

SUBJECT:	INDEPENDENT REVIEW FOR SENIOR LEADERSHIP PAY
MEETING:	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE
DATE:	19TH NOVEMBER 2024
DIVISION/ WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS

PURPOSE:

To consider the independent review by Anne Philimore, FCIPD, HR Consultant and to make recommendations on the salary structures for Strategic Leadership Team as they are not comparable with other councils in the Gwent area/Borders.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Committee:

1. Approve the recommendation in the independent review that Strategic Leadership Team are paid in accordance with Option 2 and that the increase is spread over 2 years.
2. Recommend that a job evaluation scheme is put in place for all Chief Offgrades and that the pay structures are reviewed.

2. KEY ISSUES:

Monmouthshire is strategically placed as the gateway to southeast Wales which means that we work alongside our neighbouring Welsh authorities and those along the borders. Therefore, we are competing with Welsh and English Local Authorities to attract our people. They are our greatest asset and make us an employer of choice. But the challenges we face are great and at times like these we need high-calibre senior staff to drive the council's strategic goals forward. As set out in our Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028, many years of austerity have made the council a lean organisation, and increasing budgetary pressures require fundamental changes in how services are delivered. In order to take the council forward we need senior leaders who promote our values whilst being innovative.

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) last evaluated its salary bands for its Strategic Leadership Team in 2009. Since this time other Local Authorities have re-evaluated their pay scales to remain competitive and to attract talented senior leadership professionals. Whilst we punch above our weight, in terms of the calibre of strategic leaders we have been able to recruit and develop, the salary offered is starting to impact on the attractiveness of the package offered.

This was recognised by Cabinet and the previous Chief Officer for People and Governance was tasked with instructing Anne Phillimore, FCIPD, HR Consultant to review the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Officer Remuneration of MCC. This work was commissioned by Cabinet and sanctioned by the Leader who has asked Cllr Callard to be the principal Cabinet member lead.

Anne Phillimore is an experienced public sector HR Consultant. She has undertaken similar reviews in other Welsh Local Authorities. She has provided a comprehensive analysis and benchmarking of our remuneration levels against other local authorities. The scope of the independent review is concerned with the remuneration levels for strategic leadership roles including the Chief Executive. This includes 8 roles which are:

- Chief Executive
- Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Officer, Resources (& s.151 Officer)
- Chief Officer, Children and Young People
- Chief Officer, Social Care & Health
- Chief Officer, People, Performance & Partnerships
- Chief Officer, Law & Governance
- Chief Operating Officer, Customer, Culture & Wellbeing
- Chief Officer, Communities & Place

These roles are at paragraph 3 and the pay information is within paragraph 6 within the pay policy 2024.

The reason for instructing an independent review is that these posts are not included in any Job Evaluation Scheme. Cabinet is committed to ensuring that a job evaluation process is revisited for all grades to ensure a fair and equitable pay structure in MCC.

An initial draft of the review was presented to Cllr Callard, Cabinet Member, Resources and the Lead HR Business Partner in June 2024 and amendments were requested to reflect Lower, Median and Top Quartiles so that clear recommendations could be made. An updated review was sent to Cllr Callard and the Lead HR Business Partner in September 2024.

The Review sets out the terms of reference at section 2 and explains the salary benchmarking in section 6. The Recommendations are set out as follows:

- Paragraph 8.1 CEX pay -Tier 1
- Paragraph 8.2 Deputy/Assistant CEX/Strategic Director Tier 2
- Paragraph 8.3 Strategic Director/Director/Chief Officers Tier 3
- Paragraph 8.4 Chief Officers only Tier 4

It should be noted that the Terms of Reference for the review solely focussed on Chief Executive Officer and Chief Officer Remuneration. Two of the current Chief Officers within the Strategic Leadership Team (the Chief Officer, People, Performance & Partnerships, and the Chief Operating Officer, Customer, Culture & Wellbeing) are currently paid on the Tier 4 (Band B) scale. These Tier 4 chief officers are included in the review but the e Head of Service positions also paid within this tier, but they are not part of this review.

