Rates | | | |
| Per mile - first 8,500 miles | 46.9p | 52.2p | 65.0p |
| Per mile - after 8,500 miles | 13.7p | 14.4p | 16.4p |

Privately owned Electric Cars will attract the lower rates of reimbursement on both the casual and essential car user scheme, i.e. 36.9p/mile or 46.9p/mile respectively. Privately owned Hybrid vehicles will attract standard casual or essential mileage rates based on the CC of the engine.

The Council also provides a lease car scheme under salary sacrifice arrangements; eligible cars must be either fully Electric or Hybrid. The scheme is open to all staff/grades subject to certain eligibility criteria. Payable business mileage rates for cars provided under the lease scheme are paid in line with the prevailing HMRC Advisory Electric/Fuel rate (AER/AFR) in place at the time; these rates are reviewed by HMRC quarterly. At the time of preparation the payable rates were as follows:

| | Pence per mile |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Electric | 8.0p |
| | |
| Hybrid (Petrol) | |
| 1400cc or less | 12.0p |
| 1401cc - 2000 | 14.0p |
| Over 2000cc | 22.0p |
| | |
| Hybrid (Diesel) | |
| 1600cc or less | 12.0p |
| 1601 cc to 2000cc | 13.0p |
| Over 2000cc | 18.0p |

Benefits

The value of car allowances and private medical insurance are categorised as 'Benefits in Kind' and are subject to tax and National Insurance via the payroll or reported to HMRC via P11D. Excluding any protected elements as a result of a TUPE transfer, the estimated value of these benefits in kind for 2026/27 in respect of Chief Officers will be approximately £1,677 to £1,931 per person."

The Local Government Pension Scheme and policy with regard to the exercise of discretions

Pension provision is an important part of the remuneration package.

All employees may join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The scheme is a statutory scheme with contributions from employees and from employers. For more comprehensive details of the LGPS see:

<http://www.lgps2014.org/>

Neither the scheme nor the Council adopt different policies with regard to benefits for any category of employee: the same terms apply to the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and other staff.

The scheme provides for the exercise of discretion that allows for retirement benefits to be enhanced. The Council's published pension policy is to not enhance benefits for any of its employees. This policy statement reaffirms this in respect of Chief Officers and other employees.

The pension scheme provides for flexible retirement. It is the Council's policy to allow Flexible Retirement (where the business case permits) where no costs are payable by the employer. In applying the flexible retirement provision no distinction is made between Chief Officers and other employees.

Job Evaluation and Pay Bands

All employees including Chief Officers have their basic pay grade/band determined by a job evaluation scheme (a locally agreed scheme based on national principles) which ensures that different jobs having the same value are paid at the same rate / within the same pay band. The “job score” determines the pay band for the post within which there is provision for progression by way of annual consolidated performance related pay increases, until the top of the pay scale is reached.

Allowances on appointment

The Council’s policy is to not pay any form of “signing on” fee or incentive payment when recruiting.

Where it is necessary for a newly appointed employee to relocate to take up appointment the Council may make a contribution towards relocation expenses.

The same policy applies to Chief Officers and other employees in that payment will be made against a range of allowable costs for items necessarily incurred in selling and buying a property and moving into the area.

Details of the full scheme can be found in the Council’s Relocation Policy.

Termination payments

Redundancy

The Council has a single redundancy scheme which applies to all employees without differentiation.

The redundancy payment is based on the length of continuous local government service which is used to determine a multiplier which is then applied to actual pay; the Council uses the Statutory Redundancy pay calculation method, but bases weekly pay on contractual pay rather than the capped statutory method. The maximum number of years’ service taken into account is 20 and the resulting maximum potential payment is 30 weeks’ pay for anyone aged 61 or older. Details of the full scheme can be found in the Council’s Redundancy Policy.

Other termination

The Council does not provide further payment to employees leaving the Council’s employment other than in respect of accrued leave which by agreement is untaken at the date of leaving, or other contractual entitlement.

The Council does however recognise that situations may arise, and where the need for expediency is such, that it may be in the best interests of the authority to make individual payments relating to termination of employment.

In such cases these will be approved in accordance with the Council's constitution.

Professional fees and subscriptions.

The Council will meet the cost of employees' professional fees and/or subscriptions where these are relevant to the office or employment, and are included in HM Revenues & Customs 'List 3', in accordance with section 343 and 344 Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. This applies to both Chief Officers and other staff.

