

# Surrey County Council

## Pay Policy Statement 2021-2022

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## 1. Introduction

This Pay Policy Statement was approved by a meeting of the full County Council on 25 May 2021 and is effective from 1 April 2021. It is published to comply with the requirements of Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011 and related guidance under Section 40 provided by the Secretary of State.

This Statement includes information relating to the terms and conditions that are determined locally by the council and are referred to as 'Surrey Pay'. The Council's reward strategy is based on the local negotiation of Surrey Pay terms and conditions of service. Pay, including terms and conditions, are reviewed annually with any changes agreed by the People, Performance and Development Committee, (PPDC). The Council recognises two Trade Unions, the GMB and UNISON, for the purposes of negotiating Surrey Pay and collective bargaining.

In addition, there are a number of National Agreements produced through collective bargaining arrangements for different groups of local government staff. The main negotiating bodies relevant to the council's workforce and their scope are listed below. Surrey County Council operates these national conditions as amended by local agreements. A separate Pay Policy Statement is published for centrally employed teachers.

Terms and conditions determined on a national basis by independent organisations or arrangements include:

- Fire fighters; whose pay and conditions are determined by the National Joint Committee for Local Authorities Fire and Rescue Service.
- Teachers; whose terms and conditions are determined by the Department for Education and governing bodies.
- Educational psychologists; whose terms and conditions are determined by the Soulbury Committee.
- Youth and community workers whose terms and conditions are determined by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC).

This Statement does not include details of the terms and conditions of council employees that have retained terms and conditions following a transfer under Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment Regulations.

This Pay Policy Statement will be updated as soon as possible following any pay changes and at least annually.

## 2. Further Details

Specific details may be accessed via the links indicated below. Full details of 2021/2022 pay bands can be found in Annex 1, attached.

The council publishes details of staff earnings in accordance with legal requirements on transparency. Further information is contained in the [Annual Report and Accounts](#) in accordance with the Audit of Accounts legislation, as well as within the Transparency section of Surrey-I (see section 5 of this Statement).

### 3. Governance

[The People, Performance and Development Committee](#) (PPDC) acts as the County Council's Remuneration Committee under delegated powers in accordance with the Constitution of the County Council. Pay, terms and conditions for all employees except Centrally Employed Teachers and those employed on Soulbury and national Committees are determined by the PPDC including the remuneration of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers.

### 4. Definitions

For the purpose of this Pay Policy Statement the following definitions will apply:

**i. Lowest paid employees**

Surrey County Council defines its lowest paid employees as those who are paid on the lowest Surrey Pay grade, PS 1/2. As at 1 April 2021 this equates to £17,833 per annum for full time staff.

**ii. Full time**

A full-time post is based on a 36 hour working week for staff on main Surrey Pay and 37 hours per week for staff employed in South East Shared Services who are aligned more closely to national NJC terms and conditions.

**iii. Chief Officers**

The majority of statutory and non-statutory Chief Officers of the County Council report directly to the Chief Executive as the Head of the Authority's paid service. In addition, for the purposes of this Pay Policy Statement, this group also includes the majority of posts who report to a Chief Officer, (Deputy Chief Officers).

**iv. Surrey Pay salary ratios**

The publication of the pay multiple as a determinant of the relationship between the pay of Chief Officers and that of the rest of the workforce was recommended by the Hutton report on Fair pay. This is a calculation in the form of a ratio between the median earnings across the organisation and the highest paid employee. [The pay multiple](#) is published separately on the County Council website and monitored annually.

### 5. Salary Transparency

Surrey County Council is committed to openness and transparency in order to demonstrate to its residents and local taxpayers that it delivers value for money. As part of the national and local government transparency agenda it publishes information on its website detailing Surrey Pay ranges, expenditure over £500 and contracts with a value of £50,000 or more.

To continue this commitment, and in line with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Council has published details of salaries paid to senior staff on its website since 31 March 2016. This information is updated on an annual basis and covers senior positions with annual salaries of £50,000 and above.

In addition, the 'pay multiple' will be calculated each year and will be published on the County Council's website. Historical information will be retained in order to monitor the pay multiple over time.

## **6. Equal Pay**

The Council is committed to ensuring that its employment policies and practices comply with the requirements of the Equal Pay Act 1970. This includes the application of a robust job evaluation process to ensure that all staff receive equal pay for work of equal value.

### **i. Grading Structure**

The allocation of Surrey Pay grades to jobs is determined by (HAY) job evaluation or in accordance with a job family underpinned by (HAY) job evaluation. The Surrey Pay grading structure covers all jobs from the lowest grade to Chief Officers, including the Chief Executive, on the highest grades.

### **ii Remuneration on Appointment**

Newly appointed or promoted staff are normally appointed to the minimum salary on a grade unless there is clear business reason to appoint at a higher salary within the grade range.

Where it is necessary for a newly appointed employee to relocate in order to take up a post, the Council may make a contribution towards the reimbursement of relocation expenses in line with the Relocation Policy.

### **ii. Supplements**

Managers may make a business case for an additional supplement to be paid above the maximum for the particular grade under specific circumstances or if it proves exceptionally difficult to recruit at the rate advertised. Such supplements must be supported by a business case, approved by the Director of HR & Organisational Development in conjunction with the Chair of the PPD Committee in the case of Chief Officers, or by the Director of HR & Organisational Development under delegated powers for all other staff.

## **7. Remuneration for Chief Officers**

Chief Officers are appointed within the leadership pay model at a spot salary within the appropriate pay band range.

Annual salary reviews for Chief Officers will take into account any generally agreed adjustments to senior management pay rates (if any) as determined by PPDC and the JNC pay award for Chief Officers pay for local authorities. Details of the remuneration paid to all members of the Council's Leadership Team are available in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts.

## **8. Remuneration for employees who are not Chief Officers**

Apart from the differences in pay scales and pay models, there are minimal differences in entitlement to remuneration between Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers, and the rest of the workforce as the county council is working towards harmonisation of terms and conditions of service between staff groups.

### **i. Surrey Pay staff**

Surrey Pay comprises pay bands PS1/2 to PS14 and pay bands for senior managers PS15 to Chief Executive.

Surrey Pay roles are aligned to a defined pay model as follows:

- Spot Salary Pay model
- Job Family Pay Model
- Career Pay Model
- Leadership Pay Model

Surrey Pay is reviewed annually to come into effect from 1 April each year and staff will progress through the fixed pay points for their grade until the maximum of the grade is reached.

Any increases to the pay points for Surrey Pay grades PS1/2 to PS14 as part of the annual pay review will take into account the NJC pay award for local government employees.

Annual individual pay progression will be subject to:

- Staff being in post at their current grade level on 1 October (or the first working day of the week) in the previous year. Staff appointed between October and March will receive their first increment after six months in role and will then fall in line with the April annual review.
- Performance in the role, and
- Scope being available within the individual pay grade until the top of the grade is reached.

Employees subject to career grade schemes will progress in line with the arrangements for that position.

## ii. **Apprentices**

Apprenticeship pay is closely aligned to the main Surrey Pay rates as follows:

- The salary for level 2/3 apprenticeships is 85% of grade PS1/2 in year one, rising to the full rate of pay in year two.
- The salary for level 4/5 apprenticeships is at Surrey Pay grade PS3.
- Apprenticeships at level 6 and above will be paid the rate for the role as evaluated.

## iii. **Commercial Services Education Catering**

PPDC has approved entry salary levels for Commercial Services staff above the grade minimum.

## iv. **Regional Surrey Pay bands**

In February 2013 (as a result of the creation of the then South East Shared Services), PPDC agreed that a Regional Surrey Pay band should be established for Surrey County Council staff based in East Sussex. The pay arrangements reflect the local wage market.

**v. Former Buckinghamshire County Council Trading Standards staff**

On 1 April 2015, staff from Buckinghamshire County Council's Trading Standards Service were transferred into the employment of Surrey County Council under the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations.

There is no adjustment made to the pay bands for 2021/2022. A two percent performance-related pay progression will be applied to staff employed on Buckinghamshire County Council terms and conditions with effect from 1 July 2021, subject to successful performance and available headroom with the pay range.

In addition, in accordance with their terms and conditions:

- For an "exceeding" performance rating a contribution-based pay increase applies, based on 35% of the difference between the top two pay points: and
- For an "outstanding" performance rating a contribution-based pay increase applies, based on 70% of the difference between the top two pay points.

**vi. Tutors - Surrey Arts and Community Learning & Skills**

Tutors within Surrey Arts and Community Learning & Skills are paid a spot salary. There is no pay progression within this pay model. Salary increases are aligned to the annual review of Surrey Pay and pay changes are implemented from 1 September each year.

**vii. Political Assistants**

SCC employs Political Assistants on Surrey Pay contracts to support political groups. These Assistants work directly for the political groups rather than as mainstream officers within the officer structure of the Council. These are unique posts and have a set maximum salary determined by The Local Government (Assistants for Political Groups) (Remuneration) (England) Order 2006. This is currently set at £34,986 per annum.

**viii. Staff Employed on National Conditions**

Annual pay awards for centrally employed teachers and those on Soulbury or JNC Committee conditions will be in accordance with those agreed by the respective national bodies.

• **Centrally Employed Teachers'**

Details of the national pay scales for Centrally Employed Teachers are available on the [Department for Education's website](#).

A locally agreed pay policy is in place from 1 September 2020, which sets out the pay progression arrangements for centrally employed teachers.

• **Soulbury and JNC Employees**

Employees covered by the Soulbury and JNC Agreements are eligible to receive annual increments on the 1 September each year until they reach the maximum for the grade of their position.

## 9. Other elements of remuneration

A copy of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document is available on the [Department for Education's website](#). Copies of the conditions of service for all other employees covered by this statement can be obtained from [the Local Government Employers](#).

The following details apply to Surrey Pay employees and in the absence of any national agreement have been adopted by other employee groups:

### i. **Employee Benefits**

The Council does not provide any grade related benefits in kind, such as annual leave, private medical insurance, or lease cars. Chief Officers receive the same allowances as other members of staff and have access to the same voluntary benefits scheme.

