

Pay Policy Statement 2024/2025

30 January 2024



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Section one: Introduction

1.1 Source and scope of policy statement

- 1.2 This policy statement has been produced in accordance with Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), which, from 2012 onwards, require local authorities to publish an annual statement of their policy for the relevant financial year in relation to the:
- remuneration of their most senior employees (which the Act defines as the head of paid service (Chief Executive), the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Officers (or Directors), and the Deputy Chief Officers (i.e. Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors));
 - remuneration of their lowest-paid employees; and
 - the relationship between the remuneration of the most senior employees and that of other employees.
- 1.3 The Secretary of State has produced guidance on the Act's provisions relating to openness and accountability in local pay, which local authorities must have regard to in preparing and approving their annual pay policy statements and the council's statement takes full account of this guidance as well as the provisions of the Act.
- 1.4 It also takes account of:
- The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2011;
 - guidance issued by the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Chief Executives on pay policy statements, published in November 2011; and
 - employment and equalities legislation affecting local authority employers, where relevant.

1.5 Status of policy statement

- 1.6 Section 41 of the Act makes it clear that the council must comply with this pay policy statement during the financial year 2024/2025.
- 1.7 The pay policy statement will be reviewed on an annual basis, and a new version of the policy will be approved before the start of each subsequent financial year, which will need to be complied with during that year.
- 1.8 The pay policy statement can also be amended during the course of any financial year, but only by a resolution of the full council. If it is amended during the year to which it relates, the revised version of the statement will be published as soon as reasonably possible after the amendment is approved by the council.

1.9 Transparency and autonomy

- 1.10 The council recognises and welcomes the aim behind this pay policy statement to ensure that the authority's approach to pay is accessible for citizens and to enable local taxpayers to take an informed view of whether local decisions on all aspects of remuneration are fair and make the best use of public funds.
- 1.11 It also welcomes the government's recognition that each local authority remains an individual employer in its own right, and, as such, has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and deliver value for money for local taxpayers.

Section two: Remuneration of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer

2.1 Remuneration covered in this section of the policy

2.2 This section covers the council's policies in relation to the remuneration of its senior employees, including:

- the Chief Executive;
- the Deputy Chief Executive;
- the Directors who report to and are directly accountable to the Chief Executive,
- the Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors who report to and are directly accountable to the Chief Executive and Directors.
- the Section 151 Officer (i.e. the officer responsible for ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making and the administration of the financial affairs of the council)
- and Monitoring Officer (i.e. the officer responsible for ensuring the council's compliance with the law in all its activities);

2.3 Overall policy on remuneration for senior roles

2.4 The council's overall approach to remuneration for its senior employees is based on:

- compliance with equal pay, discrimination and other relevant employment legislation, plus
- ensuring that its remuneration package for senior roles mirrors the overall pay policy for the council resulting in a fair and equitable system. Whilst, at the same time, taking account of market factors and the need to reward significant additional responsibility.

2.5 The council seeks to maintain this overall approach by carefully monitoring pay data provided by the Joint National Councils (JNCs) for Chief Officers and Chief Executives, the Local Government Association/Employers, and other pay surveys.

2.6 In terms of pay differentials, the council recognises that the role of Chief Executive leads the organisation's workforce and has the greatest level of accountability, and so warrants the highest pay level in the organisation.

2.7 At Director level:

2.7.1 The council recognises that its Directors have a collective and corporate responsibility for contributing to and delivering the overall strategy of the organisation, and therefore offers the same level of remuneration to all Directors.

2.8 Below Director level, the council recognises that the demands on and accountabilities of different management roles vary considerably and seeks to align pay levels with the relative importance and responsibilities of jobs using a process of job evaluation.

2.9 The remuneration offered to senior employees

2.10 At Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer level, the council offers an annual salary, access to the Local Government Pension Scheme and a range of other benefits, as detailed below.

2.11 Annual salaries:

2.12 Annual salary levels for senior employees are set in accordance with the overall principles set out in section 1.4, above. At Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer level, they consist of a pay range which is determined locally by the council. Assistant Directors and above are also paid an additional Special Allowance payment as set out in paragraph 2.26 (c).

2.13 Remuneration of senior employees on recruitment

2.14 The council's policy is that any newly appointed senior employee will commence employment at the lowest pay point possible in the pay range for their job taking account of their current remuneration and market factors.

2.15 The decision on which pay point to appoint an Assistant Director or above would be made by the appointing committee, unless the committee delegates the responsibility for such negotiations to the Chief Executive at the time of appointment.

2.16 The appointing salary of the Chief Executive will be agreed by the appointing committee or the Chair of the committee if negotiations are required.

2.17 Pay progression

2.18 Pay progression is in accordance with the council MedPay scheme payable from 1 April each year.

2.19 Pay progression is based on a MedPay pay progression assessment of performance/competency through a Performance Development Review (PDR).

2.20 The council's MedPay scheme sets out the standards/criteria which must be met in order for an employee to receive any pay progression, the roles and responsibilities of managers and employees in this process and the monitoring and review arrangements to ensure this is applied fairly and equitably across the council.

2.22 Pay awards

2.23 The council will review the salaries of senior employees annually/periodically in the light of pay movements and other changes in the economy to determine whether any pay award is necessary to maintain its overall market position on pay for its managers.

2.24 Market supplements

- 2.25 The council recognises that pressures in the national or regional labour market can mean that pay levels for a particular category of manager in a particular function can be such that the council's normal pay level would not be sufficiently competitive to enable it to recruit or retain a manager in that function. In that case, the council's Skills Shortage and Retention Allowance policy will be applied – see Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.26 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- 2.27 The council offers all its senior employees' access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), in accordance with the statutory provisions of the scheme, on the same basis as all of its employees. Any pension payments made to its senior employees on termination of employment either on grounds of redundancy, in the interests of the efficiency of the service or on grounds of ill health will be made within the statutory terms of the LGPS.
- 2.28 See Section five 'Policies common to all employees' for the contribution rate for each participating employee who joins the scheme.
- 2.29 The discretions which the council is able to apply under the scheme upon termination of employment are the same for senior employees as for all other employees who are LGPS members and are attached as appendix one.

2.30 Payments on Termination of Employment

- 2.31 Other than payments made under the LGPS, the council's payments to managers whose employment is terminated on grounds of redundancy will be in accordance with the policy the council has adopted for all its employees in relation to the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, as set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.
- 2.32 Other than payments pursuant to the LGPS (including the exercise of the council's discretions) or payments in accordance with the council's policies under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, the council's policy is not to make any other termination payments to its senior employees, other than where it has received specific legal advice to the effect that a payment may be necessary to eliminate risk of claims against the council.

2.33 Other elements of remuneration

2.34 The other elements of remuneration which it is the council's policy to offer is set out in the table below. Each element offered is then described in more detail below the table.

Element of Remuneration	Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service	Deputy Chief Executive/Director/Deputy Director	Assistant Director	Monitoring Officer & Section 151 Officer
Recruitment payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reimbursement of removal/ relocation costs on appointment	Applicable to all employees.			
Retention payments	N/A	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable
Mortgage subsidy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Geographical/location allowance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-consolidated performance/contribution payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Honorarium or <i>ex gratia</i> payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Acting-up/additional responsibility payments	Applicable to all employees.			
Other bonuses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Car provision	Details of provision for senior managers is shown in para.2.39			
Mileage rates	Applicable to all employees. Paid at Lease and Special Allowance rate			
Private medical insurance	Details of provision for senior managers is shown in para.2.39			
Health screening	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Payment of professional subscriptions or membership fees	Applicable to all employees as shown in para. 5.36			
Subsistence or other expenses allowance	Applicable to all employees.			
Lump sum payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provision of mobile telephones	Applicable to all employees if role requires			
Provision of landline telephones	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provision of IT equipment or facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Homeworking allowance (or equivalent)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Childcare	N/A			
Subsidised staff catering facility	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Discounted loans	Applicable to all employees			
Staff discount scheme	Applicable to all employees.			
Payment for reduced leave entitlement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Election fees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other fees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other allowances (if any)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: N/A denotes there is no payment to any employee for these provisions.

2.35 Reimbursement of removal/relocation costs on appointment

2.36 This policy is set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.37 Acting-up/additional responsibility payments

2.38 This policy is set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.39 Car provision and Private Medical Insurance

2.40 The council pays an annual Special Allowance to senior officers (subject to statutory deductions), from which officers are expected to provide a vehicle and insure it for use on council business.

The amount varies depending on seniority as follows:

-	Chief Executive	£9157
-	Deputy Chief Executive	£8214
-	Director	£8214
-	Section 151 Officer	£8214
-	Deputy Director	£5687
-	Assistant Director	£5687
-	Monitoring Officer	£5687

2.41 The Special Allowance also covers costs should officers wish to provide themselves with private medical health insurance.

2.42 Mileage rates

2.43 Details of mileage rates are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'. Mileage is paid at the Lease and Special Allowance rates.

2.44 Payment of professional subscriptions or membership fees

2.45 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.46 Subsistence or other expenses allowance

2.47 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.48 Provision of mobile telephones

2.49 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.50 Provision of discounted loans

2.51 Details of the various interest-free loan schemes to encourage green travel is set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.52 Staff discount scheme

2.53 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.54 Re-engagement of Assistant Directors and above

2.55 Re-engagement of Assistant Directors and above who have left the council with a severance or termination payment:

2.56 Re-engagement as employees

2.57 Subject to any relevant provisions in employment and equalities legislation, the council's policy is not to re-employ any former Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director, Deputy Director or Assistant Director who has been dismissed from the council for any reason other than redundancy.

2.58 Any senior officer who wishes to be re-engaged to another post following either voluntary or compulsory redundancy would be subject to the conditions for re-engagement as detailed in paragraph 16.2 of the council's Organisational Change Policy as follows:

2.58.1 Employees who are dismissed on the grounds of redundancy and who have received a redundancy payment are unable to take up another post with Medway Council within the amount of week's redundancy payment they have been paid, the minimum amount of weeks being four weeks.

2.59 Any former senior officer who is employed by the council who has previously received a severance, termination or redundancy payment from this or any other council or related body will not have previous service counted when determining any further entitlements to notice periods, sickness payments, annual leave or other benefits/entitlements based on continuous service (as applies to all other staff).

2.60 Re-engagement under a contract for services

2.61 The council's policy is not to re-engage under a contract for services any former Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director, Deputy Director or Assistant Director who left the council for any reason and was in receipt of a redundancy, severance or termination payment. This policy may be varied in exceptional circumstances which are approved by the Chief Executive and Chief Organisational Culture Officer.

2.62 Employment of those in receipt of an LGPS pension

2.63 Details are set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.64 Flexible retirement:

2.65 The LGPS regulations permit the council to offer flexible retirement to employees (including Assistant Directors and above) aged 55 or over, so that they can reduce their hours of work, and receive a pension in respect of the proportion of full-time hours they are no longer required to work.

2.66 The council's policy statement on Flexible Retirement is set out in Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

2.67 Publication of details of employee remuneration

2.68 In accordance with Section 39 (5) of the Localism Act, this policy will be published on the council's website.

2.69 The council is also required to publish information about the remuneration of senior officers under The Accounts and Audit (Amendment No. 2) (England) Regulations 2009, and the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, issued under Section 2 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980.

2.70 This latter information can be obtained via the Statement of Accounts page on the council's website.

Section three: Remuneration of lowest paid employees

3.1 This section sets out the council's policies in relation to the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees, as defined in this pay policy statement.

3.2 Definition of lowest paid employees

3.3 The definition of the "lowest-paid employees" adopted by the council for the purposes of this statement is as follows:

3.4 The lowest paid employees within the council are those substantive employees who are paid on the minimum salary range of the council's substantive pay structure, i.e. Range 1.

3.5 The council considers this to be the most appropriate definition as this is the lowest pay point /pay level on its substantive pay structure and which normally applies to new entrants to the lowest graded jobs within the organisation.

3.6 Remuneration of lowest paid employees

3.7 For the purposes of this policy statement, remuneration includes the employee's basic annual salary and any bonuses, allowances or other similar payments, benefits in kind, any increases or enhancements to any pension entitlement and any termination or other severance payments.

3.8 Pay structure

3.9 The basic pay of the council's lowest paid employees comprises a pay range derived locally. Pay progression is in accordance with the council's MedPay scheme. The council's MedPay scheme sets out the standards/criteria which must be met in order for an employee to receive any pay progression, the roles and responsibilities of managers and employees in this process and the monitoring and review arrangements to ensure this is applied fairly and equitably across the council.

3.10 Pay Progression

- 3.11 Pay progression is in accordance with the council MedPay scheme payable from 1 April each year.
- 3.12 Pay progression is based on a MedPay pay progression assessment of performance/competency through a Performance Development Review (PDR).