Returning Officer Fees

The Council's appointed (Deputy) Returning Officer receives a (Deputy) Returning Officer fee in respect of County, District and Parish Council Elections. The fee for undertaking this role in Norfolk is calculated in accordance with a formula approved annually by a panel made up of the chairmen of the Independent Remuneration Panels of each of the 8 Norfolk principal councils, and based on a recommendation by the County Electoral Officers' Group. Fees for conducting Parliamentary Elections are determined by way of a Statutory Instrument.

Setting Salaries

For the post of Chief Executive:

- the Council will set the starting salary by way of Full Council agreement, as per the Council's constitution. Where an independent recruitment partner is contracted to deal with the recruiting of a Chief Executive, advice will be taken as to an appropriate starting salary level.

For Chief Officer posts:

- the Council's 'Joint Appointments and Disciplinary Committee' will agree terms of employment as per the Council's constitution (Part 3, Section D - Delegations to Committees (Non-Executive functions)).

Pay ceilings

For 2026/27 the basic pay ceiling for current employees, including Chief Officer posts is the maximum of the respective pay band. The pay bands and pay ranges for 2026/27 are as follows (salary bands are subject to change pending the outcome of any pay agreement for 2026/27):

| | MIN | MAX |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Grade 1 | £124,827 | £147,524 |
| Grade 2 | £101,742 | £124,827 |
| Grade 3a | £82,970 | £101,742 |
| Grade 3b | £67,691 | £82,970 |
| Grade 4 | £57,636 | £67,691 |
| Grade 5 | £50,761 | £57,636 |
| Grade 6 | £43,882 | £50,761 |
| Grade 7 | £37,763 | £43,882 |
| Grade 8 | £31,645 | £37,763 |
| Grade 9 | £25,539 | £31,645 |
| Grade 10 | £24,310 | £25,539 |

- ❖ Staff employed under Apprenticeship schemes are subject to the appropriate Apprentice rate in operation at the time.
- ❖ Staff employed within the Cleaning function are subject to the appropriate Living Wage rate in operation at the time

Chief Officer Pay bands

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Chief Executive | Grade 1 | £124,827 to £147,524 |
| Deputy Chief Executive | Grade 2 | £101,742 to £124,827 |
| Executive Director | Grade 2 | £101,742 to £124,827 |
| Executive Director | Grade 2 | £101,742 to £124,827 |

| | | |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Assistant Director Planning & Building Control | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director Health & Housing | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director Finance | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director Economy & Growth | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director People & Technology | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director Contracts & Governance | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |
| Assistant Director Property & Infrastructure | Grade 3b | £67,691 to £82,970 |

Additionally senior officer remuneration for the previous financial year is published on the Council's website.

Pay floor

The pay floor is the remuneration of the lowest paid employees. For the purpose of this statement "Lowest paid" is defined as the average pay of the 2% (8 individuals) of the Council's employees, subject to the above pay scales, with the lowest full-time equivalent (FTE) annual salary.

As at 31 March 2026 this average was £24,310.

For staff within the above pay scales the Council will not pay basic pay less than the amount applicable to the bottom point of the Grade 10 pay band. Employees in this group will be entitled to all other benefits – fringe payments, car allowances, pension, relocation, redundancy as all other employees. For the purpose of this definition, staff on Apprenticeship schemes and protected TUPE pay terms may be excluded from this group.

Pay multiples

The council does not explicitly set the remuneration of any individual or group of posts by reference to a simple multiple of another post or group of posts. The use of multiples cannot capture the complexities of a dynamic and highly varied workforce in terms of job content and skills required.

In terms of overall remuneration packages the Council's principle is to differentiate by setting different levels of basic pay to reflect differences in responsibilities but not to differentiate on other allowances, benefits and payments it makes.

The relationship between remuneration of the highest paid officer in the Council, the Chief Executive, and the remuneration of the lowest paid employee (as defined in the 'Pay Floor' paragraph above), is within a 10:1 ratio.

Future appointments and interim arrangements

In the event of a vacancy – Chief Executive, Chief Officer or other employee – the arrangements set out above will apply in respect of permanent appointments.

If the need arises to provide agency or interim cover the principle is to seek to cap the cost of that appointment at no more than that of the permanent appointment taking into account additional employment costs – pension contributions, national insurance, paid leave etc. However, where necessary a higher “market rate” will be paid to secure a suitable individual and market rate will be established by reference to soft market testing, external advice and dialogue with peer authorities.

Publication and access to information

The publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of Chief Officers will be set out in this document and published on the Council’s website.

Gender Pay Gap

We are an employer, required by law to carry out Gender Pay Reporting under the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

Using the snapshot date of 31 March 2025 the Mean Gender Pay Gap was 16.2%.

Full details of these reporting requirements are published on the internet at: gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk.