

Dacorum Borough Council

Pay Policy Statement 2024/2025

1 Background

- 1.1 Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 ('The Act') requires local authorities in England to prepare, approve and publish a pay policy statement. The statement must detail the authority's own policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff ('chief officers') and its lowest paid employees. This statement has been produced in line with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014.
- 1.2 The pay policy statement must be prepared for each financial year. As soon as reasonably practicable after approving the statement it must be published in such manner as the Council thinks fit, which must include publication on the Council's website.
- 1.3 It remains the case that each local authority is an individual employer in its own right and has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. The Act only requires that authorities are more open about local pay policies and how their local pay decisions are made. It is not necessary to specify actual pay rates or terms and conditions. It also means that future decisions by a local authority relating to the pay and conditions of its chief officers must comply with the authority's approved pay policy statement.

2 Pay Policy Principles

- 2.1 The provisions of the Act confirm the government's commitment to increase openness about how taxpayers' money is used, bringing together the principles of increasing accountability, transparency and fairness in the setting of local pay.
- 2.2 The Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (final report published March 2011) confirmed the government's decision to promote pay fairness in the public sector by reducing the gap between the lowest and highest paid in public sector organisations.
- 2.3 The Act requires Councillors to take a greater role in determining pay, ensuring that decisions are made by those who are directly accountable to local people. In addition, they must ensure that policies on the pay and reward of the most senior staff are set clearly within the context of the pay of the wider workforce.

3 Scope of Dacorum Borough Council Pay Policy Statement

- 3.1 The Council's definition of a senior manager for the purposes of this policy statement is: Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), , Strategic Directors and Assistant Directors and Chief Finance Officer. The term 'Chief Officer' relates to the Chief Executive, Executive and Strategic Directors only.
- 3.2 Council staff are employed under terms and conditions contained in the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service. However, these are subject to a

number of local agreements including a local agreement on remuneration. The following roles form the Council's Strategic Leadership Team

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Director (Housing & Property Services)
- Strategic Director (Place)
- Strategic Director (People and Transformation)
- Strategic Director (Corporate and Commercial Services)
- Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Operations)

NB – please see paragraph 10.16 for information on the deputy chief executive arrangements.

4 Senior Officer Salary Ranges

- 4.1 During 2009 and 2010, the Council undertook a Strategic Re-alignment programme, in which all senior posts (Head of Service level and above) were evaluated using the Local Government Employers (LGE) senior management evaluation scheme. This is a nationally recognised methodology, benchmarked by the LGE against other local authorities, taking into account local factors.
- 4.2 Continuing from this, the Council has developed its own job evaluation scheme. Each grade is then matched to a prescribed salary range. Each salary range has 3 incremental points. Increments are awarded annually in April, linked to the achievement of satisfactory performance. There are specific Chief Officer pay bands for the Strategic Directors, Statutory Officers and for the Chief Executive.
- 4.3 The senior management job evaluation scheme can only be applied to posts below Head of Service level in very exceptional circumstances. This is subject to the recruiting manager being able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Strategic Leadership Team that the role is comparable to that of a Head of Service in terms of any specialist skills and/or leadership qualities that are required and the significant importance of the post to the Council.
- 4.4 As at January 2024, the ratio between the pay of the highest paid officer and the median salary of staff is 4.3:1.

5 Remuneration Package

- 5.1 As well as basic salary, all senior managers are entitled to specific terms of employment, as set out in the following paragraphs.

5.2 Annual Leave

- 5.3 The leave year begins on the 1st April each year and ends on the following 31st March. Annual leave entitlement varies, dependent on spinal column point (SCP), length of local government service and the number of days contracted to work each week (see Table 1 below). Chief Officer leave allowances refer to the Chief Executive and Strategic Directors.