### ii. **Additional Payments**

In order to ensure sufficient flexibility to reward staff who are undertaking additional responsibilities the Council's reward policy provides for acting-up payments or a one-off honorarium payment to be made in specific circumstances.

From 1 April 2021, the definition of honoraria payments has been expanded to include the ability to apply a financial recognition payment of up to £1,000 per person per annum in order to reward:

- excellent, exceptional achievement over a sustained period, or throughout the year in which performance is being assessed
- excellent exceptional achievement for a particular task or project
- innovation that significantly enhances productivity or that notably contributes to organisational effectiveness

The decision to award a recognition payment to a Chief Officer is taken by the Chief Executive and in the case of the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council.

For employees required to be on-call, the Council operates a corporate on-call scheme up to Surrey Pay grade PS13. Payments are either processed monthly or on an ad-hoc basis depending on the requirement to be on-call. Additional hours and overtime are paid at plain time, and an allowance is paid per shift to employees who are required to "sleep in" on the premises as part of their duties. Details of these provisions are set out in the Councils Reward Policy.

### iii. **Travel and Expenses**

Where authorised to do so, employees are entitled to be reimbursed for additional mileage they incur whilst discharging their official duties. The rate of reimbursement will depend on the mileage incurred. Employees who have to use public transport to travel for business travel are entitled to reclaim the additional costs of the transport under the council's expenses policy. Any expenditure on business travel is reimbursed at the same rates for all grades.

Out of pocket expenses incurred during the course of employment will be met by the

council provided that the expenses are directly related to employment and are approved as reasonable.

**iv. Professional Fees**

From 1 April 2021 the council will reimburse the cost of professional fees for roles where there is an essential requirement to hold a professional qualification and be a member of a relevant professional institution.

Employees will be required to repay a proportion of the cost of professional fees should they leave Surrey County Council employment during the period covered by the payment. Repayment will be managed via payroll from final salaries, however where an employee leaves the council's employment due to redundancy or ill health, repayment will not be required.

**v. First Aid Allowance**

Employees who are designated 'first aiders' are eligible to receive an allowance.

## **10. Pension Benefits**

- **Centrally Employed Teachers.**

All Centrally Employed Teachers are eligible to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Employees within Surrey Arts and Adult Learning Service may also join if their role gives eligibility to join the scheme. The scheme is a statutory scheme with contributions from employees and employers. Details of the scheme can be found on the [Teachers' Pension Scheme website](#).

- **Other Employees**

All employees under the age of 75 are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. The scheme is a statutory scheme with contributions from employees and employers. Details of the scheme can be found on [Surrey Pension Fund website](#).

## **11. Remuneration - Contract for Services**

The council encourages the direct employment of staff and pays them via the payroll system. In circumstances where it is more appropriate to engage people on a contract for services the council follows HMRC guidelines to ensure that the correct employment status is identified.

When a need arises for an 'interim' appointment, recruitment is normally secured via the council's temporary staffing agency frameworks. Individuals contracted via an agency will in most instances be paid at a rate consistent with the pay of directly employed staff performing a comparable role. The council will consider any relevant market factors to support payment of a premium rate necessary to secure appropriate levels of skills and expertise.

## **12. Salary Protection**

Details of the Council's salary protection provisions that apply to employees who are redeployed into a new post as a result of organisational change can be found in the Council's Organisational Change Policy and Procedure.

The provisions relating to safeguarding (pay protection) set out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document apply to centrally employed teachers. Other Council employees are eligible to receive salary protection for a period of up to one year if they are redeployed into a lower-graded post, with the amount of protection depending on the difference between the grades of their former job and new job.



### **13. Early Retirement and Severance**

The Council's terms for granting redundancy or severance, including access to benefits under the Local Government and Teachers' Pension Schemes, are the same for all staff on Surrey Pay contracts including Chief Officers, as well as for teachers working in maintained schools across Surrey.

In cases of redundancy, an employee will not be entitled to a redundancy payment or a severance payment if, before leaving the Council, they accept an offer of employment with another local authority or associated employer contained in the Redundancy Payments (Modification) Order 1999 and commence the new employment within four weeks of their last day of service as the employment would be deemed to be continuous.

Normally the council will not re-employ or re-engage employees who have been made redundant with an enhanced severance payment for a period of 12 months following their leaving date. However, in exceptional circumstances and subject to a business case and Chief Officer approval, employees may be re-employed by the council. Re-engagement includes contracts of employment, consultancy arrangements or through an agency.

### **14. Termination of Employment of Chief Officer**

Any compensation payments made to Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers on ceasing to hold office or to be employed by the authority will be made on the same basis as any other employee in line with the council's Early Retirement and Severance policies.

In the event of an employee being made redundant or applying for voluntary severance, the council's Managing Change Policy contains details of the circumstances in which a redundancy payment is payable. The Local Government Pension Scheme regulations provide for access to pension benefits without reduction from the age of 55 in the event of an employee being made redundant.