

Pay Policy Statement 2025-2026

1st February 2026





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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of a Pay Policy Statement is to provide accountability in relation to payments made to senior employees in the public sector, in particular those in local authorities, by enabling public scrutiny.

Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities in England and Wales to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year before 1st April each year.

The requirements of the Localism Act in respect of transparency about senior pay under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, build on the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 with which the County Council is also compliant.

2. SCOPE

The core requirements of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 are that a Pay Policy Statement must set out the Authority's policies relating to:

- Remuneration of its chief officers
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees
- Relationship between Chief Officer remuneration and that of other staff

The Pay policy Statement must also state:

- Definition used for "lowest paid employees" and the reason for adopting this definition.
- Pay multiple relationship between the highest earnings and the lowest earnings and between the median earnings figure for the whole authority workforce.

The relevant policies are summarised in section 4 with links to full policies on our website. The remaining requirements can all be found in Section 5.

The Act defines Chief Officer remuneration as the level and elements of remuneration for each Chief Officer (including salary, any bonuses/performance related pay, charges/fees/allowances, benefits in kind, enhancement to pension at termination).

Nottinghamshire County Council's Pay Policy Statement reflects the wide definition of "remuneration" within the relevant legislation. This includes not just pay but also pay awards, increments, additional contractual payments and allowances and enhancements but excludes pensions.

The Transparency Code and Accounts and Audit Regulations carry specific requirements to publish the top 3 tiers of the organisation and a range of senior salary details. These are published on the website annually by 1st April in line with the Pay Policy publication date.

This Pay Policy Statement includes all direct employees covered by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services national agreement on pay and conditions of service and those covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) conditions of service for Chief Executives and Chief Officers.

The requirements of the Act and the Code do not extend to schools, and the scope of the Council's Pay Policy Statement does not therefore extend to school-based employees.

The Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible following consideration by Full Council. This Statement will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary to reflect the prevailing legislation at the time; with Full Council approval as required.

The information and data in this Statement is current as of 1st February 2026.

3. ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Nottinghamshire is the 10th largest local authority in England, with an estimated population of around 824,822 (source: ONS 2021 census).

The Council remains amongst the largest employers in the county and is directly responsible for a budget of £1.2 billion and with a headcount of 6120 directly employed permanent and temporary staff, as of 1st February 2026 (excluding those in schools), a significant proportion of whom directly provide more than 400 statutory and discretionary services to the people of Nottinghamshire.

As a major employer in Nottinghamshire, the County Council's ambition is to contribute to building a more prosperous local community by modelling good employment practice, including ensuring fairness in the way that it pays and rewards its existing and future employees.

The Council also wishes to be an attractive source of potential employment to job seekers across its community and is committed to using its resources to create meaningful and fairly remunerated employment opportunities for local people.

The current labour market continues to be extremely challenging in some areas of the public sector, while others have made some recovery over the past

couple of years. With the continued rise in cost of living, pay continues to be a key factor for employees when deciding to take up employment with, or remain working for, the County Council. In some competitive markets this continues to affect our ability to recruit and retain staff who provide vital services as they move to other Councils that are paying higher salaries, move away from the public sector or take on roles with agencies as they are paying a highly inflated hourly rate.

Given the current context set out above, a resourcing and retention strategy and delivery plan has been in place for the past 2.5 years. The activity that has been rolled out has delivered improvements in our recruitment and retention year on year and goes some way to mitigate where we are not competitive for pay in the market. It has resulted in reduced turnover, improved hiring rates and a reduction in the number of agency staff we need to hire. Pay continues to be an aspect of the work that we are continually reviewing, given the impact that staffing levels have on all areas of our service delivery.

4. PAY ARRANGEMENTS

Conditions of Service

The Council's Chief Executive and three posts of Executive Director work within the national conditions of service covered by the JNC for Chief Officers.

All other employees, other than a small number covered by national terms and conditions for School Teachers Pay & Conditions, Soulbury, JNC for Youth Community Workers (whose pay is also determined through national bargaining), and staff who have transferred in to NCC from other organisations and are protected under TUPE Regulations work within the national conditions of service covered by the NJC for Local Government Employees.