Table 1: Annual leave entitlements

	Working 1 day per week			Working 2 days per week			Working 3 days per week			Working 4 days per week			Working 5 days per week			Working 6 days per week		
	Service in Years			Service in Years			Service in Years			Service in Years			Service in Years			Service in Years		
Spinal Column Point	<5	5 to < 10	10 & >10	<5	5 to <10	10 & >10	<5	5 to <10	10 & >10	<5	5 to <10	10 & >10	<5	5 to <10	10 & >10	<5	5 to <10	10 & >10
Up to 07	5	6	6	10	11.5	11.5	14.5	17	17	19.5	22.5	22.5	24	28	28	28.5	33.5	33.5
08 to 14	5	6	6	10	11.5	12	14.5	17	17.5	19.5	22.5	23.5	24	28.	29	28.5	33.5	34.5
15 to 21	5.5	6	6	10.5	11.5	12	16.0	17	18	21	22.5	24	26	28	30	31	33.5	36
22 to 33	5.5	6	6	11	11.5	12	16.5	17	18	22	22.5	24	27	28	30	32	33.5	36
34 & above	6	6	7	12	12	13	18.0	18	20	24	24	26.5	30	30	33	36	36	39.5
Chief Officers	6.5	6.5	7	13	13	14	19	19	21	26	26	28	35	35	38			

5.4 Cars

- 5.5 In April 2018 the lease car scheme was replaced by a car salary sacrifice scheme. This is open to all eligible employees.
- 5.6 On the 1st April 2018 the three essential car user allowances were discontinued and previous eligible staff roles received a consolidated increase in their pay equivalent to this amount (with adjustments for additional pension contributions).
- 5.7 All employees are also eligible for a Council Car Loan, with interest being charged at the HMRC official rates.
- 5.8 All car business mileage for senior officers can be claimed at a locally agreed rate, currently 21p per mile.

5.9 Sick Pay

- 5.10 As part of its responsibility towards its employees, the Council has arrangements for ensuring that employees who are unable to work for a limited period for reasons of illness do not suffer additional hardship through loss of earnings. These payments are restricted and at the end of the defined the period the entitlement to occupational sick pay ceases. The periods of entitlement to occupational sick pay are related to length of service and apply to all employees, as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Occupational sick pay periods

Length of continuous service	Amount of sick pay
During 1 st year of service	1 month's full pay & (after completing 4 months' service) 2 months' half pay
During 2 nd year of service	2 months' full pay & 2 months' half pay
During 3 rd year of service	4 months' full pay & 4months' half pay
During 4 th and 5 th years of service	5 months' full pay & 5 months' half pay
After 5 years' service	6 months' full pay & 6 months' half pay

6 Pensions (Local Government Pension Scheme)

- 6.1 All local government employees (including senior managers) are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Employee contributions are set nationally by the LGPS and are banded, according to salary level. Currently senior managers pay between 8.5% - 11.4% depending on their individual salary.
- 6.2 Employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme for the Dacorum Borough Council employers fund are currently set at 19.5%.

7 Additional Payments

- 7.1 Senior managers are not entitled to claim any additional payments, such as overtime, standby or payments for working at the weekend. Senior managers attend a wide variety of evening meetings and assist with emergency phone duties on top of their normal working week. Attendance at such meetings is not compensated for and is expected as part of any senior role.
- 7.2 There is a subsistence scheme for all staff, including senior managers. The aim of the scheme is to reimburse employees fairly for travelling and subsistence necessarily incurred whilst carrying out their duties on behalf of the Council and to keep costs to a minimum.
- 7.3 All staff are entitled to make a claim for job-related subsistence if working away from the area on business. Claims for meals can only be made if staff are prevented from taking the meal at home or the workplace and this has been agreed in advance with managers. Receipts must be produced for all claims.
- 7.4 Job related subsistence rates (maximum payable) are:

