



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PAY POLICY 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a Pay Policy Statement is to increase accountability in relation to payments made to senior employees in the public sector by enabling public scrutiny. Monmouthshire County Council recognises that in the context of managing scarce public resources remuneration at all levels needs to be adequate to secure and retain high quality employees dedicated to the service of the public, but at the same time needs to avoid being unnecessarily generous or excessive.

The publication of a Pay Policy supports Monmouthshire County Council's values of openness and fairness. This policy aims to ensure that all employees are rewarded fairly and without discrimination for the work that they do. It will reflect fairness and equality of opportunity and encourage and enable employees to perform to the best of their ability, operating within a transparent pay and grading structure.

Monmouthshire County Council recognises that pay is not the only means of rewarding and supporting employees and it offers a wider range of benefits, e.g., flexible working, access to learning, and a wide range of family friendly policies and workplace benefits.

It is important that local authorities are able to determine their own pay structures in order to address local priorities and to compete in the local labour market.

In particular, it is recognised that senior management roles in local government are complex and diverse functions in a highly politicised environment where often national and local pressures conflict.

Monmouthshire County Council's ability to continue to attract and retain high calibre leaders capable of delivering this complex agenda, particularly during these times of financial challenge is crucial.

2. LEGISLATION

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the 'power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit'. This Pay Policy statement sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Localism Act requires local authorities to develop and make public their pay policy on all aspects of Chief Officers remuneration (including when they cease to hold office), and

that of the 'lowest paid' in the local authority. It also explains the relationship between the remuneration for Chief Officer and other groups of employees. The Act and supporting guidance provides details of matters that must be included in this statutory pay policy, but also emphasises that each local authority has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay.

The Pay Policy must be approved formally by Council by the end of March each year, but can be amended in year, and must be published on the Monmouthshire County Council's website and must be complied with when setting the terms and conditions for Chief Officers and employees.

In determining the pay and remuneration of all its employees, Monmouthshire County Council will comply with all relevant legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations (TUPE). With regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the Council ensures that all arrangements can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation techniques.

In its application, this policy seeks to ensure that there is no discrimination against employees either directly or indirectly on grounds prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 which covers age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation This policy is inclusive of partners of the opposite or same sex.

3. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

This Pay Policy includes-

- The level of remuneration for Chief Officers
- The remuneration of the lowest paid employees
- The relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other officers
- Other specific aspects of Chief Officers' remuneration, fees and charges, and other discretionary payments.

The Localism Act 2011 defines '**Chief Officers**' as being -

The Chief Executive Officer.

Statutory Chief Officers. In Monmouthshire County Council these are the-

- Chief Officer, Children and Young People
- Chief Officer, Social Care and Health
- Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (incorporating statutory Section 151 Officer role)
- Chief Officer, Law & Governance (incorporating statutory roles of Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy)

Non-statutory Chief Officers – These are non-statutory posts that report directly to the Head of Paid Service. In Monmouthshire County Council these are the-

- Chief Officer, Communities & Place
- Chief Officer, People, Performance & Partnerships
- Chief Officer, Customer, Culture & Wellbeing

Deputy Chief Officers – These are officers that report directly to statutory or non-statutory Chief Officers and are listed below.

In addition to the above statutory and non-statutory chief officers, posts on Chief Officers' terms and conditions in Monmouthshire County Council are -

- Head of Achievement & Attainment
- Head of Inclusion
- Head of Place-making, Regeneration, Highways & Flooding
- Head of Enterprise & Community Animation
- Head of Economy, Employment & Skills
- Head of Decarbonisation, Transport & Support Services
- Head of Finance
- Head of Information, Security & Technology
- Chief Information Security Officer
- Head of Public Protection
- Head of Planning
- Head of Adult Services
- Head of Children's Services
- Head of Neighbourhood Services
- Head of Business Transformation (post-holder currently seconded to CCR)

Strategic Leadership Team

In Monmouthshire County Council, our Strategic Leadership Team consists of:

Chief Executive

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources

Chief Officer, Children & Young People

Chief Officer, Communities & Place

Chief Officer, Social Care & Health

Chief Officer, Law & Governance

Chief Officer People, Performance & Partnerships

Chief Officer, Customer, Culture & Wellbeing

Gender make-up: 6 male; 2 female

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to define its 'lowest paid employee' within our pay policy statement. Within Monmouthshire County Council our lowest paid employees are those paid in accordance with the Real Living Wage.

The Localism Act 2011 defines remuneration as ‘salary, bonuses, charges, fees or allowances payable, any benefits in kind, increase or enhancement of pension entitlement. This definition is adopted for the term “pay” used in this policy.