The review explains that at present we are not reflecting our market position. At present the roles are attracting the following salaries with the following increases over the next 4 financial years,

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Role	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing
Chief Executive	128,028	128,028	128,028	128,028
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (s.151 officer)	100,965	100,965	100,965	100,965
Chief Officer Children and Young People	94,538	94,538	94,538	94,538
Chief Officer Community and Place	94,538	94,538	94,538	94,538
Chief Officer Social Care and Health	94,538	94,538	94,538	94,538
Chief Officer Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy)	94,538	94,538	94,538	94,538
Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnership	81,684	82,970	82,970	82,970
Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Well Being	82,970	82,970	82,970	82,970
Total Cost	771,799	773,085	773,085	773,085

It sets out options to consider for each post. They are:

- Option 1 – Lower Quartile
- Option 2 – Median Range
- Option 3 – Mid Point
- Option 4 – Top Quartile

Under each option there is commentary, risks, benefits and recommendations. Option 1 is in effect no change. Option 2 to 4 sets out where in the range there could be an increase. However, Option 4 would provide a substantial increase that would align this tier with larger councils in Wales and England. Monmouthshire has approximately 4,000 members of staff with a population of 93,000 people. Whilst population size provides a useful benchmark, it needs to be taken in conjunction with a range of other variables such as social demography, complexity and geography. This is a generally prosperous county compared to surrounding areas as it occupies a strategic position as a border county between the major centres in South Wales and the south-west of England and the Midlands. It is an economic gateway to South Wales. This means that Option 4 is not a viable option because of our size.

We have set out Option 2 as recommended by Anne Philimore. Cabinet have stated that they would wish any changes to take effect from April 2025 and to be implanted over two financial years to limit the impact on its medium financial term plan (MFTP).

3. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The aim of this report is to provide an independent, transparent and informed approach to managing senior pay which doesn't disproportionately affect protected characteristics.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The recommendations for the senior officers are set out below.

Chief Executive Officer – Tier 1

Anne has recommended that pay is revised in line with Option 2 because it moves the CEX salary into the lower part of the median quartile, circa £138k-£148k. £138k would take the salary just into the median quartile and would still be at the lower end of Welsh Council tier 1 salaries but would align more closely with population relativities. This pay range would also have the benefit of substantially reducing the number of organisations paying tier 2 and tier 3 staff above this rate and should increase the number of candidates available for this role in the fullness of time. This scale of increase, although substantial, would both keep Monmouthshire in line with similar organisations and provide some headroom in respect of salary levels at tier 2 and 3.

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (s.151 officer) -Tier 2

Anne has recommended that pay is revised in line with Option 2 because it moves the tier 2 salary into the lower part of the median quartile circa £112k-£125k. This would take the salary just into the median quartile though would still be toward the lower end of Welsh Councils. This scale of increase – although not insubstantial, would both keep Monmouthshire in line with similar organisations and provide some headroom in respect of salary levels at tier 2 and 3. To ensure the acceptability of this increase, posts within the scale could be spot salaries which would control the pay bill; or there could be a scale of two or three points with a gateway beyond which progression would be linked to additional responsibilities – again this would provide some pay bill control.

Chief Officer Children and Young People, Chief Officer Community and Place, Chief Officer Social Care and Health, Chief Officer Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy) – Tier 3

Anne has recommended that pay is revised in line with Option 2 because the move the tier 3 salary into the lower part of the median quartile circa £103k -113k. This would take the salary into the median quartile and would then benchmark up to the mid-point of the salary scale. This level of increase – although substantial, would both keep Monmouthshire in line with similar organisations and provide some headroom in respect of salary levels at tier 4. To ensure the acceptability of this increase, posts within the scale could be spot salaries which would control the pay bill; or there could be a scale of two or three points with a gateway beyond which progression would be linked to additional responsibilities – again this would provide some pay bill control

Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnership and Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Well Being – Tier 4

Anne has recommended that pay is revised in line with Option 2 because it increases the tier 4 salary scale into the lower part of the median quartile circa £85k-£93k. This would take the salary into the median quartile which would then benchmark up to the mid-point. This scale of increase would both keep Monmouthshire in line with similar organisations and provide scope for a run through salary structure at this level and tier 5 and below. To ensure the acceptability of this increase, posts within the scale. To ensure the acceptability of this increase, posts within the scale could be spot salaries which would control the pay bill; or there could be a scale of two or three points with a gateway beyond which progression would be linked to additional responsibilities – again this would provide some pay bill control.