Breakfast	£10.00
Lunch	£12.00
Evening Meal	£18.00

8 Election Fees

- 8.1 Election fees are paid to senior officers in compensation for the additional duties required to management national and local elections and referendums.
- 8.2 The Returning Officer is designated as the Chief Executive in the Council's Constitution. The fees for all staff employed on election duties are, either specified by the Electoral Commission for national elections, or are decided locally by the Returning Officer for local elections. The fees for local elections are set out in a 'scale of expenses' agreed by the Council, after a comparison with other neighbouring authorities and whether the poll is being combined with another election.
- 8.3 The fee for the Returning Officer for national elections is determined by the number of the electorate in the area administered by that Returning Officer (as set out in s.29 of the Representation of the People's Act 1983 and updated by the Ministry of Justice prior to each election). These are enhanced by an amount set out in a 'scale of expenses' agreed by the Council if the poll is combined with another election.
- 8.4 Appendix 2 incorporates all election fees for 2024/2025

9 Recruitment of Senior Managers

- 9.1 Recruitment of senior managers is managed by the Council. Vacancies are advertised with the applicable salary range. The total package is set out in the recruitment pack. The recruitment of officers below Chief Officer level is undertaken by the Strategic Director for the relevant service area through a recruitment panel process involving other senior officers and, if appropriate, specialist recruitment advisors.
- 9.2 The appointment of posts at Chief Executive and Strategic Director level are made by an Appointments Panel. This panel normally consists of Council Members, Chief Officers and Human Resources officers and is convened specifically to undertake the appointment of Chief Officers.
- 9.3 The decision on which roles attract salaries over £100,000 per annum will be initially determined by the Chief Executive, as Head of the Paid Service, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Human Resources. The Council's Cabinet will review the proposed salary package and make a recommendation to Full Council. Recruitment to vacancies with salary packages above £100,000 per annum will be in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection Code of Practice, which requires that Cabinet Members will be included in the appointment panel.

10 Managing Pay

10.1 Starting salaries for Senior Managers

10.2 It is normal practice for all senior managers to be appointed at the bottom of the prescribed salary range. Exceptionally there may be instances where the Council may appoint above the bottom of the salary range where there is a clear rationale. Such cases will be considered and justified on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given to:

- Relativity of salaries of comparable roles
- Size and responsibilities of the post and duties to be undertaken.
- The wider recruitment market.

10.3 For employees below Chief Officer level, the decision on the salary of the post will be approved by the Strategic Director of the service (dependent on level of post) prior to an offer being made.

10.4 Pay Increases for Senior Managers

10.5 Pay increases that involve no changes to terms and conditions may take two forms:

- Pay scale increments awarded annually, subject to satisfactory performance
- Pay awards relating to cost of living increases.

10.6 Increments

10.7 The decision on whether to award an increment is made by the direct line manager of each employee following a performance review. The Leader of the Council makes the decision on pay relating to the Chief Executive.

10.8 The Individual performance of senior managers is assessed via the Council's Performance Development Review Appraisal Scheme. Each employee has an individual performance plan, setting out objectives for the coming year and expectations that are to be met with regard to the Council's values and behaviours. This is reviewed throughout the year and formally at the end of

each year. Staff are then awarded an overall rating assessing their achievement against their objectives and behaviours.

10.9 Any adjustments to pay are awarded based on an individual's overall performance assessment. Increments are not awarded where performance is deemed not to have been satisfactory during the relevant year.

10.10 Where a role significantly varies within the performance year, an assessment will be undertaken using the Council's job evaluation scheme, to assess if an alteration to pay or grade is necessary. Any changes in salary for Leadership roles need approval from the Chief Executive.

10.11 Cost of living increases

10.12 Annual cost of living increases for all Council staff, except Chief Officers, are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. The Council awards cost of living increases in line with NJC recommendations unless there are specific reasons not to do so. Annual cost of living increases for Chief Officers are determined by the Joint National Council for Chief Officers but are subject to the same considerations. These considerations may include:

- Affordability
- The conditions of the job market and the relative pay of employees, including Chief Officers, in comparison with other similar organisations
- Difficulties in recruitment and retention to specific posts.