3.13 Annual Pay Review

- 3.14 The basic pay of the council's lowest paid employees is reviewed annually, with any cost-of-living, or other, increase normally applied on 1 April in each year.
- 3.15 The council introduced local pay bargaining from 1 April 2013.

3.16 Market Supplements (if relevant)

The council recognises that pressures in the national or regional labour market can mean that pay levels for a particular category of manager in a particular function can be such that the council's normal pay level would not be sufficiently competitive to enable it to recruit or retain a manager in that function. In that case, the council's Skills Shortage and Retention Allowance policy will be applied – see Section five 'Policies common to all employees'.

3.17 Pension provision

- 3.18 In common with all other employees, the council's lowest paid employees may participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme in accordance with the statutory terms of that scheme. See Section five 'Policies common to all employees' for the contribution rate for each participating employee who joins the scheme.
- 3.19 Any increases in or enhancements to the pension entitlement of the council's lowest paid employees will be made in accordance with the discretions available to it under the statutory provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme, as exercised by the council and set out in the relevant policy statement (see Section five 'Policies common to all employees').

3.20 Termination or Severance Payments

- 3.21 Any termination or severance payments made by the council to its lowest paid employees, either on grounds of redundancy or on grounds of permanent ill-health, will be made in accordance with the statutory terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme, as applicable, and /or in accordance with the discretions available to it under that Scheme or under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, as set out in the relevant policy statement (see Section five 'Policies common to all employees').
- 3.22 Other than payments pursuant to the LGPS (including the exercise of the council's discretions) or payments in accordance with the council's policies under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, the

council's policy is not to make any other termination or severance payments to its lowest paid employees, other than where it has received specific legal advice to the effect that a payment may be necessary to eliminate risk of claims against the council.

3.23 Other elements of remuneration

3.24 The other elements of remuneration which it is the council's policy to offer to its lowest paid employees is set out in the table below.

3.25 The key below the table identifies the category of employee to which each element applies, if at all. Each element of remuneration offered is then described in more detail.

Element of Remuneration	Lowest Paid Employees
Recruitment payments	N/A
Reimbursement of removal/relocation costs on appointment	Applicable to all employees
Retention payments	Applicable to all employees
Mortgage subsidy	N/A
Geographical/location allowance	N/A
Non-consolidated performance/contribution payments	N/A
Honorarium or ex gratia payments	N/A
Acting up/additional responsibility payments	Applicable to all employees
Any other bonus payments	N/A
Overtime or additional hours working	Scheme common to all employees other than senior managers covered by Section two and Service Managers.
Weekend and/or Bank Holiday working payments	
Night work payments	
Sleeping-in duty	
Standby and/or call-out payments	
Other non-standard working payments	
Car provision	
Mileage rates	NJC rates applicable to all employees and and rates for Lease cars and Special allowance
Private medical insurance	N/A
Health screening	N/A
Payment of professional subscriptions or membership fees	Applicable to all employees as shown in para. 5.36
Subsistence or other expenses allowance	Applicable to all employees.
Provision of mobile telephone	
Provision of landline telephone	N/A
Provision of IT equipment/facilities	N/A
Homeworking allowance (or equivalent)	N/A
Childcare	N/A
Subsidised staff catering facility	N/A
Discounted loans	Applicable to all employees.
Staff discount scheme	Applicable to all employees.
Payment for reduced leave entitlement	N/A
Any other allowances or additional payment – see below	N/A

Note: N/A denotes there is no payment to any employee for these provisions.

3.26 Elements of remuneration

3.27 Reimbursement of removal /relocation costs on appointment

3.28 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.

3.29 Acting-up /additional responsibility payments

3.30 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.

3.31 Working arrangements

3.32 Employees who are required to work beyond the council's normal full-time equivalent working week of 37 hours and /or work other non-standard working patterns as listed below will receive payment in accordance with the provisions of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

- Additional hours; and /or
- Saturday and Sunday working; and /or
- Night work; and /or
- Public and Extra Statutory holidays; and /or

With the exception of:

- Sleeping-in duty, which is under a local agreement.

3.33 Standby and /or call-out payments

3.34 Employees who are required to be on standby at times which are outside their normal working week and /or who may be called-out to attend to an issue at the council's premises or other location may receive an additional payment in accordance with the provisions of the relevant council policy.