Nottinghamshire County Council subscribes to the national pay bargaining framework through the National Joint Council (NJC) on which the local government employers are represented by the Local Government Association (LGA).

The Council fully implemented "Single Status" in 2008. This term was designed by the National Employers and Trade Unions to describe the equal treatment of all employees in respect of their pay, terms and conditions. Arising from this the Council has an established pay and grading structure which is based on a "points to pay" relationship determined through a Job Evaluation process.

Job Evaluation

The consistent evaluation of the relative value of job roles across the Council ensures a fair, open, and transparent pay and reward structure that is

affordable and compliant with Equal Pay legislation and Single Status requirements.

The County Council continues to use two job evaluation schemes to evaluate the work of its employees using trained in-house Job Analysts for all posts other than posts at Executive Director level and above which are subject to independent analysis by an external provider. All posts are evaluated and graded using either the National Joint Council (NJC) Job Evaluation Scheme or the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme according to the criteria set out in Grading Policy.

The work of the internal analysts has been validated by the external provider, Korn Ferry who have confirmed that the Hay scheme is being correctly applied.

Read more about the Council's implementation of the job evaluation schemes [Grading Policy](#).

Market Factor Supplements

In a limited number of specific circumstances, it is necessary to pay employees outside of the Grading Policy due to market factors linked to recruitment and retention issues. In these instances the Council's agreed [Market Factor Supplement Process](#) is followed.

Pay awards and increases

Nottinghamshire County Council adheres to national pay bargaining in respect of the national pay spine and any annual cost of living increase negotiated on the pay spine.

As part of the implementation of Job Evaluation, NCC's current pay grades have been attached to the nationally determined pay scale since 1st April 2008. Employees progress through the pay bands within their evaluated grade by incremental annual progression. [2025-26 Pay Scales](#)

The national pay award for the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and NJC employees has been agreed for the period 2025-2026. The pay award for the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and NJC employees was an increase of 3.20%. Spinal point 2 will be removed from 1st April 2026.

As part of its overall ambition to model good employment practice, Nottinghamshire County Council formally adopted the "Living Wage" rate determined by the Living Wage Foundation for the U.K (outside London) from 1st April 2014. The current nationally set Living Wage Foundation rate is £13.45 per hour. This applies to all of the Council's direct employees on spinal column points 2 to 5. The Living Wage rate is paid as an allowance on top of existing pay rates, as the minimum basic rate of pay paid on the Council's pay

spine, applied to all hours worked, including enhancements and overtime payments.

The Chancellor confirmed in her Autumn Statement on 26 November 2025 that the National Living Wage rate on 1 April 2026 will be £12.71, from its current £12.21.

In addition, as part of its commitment to fair pay and stimulating local economic growth from 1st April 2014, the Council ensures that all Apprentices are paid the evaluated rate for the job. For those in supernumerary placements within the authority, they are paid the current age related national Minimum Wage rate for their age.

The Council does not pay any bonuses.

Incremental Salary Progression

The Chief Executive and Executive Directors are on fixed salaries, which means that no incremental progression applies.

The LGA recommend that local authorities continue to pay contractual annual increments within their agreed pay bands. Nottinghamshire County Council has complied with this, and all other employees continue to receive contractual annual increments up to the maximum spinal column point of the evaluated salary band for their post.

Pensions

The directly employed staff who are the subject of this Pay Policy Statement, including Chief Officers, are covered by the Local Government Pension Scheme. Employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) pay contributions from their salary dependent on their actual earnings on a 9-band basis, that are periodically reviewed, as set out in the LGPS Regulations. Follow the link for further details about the Local Government Pension Scheme: [Local Government Pension Scheme | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Some employees are eligible to join the Teacher's Pension and some staff are on the NHS pension scheme which forms part of their transfer arrangements. Both schemes can be found on the relevant scheme websites.

Professional fees

The professional fees of qualified Solicitors and Legal Executives employed by the Council are paid annually by the Council to enable them to continue to practice. Payment of fees to cover the cost of registration with their professional body (Social Work England, formerly Health Care Professionals Council) for Social Workers and Occupational Therapists are a matter of personal

responsibility. No professional fees are paid for any other employee groups, including Chief Officers.