10.13 The National Joint Council pay award for 2024/25 has not yet been agreed. (Pay scales for 2023/2024 are found in Appendix 3).

10.14 Deputising

10.15 **For Statutory Officers:** The Chief Executive has the authority to award an additional responsibility allowance (ARA) to staff who deputise for the statutory officer roles of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer where the deputy role has not been included in the job description and therefore incorporated within the job evaluation. The ARA will be calculated as a percentage of the remuneration of the relevant statutory officer and will reflect the amount of time the deputising staff undertake those additional statutory responsibilities. Typically, an ARA will be no more than £5,000 per annum.

10.16 **For Chief Executive:** The Chief Executive has the authority to award an additional responsibility allowance (ARA) to staff who deputise for the Chief Executive where the deputy role has not been included in the job description and therefore incorporated within the job evaluation. The ARA is allocated to each Strategic Director on a four month rolling rota basis. The ARA payment is based on £1,000 per month.

11 Payments on Termination of Employment for Senior Managers

11.1 Redundancy and Severance Payments

11.2 An employee whose contract of employment is terminated due to redundancy will be eligible for a redundancy payment. Payments are made based on the following:

- All continuous local government service up until 2 November 2017, for the purposes of redundancy pay, will be based on a multiplier of 2 x weekly pay for each completed year of service.

- All continuous local government service after 2 November 2017, for the purposes of redundancy pay, will be based on 1.7 x weekly pay for each completed year of service.
 - Employees aged over 55 who are made redundant will be able to draw their pension to the date of their retirement. Employees aged under 55 will receive a redundancy payment and have their pension benefits deferred until they reach retirement age.
- 11.3 An employee whose contract of employment is terminated for any reason and there is justification for a severance payment, will be subject to approval by:
- Payments of £100,000 and above must be approved by a vote of full council, as set out in the Localism Act 2011.
 - Payments of £20,000 and above, but below £100,000, must be personally approved and signed off by the Head of Paid Service, with a clear record of the Leader's approval and that of any others who have signed off the payment.
 - Payments below £20,000 must be approved according to the local authority's scheme of delegation. In this case, it is a member of the Council's Strategic Leadership Team. Where the proposed payment is to the Head of Paid Service, to avoid a conflict of interest it is expected that the payment should be approved by a panel including at least two Councillors from the Council's Cabinet.
- 11.4 An employee who is made redundant, or paid a severance payment, must have a break of at least one month and one day to break their continuous service with the Authority before they can be re-employed by the Council in a different position.

12. Local Government Pension Scheme

- 12.1 Employees are eligible to be members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The core pension benefits of these schemes are determined by statutory regulations.

13 Lowest paid employees

- 13.1 In line with the NJC pay award for 2023/24 the lowest SCP paid is £22,366 per annum for a full time employee, plus £988 per annum London Fringe Weighting. The pay award is still pending for 2024/25.

14 Gender Pay Gap

- 14.1 As from 1 April 2018, all employers with 250 or more employees are required by Law to publish their gender pay gap each year on their own and the Government's website. As at December 2023, the Council's gender pay gap is as follows:

	Total Number of Staff	Mean Hourly Rate	Median Hourly Rate
Female	350	£ 18.51	£ 17.31
Male	375	£ 17.81	£ 16.07
Grand Total	725	n/a	n/a
Pay gap %		-4%	-8%

14.2 The gender pay gap last year was -2% (mean) and 0% (median).

15 Pay Transparency

15.1 Organisation chart

In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Council must publish an organisation chart covering the top three management tiers of the organisation and showing the following items of information for each member of staff included in the chart:

- Grade
- Job title
- Department and team
- Permanent or temporary
- Work contact details
- Salary in £5,000 brackets (see the senior salaries requirements below)
- Maximum salary for the grade.