4. PAY INFORMATION – PAY RANGES FOR NJC (NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL) ‘GREEN BOOK’ EMPLOYEES

All National Joint Council (NJC) ‘Green Book’ positions within Monmouthshire County Council have been subject to a job evaluation (JE) process using the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) scheme back dated to 1 April 2009 following the signing of a collective (SINGLE STATUS) agreement with UNISON and GMB on 2 December, 2010. Monmouthshire County Council has linked the scores from the job evaluation results directly to the NJC pay structure.

Monmouthshire County Council’s grading structure has 13 grades with 5 increments in ten of the grades, 3 increments in two of the grades and 4 increments in one of the grades. Grades span across SCP 2 - 51 with associated salaries from £22,366 (SCP 2) to £60,340 (SCP 51). More information about the GLPC and the grades can be found in the Council’s SINGLE STATUS Collective Agreement.

Appendix One: NJC (Green Book Local Government Employees LGE) pay scales effective 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Apprentices

As of 1 April 2021, the Council implemented an Apprenticeship pay structure which aligns with the Council’s minimum rates of pay and ensures an appropriate and consistent rate of pay across all apprentice roles regardless of the qualification framework.

5. PAY INFORMATION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Chief Executive is appointed by Council. The chief executive is selected on merit, against objective criteria following a public advertisement and works closely with Elected Members to deliver the aims of the local authority.

The local authority is responsible for a wide range of services, employing approximately 4,000 employees.

The remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer is a local grade established following an analysis of the degree of responsibility in the role and market rates at the time the post was last advertised (2009) and approved by Council. The salary for the Chief Executive is £128,008 (effective 1 April 2023). The individual basic salaries of all officers within the scope of the JNC for Chief Executives of Local Authorities increased by 3.5% with effect from 1 April 2023. The pay agreement covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

There are no additional bonus, performance, honoraria or ex gratia payments. The salary is subject to nationally agreed pay rises for JNC for local authority Chief Executive

Officers. In Monmouthshire County Council, the role of the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer is held by the Chief Executive. The fee for parliamentary, Welsh Government, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and all referenda are set by legislation. Local Authorities have the discretion to set the fee for local elections. In the Council, the fee for local elections is set in line with the fee agreed for the Welsh Government elections.

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP)

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 amended the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 by inserting Section 143A. This requires that any qualifying relevant authority that intends to change the remuneration of its Chief Executive must consult the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP), unless the change is in keeping with changes applied to other officers. Section 143A also enables the IRP to take a view on anything in the Pay Policy Statement of a local authority that relates to the remuneration of the Chief Executive.

6. PAY INFORMATION – CHIEF OFFICERS & HEADS OF SERVICE ON CHIEF OFFICER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Monmouthshire County Council employs Chief Officers under Joint National Council (JNC) for chief officers' terms and conditions, which are incorporated in their contracts. The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group, and any award of same 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. The individual basic salaries of all officers within the scope of JNC for Chief Officers of Local Authorities increased by 3.5% on each pay point with effect from 1 April 2023. The pay agreement covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. All current salaries within this range are as follows (effective 1 April 2023):

POST	RANGE	SALARY
Chief Executive	N/A	£128,008
Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer, Resources (& Section 151 Officer)	Band A+ Points 1-3	£98,394 £99,680 £100,965
Chief Officer, Children & Young People (CYP) Chief Officer, Communities & Place Chief Officer, Social Care & Health (SCH) Chief Officer Law & Governance (& Monitoring)	Band A: Points 1 – 4	£90,683 £91,967 £93,252 £94,538

Officer & Head of Democracy)		
Chief Officer, People, Performance & Partnerships Chief Officer, Customer, Culture & Wellbeing Head of Finance Head of Adult Services Head of Children’s Services Head of Achievement & Attainment Head of Service, Inclusion (temporary post) Head of Enterprise & Community Animation Head of Place-making, Regeneration, Highways & Flooding Head of Decarbonisation, Transport & Support Services Head of Neighbourhood Services	Band B: Points 1 – 4	£79,114 £80,399 £81,684 £82,970
Head of Public Protection Head of Information, Security & Technology	Band C: Points 1 – 4	£68,188 £70,759 £73,330 £75,901
Head of Planning Chief Information Security Officer Head of Economy, Employment & Skills	Band D: Points 1-3	£61,119 £63,690 £66,261

There are no other additional elements of remuneration in respect of overtime, flexi-time, bank holiday working, stand-by payments etc., paid to these senior employees, as they are expected to undertake duties outside their contractual hours and working patterns without additional payments. There is no performance related pay and no bonuses. As an equal opportunity employer all posts are advertised.