Acting-up Allowances and Honoraria

Nottinghamshire County Council's current policy on the payment of [Acting-up Allowances and Honoraria](#) sets out that payments are only made on an exceptional basis on the submission of a full business case, at the discretion of the appropriate Chief Officer.

No provisions are currently being paid for any Chief Officers.

Overtime and other additional payments

In line with the NJC national agreement on pay and conditions of service, employees on spinal column point 23 (£34,434) and below are entitled to additional payments when required to work:

- on Saturday or Sunday
- on public holidays
- at night
- sleeping in duty
- split shifts
- beyond the full-time equivalent hours for the week in question.

Members of the Corporate Leadership team are expected to be on call at all times as part of their duties and responsibilities and receive none of the additional payments available to other employees.

Car Leasing Scheme

The Council's scheme applies to all employees including Chief Officers as set out in the provisions of the scheme [Car Leasing Scheme](#).

Payment of expenses

Where claimed, expenses incurred by staff, including Chief Officers, in the course of carrying out their duties are paid in line with the Council's [Travel and Accommodation Policy](#). This is part of the nationally agreed terms and conditions of service supplemented by the Council's local conditions as laid down in its policies on [Travelling Allowances](#), and [Subsistence Allowances](#).

All expenses claimed by the Chief Executive and Executive Directors are published on the County Council's website, detailed under the link to their individual profiles [About our senior officers and pay policy statement | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

Pay Protection

The Council's current Pay Protection Policy as at 1st February 2026 is used in circumstances where the duties of a post change and following re-evaluation the grade for the post goes down and may also be applied in some circumstances where, to protect their ongoing employment, individuals are redeployed to a lower graded post. Read more about the Council's [Pay Protection Policy](#).

Any changes to the rates of pay included in this policy are subject to national negotiations and any changes will be reflected in next year's pay policy statement.

Redundancy compensation payments

Contractual notice and redundancy pay in relation to a redundancy is calculated in line with the Council's [Redundancy Compensation Payment Ready Reckoner](#) which forms part of the Council's policy on [Redundancy and Early Retirement](#), which currently applies to all employees of the Council, including Chief Officers.

This policy currently applies to all direct employees, including Chief Officers. It is also the subject of negotiations with the recognised trades unions. Any further changes agreed will be reflected in the future Pay Policy Statements.

Payment on retirement

Employees may also leave the employment of the Council under the following types of termination:

- [Efficiency of the Service](#) – As set out in the Council's policy on Redundancy and Early Retirement this provision would only be used in very exceptional circumstances.
- [Flexible Retirement](#) – As set out in the Council's policy on [Flexible Retirement](#) employees may apply for employer permission to access their pension from age 55 but remain working at the Council either on reduced pay or reduced hours.

Under the terms of the LGPS Regulations employees may also retire on the basis of age:

- [Age Retirement](#) – Under Pension Regulations employees, including Chief Officers, may automatically access their pension benefits, currently from age 55 on an actuarially reduced basis, when they leave employment. As permitted under the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, the

Council does not operate a default retirement age whereby employees are dismissed at age 65.

- Early Retirement – As set out in the Council’s policy on Redundancy and Early Retirement, under LGPS regulations, employees can request access to their pension from age 55 with the Council’s consent. An actuarial reduction applied to the employee will normally apply.

Re-engagement of former employees

Nottinghamshire County Council’s policy on the re-employment and re-engagement of former employees currently applies to all employees, including Chief Officers. Where the former employee has previously received a voluntary or compulsory redundancy payment, part or all of the compensatory element of the redundancy payment may be recovered and abatement of pension could apply. Read more about the Council’s [Re-employment or Re-engagement of Former Employees](#)

Remuneration for directorships or other positions on the Board of Arm’s Length Companies.

There is no additional remuneration given to any roles at Head of Service level or above for undertaking the duties described above.

5. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIGHEST AND LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEES

Highest and lowest paid employees

The Council’s highest paid employee is its Chief Executive, Adrian Smith, who, following the application of the national pay award for Chief Officers from April 2025 earns a fixed annual salary of £208,117.

For the purpose of this Pay Policy Statement, the definition of “Lowest Paid Employees” at Nottinghamshire County Council are employees on Grade 1 spinal column point 2. Including the Living Wage allowance the minimum pay rate is £13.45 an hour for all employees, bringing their FTE annual salary to £25,949. This applies to all employees on grade 2-5.