15.2 Senior Salaries

In addition to the organisation chart, under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the Local Transparency Code 2014, the Council is required to publish:

- the number of employees whose remuneration in that year was at least £50,000, and
- details of remuneration and job title of certain senior employees whose salary is at least £50,000 together with a list of responsibilities (for example, the services and functions they are responsible for, budget held and number of staff they are responsible for) and details of any bonuses and 'benefits in kind'.

15.3 The information referred to in paragraph 14.1 and 14.2 is not required to be contained in the Pay Policy Statement but must be placed on the Council's website. This information is located on Dacorum Borough Council's website, under the open data section.

Appendix 2

Scale of fees and expenses at Elections of Borough and Town/Parish Councillors

PART 1 - EXPENDITURE

- 1 The costs actually and necessarily incurred in respect of the following,
 - (a) For the provision of any accommodation for the purpose of the election, including heating, lighting and cleaning and compensation for damage to any such accommodation.
 - (b) For adapting and fitting up any accommodation for the purpose of the election and restoring to for its normal use, including the provision of voting compartments and any necessary furniture.
 - (c) For providing ballot boxes, including repairs.
 - (d) For the conveyance of ballot boxes and ballot papers
 - (f) For copies of the Register of Electors.
 - (g) For printing and providing ballot papers.
 - (h) For printing and providing postal vote packs
 - (i) For printing and providing official poll cards.
 - (j) For printing and providing notices, training materials and other documents required in or about the election or poll and for publishing the same.
 - (k) For general stationery, postage, telephone calls and miscellaneous matters.
 - (l) For promoting election, delivering communication strategy and encouraging voter registration

- 2

For each Presiding Officer at a polling station, to include all expenses, authorised by this scale.	£333.03
Additional sum to be paid to the Presiding Officer at each polling station where the elections are for a combined election.	25.00

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For one Poll Clerk (or additional one where the number of electors exceeds 1,000) at a polling station,	£223.84
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4	For attending Polling Station staff Training (applicable to PO and PC roles)	£25
5	For the delivery of every 100 poll cards (Where Royal Mail or another carrier is not used)	N/A Royal Mail
6	For persons employed in connection with the receipt and counting of postal ballot papers, at each election)	£14.27 Per Hour
7	For the remuneration of persons employed in connection with the verification/counting of votes (including any recounts) at Borough and Town/Parish elections:	£12.86 per hour Day Rate £19.29 per hour Night Rate

Per hour Day Rate

Per Hour Night Rate

Verification/Count Assistant	£12.86	£19.29
Verification/Count Team Leader	£14.34	£21.51
Verification/Count Supervisor	£18.95	£28.43
Porter	£13.42	£20.13
Press Officer	£15.68	£23.52
	<u>Flat Fee</u>	
Polling Station Inspector	£367.36	

PART 2 - RETURNING OFFICERS FEES

For services and other expenses

Fee for the duly appointed Returning Officer in performing their duties under any enactment's relating to local government elections including all expenses other than those for which specific provision is made elsewhere in this scale:

	<u>Borough Election</u>	<u>Town/Parish Election</u>
7	For every 1,000 electors in the electoral area/ward in which contested election is held.	£50
	For every 1,000 electors in each	£40.00
		£20.00
		£14.00

uncontested
election

PART 3 DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICERS FEES - for services and other expenses

Fee for duly appointed Deputy Returning Officer in performing such duties as may be required by the Returning Officer under any enactment's relating to local government elections including all expenses other than those for which specific provision is made elsewhere in this scale:

		<u>Borough Election</u>	<u>Town/Parish Election</u>
8.	For each electoral area/ward in which contested election is held.	£105.00	£75.00
	For each uncontested election	£45.00	£35.00

NOTES

1. The fees and expenses set out in the Schedule came into effect from the 2nd May 2024 and are set by The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
2. The fees shown are the gross amounts and are with certain exceptions subject to the standard rate of tax.
3. These fees are for the 'local' element of any election and may be adjusted in the case of National or Regional (or combined) Polls in line with the guidance issued by the organising body.