3.35 Car provision

3.36 The council compensates its employees who are authorised to use their own car on council business in accordance with the provisions and rates agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

3.37 There are three types of car user, Casual, Essential and Dedicated. The definition for each is below:

3.38 Casual Users are users based largely at a single employment location. There is little or no genuine operational need to travel in the course of their duties other than to one of the other main employing centres. The NJC mileage rates for casual users apply.

- 3.39 Essential User** status is based on mileage criteria of 1,000 business miles or more in a calendar year together with a requirement to undertake daily or near daily travel.
- 3.40 Dedicated car users** are employees who are not able to plan their work in advance and where the post requires a significant number of journeys. For these people, the use of any alternative mode of transport other than a dedicated vehicle would be impractical and perhaps even seriously detrimental to the post-holder's effectiveness and the directorate's service delivery. Post-holders are entitled to access to the Limited Leased Car Scheme. There is an annual contribution based on the vehicle leased which will be deducted direct from pay. Mileage is paid at the NJC petrol-only rates.
- 3.41 Mileage rates**
- 3.42 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.
- 3.43 Payment of professional subscriptions or membership fees**
- 3.44 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.
- 3.45 Subsistence or other expenses allowance**
- 3.46 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.
- 3.47 Discounted interest-free loans**
- 3.48 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.
- 3.49 Staff discount scheme**
- 3.50 Details of the scheme are set out in Section five, 'Policies common to all employees'.

Section four: Pay Relationships

- 4.1 This section sets out the council's overall approach to ensuring pay levels are fairly and appropriately dispersed across the organisation, including the current pay multiple which applies within the council, and its policy toward maintaining or reaching a specific pay multiple in the future.
- 4.2 Under the provisions of the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government under Section 2 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the council is required to publish its "pay multiple", i.e. the ratio between the highest paid salary and average salary of the whole of the local authority's workforce. The current pay multiple, based on all taxable earnings as at 31 December 2023 including base salary, any variable pay, bonuses and allowances which may apply, is 5.45 (median).
- 4.3 The lowest pay point in the overall salary range which has been used by the council in calculating the mean average salary is that which applies to its lowest paid employees, as defined in Section three of this pay policy statement.
- 4.4 The council considers that the current pay multiple, as identified above, represents an appropriate, fair and equitable internal pay relationship between the highest salary and that which applies to the rest of the workforce and has adopted the following actions to ensure this is maintained:
- monitor the pay multiple annually as part of the council's overall workforce monitoring, which is currently reported to the Employment Matters Committee.
 - take account of the pay multiple when reviewing pay structures and allowances.

Section five: Policies common to all employees

5.1 The following elements of remuneration are determined by corporate policies or arrangements which apply to all permanent employees of the council (including its Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer), regardless of their pay level status or grading within the council. These policies have been previously agreed by the Employment Matters Committee.

5.2 Skills Shortage & Retention Policy - summary

5.3 The Skills Shortage & Retention Allowance policy has criteria to ensure that allowances are only used in appropriate circumstances. Payments are based on agreed principles and paid only when the specified criteria are met.

5.4 A skills shortage and/or retention allowance may be awarded on either a short- or long-term basis, determined by principles outlined below –

5.5 Short-Term payments

5.6 Short-term skills shortage or retention allowances will apply where the labour market conditions indicate that recruitment or retention problems are expected to be short term and where the need for the allowance is expected to disappear or reduce in the next 12 months. The allowance will be applied for a fixed period not exceeding 12 months. There is no entitlement to the allowance beyond the period for which it has been approved.

5.7 Long-term payments

5.8 A long-term skills shortage or retention allowance will apply where the labour market conditions are more deep-rooted and the need for the allowance is not expected to disappear or reduce in the foreseeable future. The allowance may be adjusted subject to a notice period of three months and will cease at the end of 2 years. There is no entitlement to the allowance beyond the period for which it has been approved unless a new application is submitted and approved.

5.9 A skills shortage and/or retention allowance will only be considered in cases where it is proven that one or more of the following conditions apply:

- There are documented labour market shortages – regional or national.
- There is a competitive labour market where salary benchmarking data, derived from Cendex as well as information obtained from the Talent Acquisition Team indicates that enhancements to Council evaluated pay rates would be required to attract and retain staff.
- There is evidence that neighbouring Councils are paying supplements for similar posts and the Council needs to remain competitive in the recruitment market to avoid staffing shortages.
- There is consistent data showing high levels of turnover, supported by exit interview data, indicating a direct link to pay as a contributing factor.
- There is evidence to demonstrate that the advertising/recruitment of roles has been unsuccessful.