This currently benefits 500 of the Council’s lowest paid employees living in some of the most deprived parts of the County.

Relationship between the Pay of the Highest and Lowest Earner

When expressed as a multiplier of pay, the Chief Executive's salary as a ratio compared to the lowest paid employee is 8:1.

This ratio has seen a reduction over the last three years, falling from 9.03:1 in 2023.

Median Pay of Workforce

From 1st February 2026 the Council's Full Time Equivalent basic Median Pay, that is the mid-point on the range of pay points, was: £33,699 per annum (equating to spinal column point 22 on the Council's pay scale).

Pay Multiple

From 1st February 2026, the relationship between the Chief Executive's pay and that of the Council's median (mid-point), was a ratio of 6.2:1.

This ratio has seen a reduction over the last three years, falling from, 7.48:1 in 2023.

6. REMUNERATION OF CHIEF OFFICERS

The definition of a Chief Officer adopted by the Act is, as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, any post that reports directly to the statutory Chief Officer, the Chief Executive. In the case of this Authority this currently applies to three Executive Directors and three Service Directors.

Under current Constitutional arrangements, Chief Officer appointments are made by elected members on the Senior Staffing Committee. This Committee refers appointments in respect of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to Full Council as such appointments are subject to this ratification.

The comparative level of remuneration of each Executive Director is decided on the basis of their particular accountabilities and responsibilities (including any statutory responsibilities) and the size of the job, taking into account the range of services provided, the number of employees and the size of the population within their remit. This is supported by information from Korn Ferry on median pay rates for comparative roles of a similar size in a range of public sector organisations across the country.

Remuneration of Chief Officers on recruitment

The starting salary of the Council's Service Directors falls within the pay band for their job and is subject to annual incremental progression to the top point of the pay band.

The starting salary offered will not be more than the maximum of the pay band for the evaluated grade of the job unless another policy, such as Market Factor Supplements, is applicable.

On appointment, a Chief Executive or Executive Director will be appointed to the agreed fixed spot salary for their post.

Returning / Counting Officer's Fee

In Nottinghamshire, the County Council's Chief Executive is the Chief Officer nominated as Returning Officer in charge of the running of Local, European, Parliamentary Elections and National Referenda. The Council does not govern the fee payable for these elections as it is funded by central government and is therefore not related to Nottinghamshire County Council's terms and conditions. The Chief Executive receives no additional remuneration for Returning Officer duties.

Monitoring Officer's Fee

The Council's Service Director – Customers, Governance and Employees currently fulfils the statutory obligations of the Monitoring Officer to ensure Nottinghamshire County Council, its officers, and its elected Councillors maintain the highest standards in all they do. The Monitoring Officer's legal basis is found in Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; as amended by the Local Government Act 2000.

This duty was taken into consideration in the evaluation of the salary of this Service Director post under the Hay Job Evaluation scheme. The post holder also undertakes the Monitoring Officer role to the Police and Crime Panel but receives no additional remuneration for this work for which the Council receives payment. The Deputy Monitoring Officer is currently the Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services.

Section 151 Officer

In Nottinghamshire County Council this responsibility under the local Government Act 1972 is undertaken by the Service Director Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement.

This duty was taken into consideration in the evaluation of the salary of the Service Director Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement under the Hay Group

Job Evaluation scheme. No separate payment is made for undertaking this function.

Payments to Chief Officers on ceasing to hold office or be employed by Nottinghamshire County Council

To ensure accountability is maintained under Section 11 of the Council's current Constitution, under delegated powers from Full Council, the Senior Staffing Committee is responsible for the appointment and dismissal of and the taking of disciplinary action against senior employees that is the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Service Directors.

The Council's payment to Chief Officers leaving the Council is made under the same types of termination and same rules as for other employees as set out in Section 4 above and the relevant policies apply. Any such terminations are reported in the annual Statement of Accounts.

In compliance with the supplementary statutory guidance to the Localism Act (Section 40), any severance packages for senior officers of £100,000 or more will be subject to approval by Full Council. For the period February 2025 to January 2026 no such payments have been made.



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