Appendix 3 – Pay Scales 2023/2024

Band	SCP	Salary (Excluding London Fringe Weighting)	SCP	Monthly Salary (Including London Fringe Weighting)	SCP	Hourly Rate (Excluding London Fringe Weighting)
		£		£		£
Band 2	06	22,366	06	1,946.17	06	11.59
Band 3	07	22,737	07	1,977.08	07	11.79
Band 4	08	23,114	08	2,008.50	08	11.98
	09	23,500	09	2,040.67	09	12.18
Band 5	10	23,893	10	2,073.42	10	12.38
	11	24,294	11	2,106.83	11	12.59
Band 6	12	24,925	12	2,159.42	12	12.92
	13	25,664	13	2,221.00	13	13.30
	14	26,422	14	2,284.17	14	13.70
Band 7	15	26,998	15	2,332.17	15	13.99
	16	27,665	16	2,387.75	16	14.34
	17	28,154	17	2,428.50	17	14.59
Band 8	18	28,770	18	2,479.83	18	14.91
	19	29,777	19	2,563.75	19	15.43
	20	30,296	20	2,607.00	20	15.70
Band 9	21	31,364	21	2,696.00	21	16.26
	22	33,612	22	2,883.33	22	17.42
	23	34,609	23	2,966.42	23	17.94
Band 10	24	35,574	24	3,046.83	24	18.44
	25	36,509	25	3,124.75	25	18.92
	26	37,471	26	3,204.92	26	19.42
Band 11	27	40,613	27	3,466.75	27	21.05
	28	42,314	28	3,608.50	28	21.93
	29	43,269	29	3,688.08	29	22.43
Band 12	30	44,317	30	3,775.42	30	22.97
	31	45,439	31	3,868.92	31	23.55
	32	46,721	32	3,975.75	32	24.22
Band 13	33	47,797	33	4,065.42	33	24.77
	34	49,659	34	4,220.58	34	25.74
	35	50,777	35	4,313.75	35	26.32
Band 14	36	51,892	36	4,406.67	36	26.90
	37	53,058	37	4,503.83	37	27.50
	38	54,166	38	4,596.17	38	28.08
Band 15	39	56,455	39	4,786.92	39	29.26
	40	57,621	40	4,884.08	40	29.87
	41	59,713	41	5,058.42	41	30.95
Band 16	42	60,871	42	5,154.92	42	31.55
	43	62,033	43	5,251.75	43	32.15
	44	63,192	44	5,348.33	44	32.75
Band 17	45	64,374	45	5,446.83	45	33.37
	46	65,528	46	5,543.00	46	33.96
	47	66,691	47	5,639.92	47	34.57

Band	SCP	Salary (Excluding London Fringe Weighting)	SCP	Monthly Salary (Including London Fringe Weighting)	SCP	Hourly Rate (Excluding London Fringe Weighting)
Band 18	48	67,856	48	5,737.00	48	35.17
	49	69,024	49	5,834.33	49	35.78
	50	70,238	50	5,935.50	50	36.41
Band 19	51	71,451	51	6,036.58	51	37.03
	52	72,656	52	6,137.00	52	37.66
	53	73,862	53	6,237.50	53	38.28
Band 20	54	75,072	54	6,338.33	54	38.91
	55	76,288	55	6,439.67	55	39.54
	56	77,499	56	6,540.58	56	40.17
Band 21	57	78,942	57	6,660.83	57	40.92
	58	80,415	58	6,783.58	58	41.68
	59	81,915	59	6,908.58	59	42.46
Band 22	60	83,445	60	7,036.08	60	43.25
	61	85,008	61	7,166.33	61	44.06
	62	86,601	62	7,299.08	62	44.89
Band 23	63	88,228	63	7,434.67	63	45.73
	64	89,885	64	7,572.75	64	46.59
	65	91,575	65	7,713.58	65	47.47
Band 24	66	96,507	64	8,124.58	64	50.02
	67	97,803	64	8,232.58	64	50.69

London Fringe Weighting - £988 per annum