5.10 The authority to agree any market premia proposal is delegated to the Director, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Organisational Culture Officer.

5.11 Access to Local Government Pension Scheme

5.12 The council offers all its employees' access to the Local Government Pension Scheme in accordance with the statutory provisions of the scheme. The employer's contribution rate for employees who join the scheme is currently 18.3% of salary for all employees.

5.13 The employee contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Main Section) are currently as follows:

Pay Bands	Contribution Rates
Up to £14,600	5.5%
£14,601 - £22,800	5.8%
£22,01 - £37,100	6.5%
£37,101 - £46,900	6.8%
£46,901 - £65,600	8.5%
£65,601 - £93,000	9.9%
£93,001 - £109,500	10.5%
£109,501 - £164,200	11.4%
More than £164,201	12.5%

5.14 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) - discretions on termination of employment

5.15 Any termination or severance payments made by the council to all its employees, either on grounds of redundancy, or on grounds of permanent ill-health, will be made in accordance with the statutory terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme, as applicable, and /or in accordance with the discretions available to it under that Scheme.

5.16 The council's policies on the exercise of these discretions under the LGPS are set out in the policies it has published under the requirements of Regulation 66 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008. This is a requirement to publicise discretions under Regulations 12, 13, 18 and 30 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007. Appendix one is the council's policy on all discretions under the Act.

5.17 Payments on Termination of Employment

5.18 Other than payments made under the LGPS, the council's payments to any employee whose employment is terminated on grounds of redundancy will be in accordance with the policy the council has adopted for all its employees in relation to the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. This policy has been published in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 7 of these regulations and is as follows:

5.19 In accordance with Section 162 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 pay matrix, for each year of service that counts, an employee will receive a proportion of weekly pay, which is determined in the following way:

Age	Entitlement
21 years or below	Half a week's pay
22 – 40 years	One week's pay
41 and above	One and a half week's pay

5.20 The maximum entitlement will be 20 years at one and a half weeks' pay, which is 30 weeks pay. The council's redundancy payment is based on the employee's actual weekly pay.

5.21 Reimbursement of removal /relocation costs on appointment - summary

5.22 The relocation scheme is intended to provide assistance in approved cases to newly appointed permanent staff who are required to move house as a result of their appointment.

5.23 The scheme allows employees to claim the expenses involved in obtaining similar accommodation to that which they vacate i.e. employees who are vacating a rented property would be able to claim the expenses involved in moving to another rental property, whilst those who were an owner-occupier the expenses involved in both selling and buying a home can be claimed.

5.24 The total amount claimable must not exceed £8,000.

5.25 Acting up and additional duties payments - summary

5.26 Acting up payments

5.27 An employee who, for any reason other than annual leave, is requested by their line manager to undertake all or part of the duties of a higher graded post, for a continuous period of not less than four weeks, may be entitled to receive an acting up payment. Payments may be made in the following circumstances:

- Where the employee undertakes the full duties of the higher graded post;
- Where the employee undertakes part of the duties of the higher graded post;
- Where the employee's normal duties /pattern of work are varied to provide additional cover /support for the duties of a higher graded post.

5.28 Acting up payments should be for a clearly specified and time limited period only and should be kept under regular review to ensure it does not become an on-going arrangement.

5.29 Other additional duties /projects

5.30 In exceptional circumstances, a payment may be made for reasons other than that of undertaking the duties of a higher graded post.

5.31 The circumstances which support such a payment must be clearly identified by the line manager and will normally fall into one of the following categories :

- participation in a special project which is beyond the normal scope of the job description;
- additional duties not related to a specific post;
- significant additional hours worked in order to complete an essential task

5.32 The amount of the payment should not exceed whichever is the greater of:

- 10% of the employee's annual gross substantive salary;
- £3,000 (Gross) in any one financial year.

5.33 Mileage rates

5.34 The council compensates all its employees who are authorised to use their own car on council business in accordance with the provisions and rates agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

5.35 Dedicated car users who have a lease car and those in receipt of a Special Allowance claim mileage at the Lease and Special Allowance rate.