Posts at Chief Officer and Heads of Service level are employed on JNC Chief Officer terms and conditions. Chief Officers and Heads of Service whose grades offer incremental progression must achieve at least a ‘satisfactory’ judgement in their annual appraisal process to advance to the next incremental point within grade.

Monmouthshire County Council publishes pay details for Chief Officers on the website. The information can be found in the ‘Statement of Accounts.’

Monmouthshire County Council is the 'host' local authority for the employment of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Programme Director. This appointment is on a permanent basis on a salary of £124,696 per annum (effective 1 April 2023), on JNC chief officer terms and conditions of employment. This post is being hosted by Monmouthshire County Council on behalf of the City Deal Partnership and is wholly funded by the City Deal Partnership. Under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006, as amended in 2014, this post has been reported and approved by Council and has been the subject of a referral to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

7. PAY INFORMATION – EMPLOYEES ON 'GREEN BOOK' TERMS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO AS "OPERATIONAL MANAGERS"

Operational Managers are those who fall within the definition of Deputy Chief Officer but who are paid on JNC terms and conditions rather than Chief Officers' terms and conditions. Their salaries span from Grades I – M, with the lowest being SCP 31 (£39,186) and the highest being SCP 51 (£60,340). The individual basic salaries of all officers within the scope of JNC 'Green Book' terms and conditions increased by £1925 (for SCP 2-43) and 3.88% (for SCP 44-51), with effect from 1 April 2023. The pay agreement covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

8. PAY INFORMATION – EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN 'GREEN BOOK' AND CHIEF OFFICERS

Monmouthshire County Council also has employees on other national terms and conditions, i.e. JNC Soulbury and Teacher terms and conditions. Pay for these groups of employees is based on the relevant nationally agreed rates of pay.

National Pay Grades – Soulbury Committee. The Soulbury Committee has its own pay scales and includes the following groups of employees:

- Educational Inspectors and Advisers
- Educational Psychologists

In addition to the annual pay increase, the Soulbury Committee determines the national salary framework. The Council will pay future pay rises as and when determined in accordance with contractual requirements.

Teachers' Pay Policy – the Teachers pay Policy provides a framework for making decisions on Teachers' pay. It has been developed to comply with the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and has been the subject of consultation with teaching trade unions. A model Policy is provided to all schools each year with a recommendation from the Council that the Governing Body adopt it and publishes it on the school's website. The individual basic salaries of all teachers within the scope of the School Teachers Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) increased by 5% with effect from 1 September 2023. The pay agreement covers the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

9. INCREMENTAL PROGRESSION

For employees on JNC terms and conditions of employment, the 'Green Book', incremental progression is automatic. Increments are normally awarded on 1 April each year. Where Chief Officers and Heads of Service have incremental pay grades, progression is normally on 1 April each year.

10. RECRUITMENT - SALARY ON APPOINTMENT

Recruiting and retaining our most talented colleagues is important to us. The Council achieves fair selection through transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory policies and practices that enable the fair treatment of applicants as well as demonstrating a broader commitment to the principles of safeguarding and equality and diversity.

In line with our Recruitment & Selection (Safer Recruitment) Policy, jobs are advertised on the agreed grade/range for that particular job. Information regarding the minimum and maximum pay is provided in the advertisement. In practice, most appointments are made at the bottom of the grade range. However, there is discretion to appoint at a higher point on the range. This would normally only apply if there is a need to match a candidate's current level of pay.

11. PAY REVIEW – ALL EMPLOYEES

All pay is reviewed in line with the national pay awards negotiated for the cost of living increases when these occur.

12. MARKET SUPPLEMENTS

It is recognised that there will be exceptional occasions where the market rate for certain key jobs is higher than that provided for by the new pay and grading structure. In these circumstances, the grading of the post will be reviewed in accordance with the Market Forces Policy.

13. ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS – JNC 'GREEN BOOK' EMPLOYEES

Additional payments are made to this employee group as detailed in Monmouthshire County Council's Local Single Status Agreement. The types of additional payments made include-

- Weekend Working payments are made for Saturday (time and a quarter) and Sunday (time and a half).
- Bank Holiday – Paid at double time (JNC Bands A-F) or plain time plus a day off in lieu (Band G and above).
- Night Workers – Employees who work night shifts between the hours of 10.00 pm and 6.00 am are paid time and a third.
- Overtime can be paid for employees who are requested to work in excess of 37 hours and who are paid on JNC Bands A to F.

Examples of other payments that could be made are first aid allowance, and relocation payments. MCC does not reimburse the payment of professional registration or subscription fees, for any employee/group of employees.

14. ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS

- Travel - business mileage incurred by an employee is refunded at the HMRC rate, in line with our Travel & Reimbursement Policy.
- Relocation – Monmouthshire County Council may provide financial assistance to new recruits as part of the employment package under the terms of our Relocation Policy.
- Returning Officer Fees – the appointment of Electoral Registration Officer is required by S8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the appointment of Returning officer by S35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- In Monmouthshire County Council, the role of the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer is held by the Chief Executive Officer. The fee for parliamentary, European Union, Welsh Government, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and all referenda are set by legislation. Local Authorities have the discretion to set the fee for local elections. In the Council the fee for local elections is set in line with the fee agreed for the Welsh Government elections.

15. HONORARIA AND ACTING UP PAYMENTS

Monmouthshire County Council has a policy for an additional payment to be made where an employee acts up into a post at a higher level of pay or where they undertake additional duties on a temporary basis. The Honoraria Policy is applicable to all employees (except teaching employees).

16. MULTIPLIERS

The statutory guidance under the Localism Act recommends the use of pay multiples as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010). The Hutton report was asked by Government to explore the case for a fixed limit on dispersion of pay through a requirement that no public sector manager can earn more than 20 times the lowest paid person in the organisation. The report concluded that the relationship to median earnings was a more relevant measure and the Government's Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency recommends the publication of the ratio between highest paid salary and the median average salary of the whole of the Local Authority's workforce.

The multiples of pay for Monmouthshire County Council are as follows-

- Multiple between lowest paid FTE employee and CEO is 6:1 (same as previous year)

- Multiple between lowest paid FTE employee and average chief officer is 3:1 (4:1 previous year)
- Multiple between the median FTE employee and CEO is 4:1 (5:1 previous year)
- Multiple between the median FTE employee and the average chief officer is 2:1 (3:1 previous year)

17. PAYMENTS/CHARGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

All Monmouthshire County Council employees (except teachers) are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is offered by the Local Government Employers. If employees are eligible, they will automatically become a member of the scheme under the auto enrolment provisions (to join they must have a contract for at least 3 months duration and be under the age of 75).

Employees can decide to opt out of the scheme within one month of auto enrolment. The benefits and contributions payable under the pension fund are set out in the LGPS regulations. All employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme make individual contributions to the scheme in accordance with the following table:

Local Government Pension Scheme deduction percentages (01/04/2023)

Contribution table 2023/24			
Band	Actual pensionable pay for an employment	Contribution rate for that employment	
		Main section	50/50 section
1	Up to £16,500	5.50%	2.75%
2	£16, 501 to £25,900	5.80%	2.90%
3	£25,901 to £42,100	6.50%	3.25%
4	£42,101 to £53,300	6.80%	3.40%
5	£53,301 to £74,700	8.50%	4.25%
6	£74,701 to £105,900	9.90%	4.95%
7	£105,901 to £124,800	10.50%	5.25%
8	£124,801 to £187,200	11.40%	5.70%
9	£187,201 or more	12.50%	6.25%

18. DISCRETIONARY PAYMENTS

The policy for the award of any discretionary payments is the same for all employees regardless of their pay level. The following arrangement applies for redundancy payments under regulation 5 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

- Payment of an overall lump sum of 1.7 times the statutory redundancy payment multiplier based on actual weeks' pay up to a limit of Spinal Column Point 43. This is payable to employees (not those on teaching terms and conditions of employment) made redundant with 2 or more years local government service regardless of their age, subject to them being eligible to join the pension scheme. This is in accordance with our (corporate) Protection of Employment Policy.
- Monmouthshire County Council introduced the real Living Wage (RLW) in April 2014. Monmouthshire County Council isn't accredited for the Living Wage, and it is optional for it to apply any Living Wage pay increases when they arise.

19. DECISION MAKING

Making or confirming the appointment of the Chief Executive and other Chief Officers is a function of Council. Details of exit payments will be approved by the relevant Chief Officer (and Chief Executive for settlement agreements) in consultation with the Cabinet Member and must have robust business cases justifying departure & representing value for money. Any exit payment in excess of £95,000 will be reported to Full Council.

20. REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This Pay Policy outlines the current position in respect of pay and reward within the Council and it will be reviewed over the next year to ensure it meets the principles of fairness, equality, accountability, and value for money for the citizens of Monmouthshire. The Policy will be reviewed annually and reported to Council in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. In November 2021, Welsh Government published guidance 'Pay Accountability within Local Government'. When reviewing the Pay Policy for 2024/25, much of the guidance has been taken into consideration.

Any further necessary amendments, prior to the next annual review and following implementation of the new provisions referred to within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, as set out within the body of this policy can be undertaken under permitted powers pursuant to section 39 of the Localism Act 2011.