The result of accepting these recommendations would be an increase in pay from the 1st April 2025 as follows:

	2025/26	2025/26
Role	Existing	Revised
Chief Executive	128,028	131,352
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (s.151 officer)	100,965	104,643
Chief Officer Children and Young People	94,538	97,359
Chief Officer Community and Place	94,538	97,359
Chief Officer Social Care and Health	94,538	97,359
Chief Officer Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy)	94,538	97,359
Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnership	81,684	83,647
Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Well Being	82,970	83,647

After which they increase until the end of 2028/29 and then become a spot salary.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Role	Revised	Revised	Revised
Chief Executive	134,676	138,000	141,000
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (s.151 officer)	108,322	112,000	116,000
Chief Officer Children and Young People	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Community and Place	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Social Care and Health	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy)	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnership	84,323	85,000	88,000
Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Well Being	84,323	85,000	88,000

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The purpose of this report is to consider the Independent Review of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Officer Remuneration and to enable members to make recommendations.

6. REASONS:

It is important that we have the ongoing ability to attract and retain high caliber leaders capable of delivering a complex agenda of the coming years. This will ensure that there is strong and effective leadership to achieve the Council's strategic objectives. Our senior leadership play a pivotal role in shaping and implementing the Council's vision and strategies. They also cement our organisational values as they matter to us and set out our expectations for ourselves, each other, and the way we conduct business with organisations that we work with.

As stated in our pay policy 2024, 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.

Competitive pay structures contribute to a positive organisational culture by demonstrating the Council's commitment to valuing and rewarding its staff. This, in turn, fosters employee engagement, motivation, and loyalty, which are crucial for our success. We want to continue to be an employer of choice.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

If the recommendations from the independent review are agreed, then the resource implications are as follows. They are set out below to show what the current salaries are and then the revised salaries with the associated cost pressures.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Role	Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised
Chief Executive	131,352	134,676	138,000	141,000
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources (s.151 officer)	104,643	108,322	112,000	116,000
Chief Officer Children and Young People	97,359	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Community and Place	97,359	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Social Care and Health	97,359	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer and Head of Democracy)	97,359	100,179	103,000	106,000
Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnership	83,647	84,323	85,000	88,000
Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Well Being	83,647	84,323	85,000	88,000
Total Cost	792,723	812,362	832,000	857,000
Cost Increase	20,924	39,277	58,915	83,915
Employers Costs increase	7,742	14,532	21,799	31,049
Total budget increase required	28,666	53,809	80,714	114,964

8. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet colleagues continue to be consulted on the process and engagement with Trade Unions is ongoing.

Justine Cass, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Torfaen Council Borough Council and Jonathan Davies, Head of Finance & Acting Section 151 Officer, Monmouthshire County Council have been consulted and advised on this matter.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire's Summary of Recommendations

Slides for the Remuneration Committee

Independent Review including:

- Appendix A References
- Appendix B Reviewer Biography
- Appendix C Comparative Local Authority Salaries -South/Mid Wales examples.
- Appendix D Comparative Local Authority Salaries – English examples
- Appendix E(i) Tier 1 set out the Council benchmark data.
- Appendix E (ii) Tier 2 set out the Council benchmark data.
- Appendix E (iii) Tier 3 set out the Council benchmark data.
- Appendix E (iv) Tier 4 set out the Council benchmark data.
- Appendix F Local Authority Benchmarks by population
- Appendix G Pay levels for senior civil servants in Wales
- Appendix H Salary levels for NHS Wales CEO's and Directors

Terms of Reference

Governance for the Remuneration Committee

People Strategy -

Pay Policy 2024 - [Pay Policy 2024 \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk)

10. AUTHOR:

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