

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF PAY POLICY STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE LOCALISM ACT

MEETING: Council

DATE: 15 February 2018

1. PURPOSE:

To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council approves the Pay Policy for the year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.
2. That Council approves to pay the nationally negotiated and agreed pay award of the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Chief Executive Officers. Chief Executive Officer terms and conditions of employment and pay are prescribed by the JNC for Local Authority Chief Executive Officers. The Pay Agreement reached in 2016 for Chief Executive Officers was for a 1% pay increase effective from 1 April 2016 and a 1% pay increase, effective 1 April 2017. There is no pay offer confirmed for April 2018.
3. That Council approves to pay the nationally negotiated and agreed pay award for those employees who come under the Joint National Council (JNC) for Chief Officers. Chief Officers' terms and conditions of employment and pay are prescribed by the JNC for Local Authority Chief Officers. The Pay Agreement reached in 2016 for Chief Officers was for a 1% pay increase effective from 1 April 2016 and a 1% increase effective from 1 April 2017. There is no pay offer confirmed for April 2018. The Council employs Chief Officers under JNC terms and conditions, which are incorporated into contracts of employment. The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group, and any award is determined on this basis. Chief Officers employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC determined pay rises and this Council will therefore pay these as and when determined in accordance with contractual requirements.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Monmouthshire County Council recognises the need to have a clear written policy on pay and reward for employees, and that having a policy provides a framework to ensure that employees are rewarded fairly, objectively and without discrimination.

The policy is underpinned by the Single Status Agreement signed as a collective agreement with the Trades Unions on 2nd December 2010 and other nationally agreed terms and conditions for employees of the Council.

Guidance from the Welsh Government has been issued which details the type of information that 'must' be included and suggested information that 'should' be included. This policy has been drafted to include both forms of information.

The policy will not directly impact on staff across the Council as it includes the existing and agreed (single status) arrangements for pay and reward of employees in a single policy. The Trades Unions have been consulted on the proposed policy and understand the need for such arrangements to be in place.

This is the seventh publication of the policy.

Should the Council at any time decide that it does not wish to implement the nationally negotiated JNC and NJC (National Joint Council) pay increases, the Pay Policy Statement would need to be amended again to reflect the decisions, which are taken by Council.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

There is a statutory requirement to produce and publish an annual pay policy statement.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

An evaluation assessment is provided at the end of this document.

6. REASONS:

The Council has a statutory requirement under s.38 of the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a pay policy statement on an annual basis. The statement needs to be in place by 31st March each year. The proposed Pay Policy will ensure compliance with this legislation.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Council's budget includes the cost of its employees while the pay details for Chief Officer posts is published on an annual basis as part of the Statement of Accounts.

Those officers employed under Chief Officer's terms and conditions of employment receive national pay awards, irrespective of any pay awards to the Chief Executive Officer. The pay awards for the CEO and Chief Officers saw a 1% increase with effect from 1 April 2016 and a 1% increase with effect from 1 April 2017. There is no pay award confirmed for April 2018.

The pay award for local government employees saw a 1% increase effective 1 April 2016 and a 1% increase with effect from 1 April 2017. There is no pay award confirmed for April 2018, although a 2% pay offer has been made by the National Employers.

Monmouthshire County Council introduced the Living Wage in April 2014 and has taken the decision to increase the Living Wage in April 2018 to the national level. If there is no agreement for the implementation of the pay award prior to 1st April 2018, the Council will need to ensure

that the increase to the National Living Wage increase is met by an adjustment to SCP 6 (£7.78) as this is a statutory requirement regardless of any outcome of the pay negotiations.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

9. CONSULTEES:

Chief Executive Officer
Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Monitoring Officer
UNISON
GMB

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR:

Sally Thomas - HR Manager

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Title of Report:	Pay Policy
Date decision was made:	15th February 2018
Report Author:	Sally Thomas

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

All employees of the County Council will be paid in accordance with the information set out in the annual Pay Policy Statement

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

All employees of the County Council will be paid in accordance with the information set out in the Pay Policy Statement

What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

Council budget accounts for pay awards to staff as part of budget monitoring and forecasting procedures.

Any other comments

Statutory requirement to produce and publish an annual Pay Policy Statement