5.36 Payment of professional subscriptions or membership fees

5.37 For approved post entry training, the council will pay, in full or in part, fees for registration, course tuition, exemption, and examinations and pay membership of professional bodies whilst employees are a student and there is a business requirement.

5.38 Subsistence or other expenses allowance

5.39 The council reimburses expenditure on meals and accommodation and any other expenses necessarily incurred by employees on council business in accordance with the scheme summarised below.

5.40 Employees who are required, through the performance of their official duties, to differ their normal meal arrangements thereby incurring additional expenditure, will be reimbursed the actual costs.

5.41 Use of mobile phones

5.42 Mobile phones are provided to employees on the basis that they are necessary to undertake their duties effectively.

5.43 The council funds the provision of the phone and business calls. Employees are expected not to use them for personal calls, except in an emergency.

5.44 Discounted Interest-free loans

5.45 In order to encourage greener travel employees have access to interest-free loans for the purchase of the following for home to work travel:

- Bicycles – max loan £1,000 with a maximum repayment term of 2 years

- Motor scooters up to 125cc's – max loan £2,000 with a maximum repayment term of 2 years, repayments must not exceed 1/18th of the employee's gross monthly salary,
- Annual season tickets loan for travel (train and bus) – max loan £2,000 repayable over the period of the season ticket, maximum 1 year.
- Annual season ticket for car parking – max £545 (for Medway Residents)

Should the employee leave the employment of Medway Council during the loan period, the balance will become immediately repayable.

5.46 Staff discount scheme

- 5.47 All employees have access to scheme(s) which give employees discounted prices for
- The More4you Vectis discount scheme. This includes a bespoke website offering discounts on goods and services from traders who participate in the scheme.
 - Civil Service Sports Club. For a monthly subscription staff can access discounts to a wide range of sporting and leisure activities, including free entrance to National Heritage sites for the staff member and their family.

5.48 Employment of those in receipt of an LGPS pension

- 5.49 The Kent County Council LGPS pension scheme does not abate pensions on re-employment.

5.50 Flexible retirement

- 5.51 The LGPS regulations permit the council to offer flexible retirement to employees aged 55 or over, so that they can reduce their hours of work, and draw a pension in respect of the proportion of full-time hours they are no longer required to work. The council uses this discretion in the same way for all employees.

- 5.52 These will be approved by the relevant Director and the Chief Organisational Culture Officer.

5.53 Review of policies in Section five

- 5.54 Any amendment to these policies which does not affect the pay policy statement will be agreed by Employment Matters Committee as part of the normal approval process. Any amendment to these policies which would result in a change to the pay policy statement will need to be approved by Full Council.

Section six: Decision making on pay

- 6.1 The provisions of this pay policy statement will apply to any determination made by the council in the relevant financial year in relation to the remuneration, or other terms and conditions, of an Assistant Director or above of the Authority and of its lowest paid employees, as defined in this statement.
- 6.2 The council will ensure that the provisions of this pay policy statement are properly applied and fully complied with in making any such determination.
- 6.3 This pay policy statement has been approved by the Full Council of the Authority.
- 6.4 Any proposal to offer a new Assistant Director or above appointment on terms and conditions which include a total remuneration package of £100,000 or more, including salary, bonuses, fees or allowances which would routinely be payable to the appointee and any benefits in kind to which the officer would be entitled as a result of their employment (but excluding employer's pension contributions), will be referred to Full Council for approval before any such appointment is advertised or before any such offer is made to a particular candidate.

Section seven: Amendments to this pay policy statement

- 7.1 This pay policy statement relates to the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 7.2 The council may agree any amendments to this policy statement during the financial year to which it relates in accordance with the decision-making arrangements set out within Section six of this policy statement.

Section eight: Publication of and access to information

- 8.1 The council will publish this pay policy statement on its website and on the intranet as soon as is reasonably practicable after it has been approved by the council. Any subsequent amendments to this pay policy statement made during the financial year to which it relates will also be similarly published.
- 8.2 The information required to be published by the council in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government under Section 2 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, and in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment No. 2) (England) Regulations 2009, as referred to in this pay policy statement, is available on its website.
- 8.3 The council's policies in relation to the exercise of discretions under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007, as referred to in this policy statement, are attached to this document as Appendix one.
- 8.4 For further information about this pay policy statement, please contact:

Samantha Beck-Farley
Chief Organisational Culture Officer

Tel: 01634 331463