



Birmingham
City Council

Pay Policy Statement

2026/27



Birmingham
City Council



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1.0 Introduction and Purpose

This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011 and takes account of the final guidance for 'Openness and Accountability in Local Pay' as issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding those working in local authority schools) by identifying:

- The methods by which, salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of base remuneration of its most senior employees, i.e. 'chief officers', as defined by the relevant legislation.
- The detail and level of base remuneration of the lowest paid employees
- The relationship between the remuneration for highest and lowest paid employees
- The Committee(s)/Panel responsible for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to the full Council.

Once approved by the Full Council Meeting, this policy statement will come into immediate effect for the 2026/27 financial year and will be subject to review again for 2027/28 in accordance with the relevant legislation prevailing at that time. If the pay policy needs to be amended during the current financial year, any amendments will be subject to approval.

2.0 Legislative Framework

In determining the pay and base remuneration of all its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favorable Treatment) Regulations 2000, Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of Less Favorable Treatment) Regulations 2002, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations.

The Council remains committed to pay due regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the Council seeks to ensure there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of an equality proofed job evaluation scheme that directly relates an employee's salary to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role they perform. Birmingham City Council is undergoing a pay review program to ensure future parity of jobs via a full job re-evaluation exercise.

3.0 Senior Management Remuneration Policy

For the purposes of this statement, senior officer means 'chief officers' as defined within S43 of the Localism Act 2011. The Managing Director is employed under the terms and conditions of the Joint National Council for Chief Executives, and all other senior officers are under the terms and conditions for Joint National Council for Chief Officers.

The Council currently determines pay levels through a job evaluation process and grading structure that has been specifically designed for senior positions that determines the pay range for senior officers as defined by the Localism Act 2011. The annual 'cost of living' rise of 2.50% has been applied to the Senior Officer Pay Structure, as a result of pay bargaining undertaken by Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities, with effect from 1st April 2025. See Annex 1 for the senior officer pay structure effective as of 1st April 2025.

Those employees working in senior positions do not receive overtime payments and all other pay-related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery and/or as determined by Council Policy.

In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for all posts, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.

In particular, it is the Council's policy that no Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer (subject to JNC conditions of service for Chief Officers) is paid a supplement for Returning Officer duties, whether in respect of local elections or national elections (e.g. General Elections, elections for European Parliament, national referenda etc.). Fees paid in respect of these elections by Government are used to supplement the pay of non-senior officer employees who have worked on the relevant election.

3.1 Senior Management Positions

JNC Chief/ JNC Deputy Officers

The senior officer positions will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the overall savings that have to be made by the Council due to the savings targets faced by local authorities in general over the next few years and those specific to Birmingham City Council. See Annex 1 for full details.

3.2 Recruitment to Senior Management Positions (Chief Officer/ Deputy Chief Officer)

When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of its own equal opportunities, recruitment, and redeployment policies. Appointments made to Chief Officer (CO) and JNC Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) positions are all made by the Employment Committee.

The Council's Commissioners have authority to make appointments to Chief Officer (CO) and JNC Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) positions, Tiers 1, 2 and 3 under the terms of the Statutory Direction dated 5 October 2023. When appointments are made by the Commissioners, they will be noted by the Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers Appointments Dismissals and Service Conditions Sub-Committee.

The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer will be in accordance with the local JNC (Senior) pay spine (further details can be found in Annex 1) and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment. Where the Council is unable to recruit or retain at the designated grade, it will consider using, on a temporary basis, market supplements and retention payments in accordance with its relevant policies.

Where the Council remains unable to recruit under an employment contract, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant substantive senior management position, the Council will, where necessary, consider and utilise engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through the relevant procurement process ensuring the Council is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits from competition in securing the relevant service.

3.3 Additions to Salary of Chief Officers/ Deputy Chief Officers

The Council does not apply any bonus to the salary of Chief Officers/Deputy Chief Officers, however progression within the salary scales is currently performance related as determined by the Employment Committee and/or Head of Paid Service. There is no element of earn back for senior manager's salaries and any pay progression is currently consolidated into basic pay.

In addition to basic salary, set out below are details of other elements of 'additional pay' which are chargeable to UK Income Tax and do not solely constitute reimbursement of expenses incurred in the fulfilment of duties;

The following are applicable to all senior manager positions

- A mileage allowance is paid to all employees using their own vehicle for work purposes and the payments are linked to the approved HMRC rates ([to view current HMRC mileage expenses rates](#)).

- There are currently no salary supplements or additional payments for undertaking additional responsibilities such as shared service provision with another local authority or in respect of joint bodies.
- Market supplements/recruitment allowances are paid where it is justified to recruit and fulfill a role or to retain an officer within a role.

3.4 Payments on Termination

The Council's approach to severance and discretionary payments on termination of employment, prior to reaching retirement age, is set out in accordance with regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 and regulation 12 and 13 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

The Council applies this policy to all employees and in all cases. Any changes to this policy, whether permanent or time limited, will be agreed by the Council's Employment Committee. The Director of Legal has the authority to settle, if appropriate and in the interests of the Council, any actual or threatened legal proceedings as set out in Part E Section 8.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Any other payments falling outside the Public Sector Exit Payments regulations, or the relevant periods of contractual notice shall be subject to a formal decision made by the full Council or the relevant elected members, committee or panel of elected members or officer with delegated authority to approve such payments, depending on the post.

Any severance packages with a value in excess of £100,000 (including any Pension Strain costs) will be approved by Council before they are agreed. This procedure applies to severance packages pursuant to a settlement agreement. However, it does not apply in relation to the cost of early access to, and/or enhancement of a retirement pension, where the employee's employment is terminated on grounds of ill health.

The Council has adopted [the statutory guidance on Special Severance Payments](#) where non-contractual exit payments above certain thresholds are subject to additional scrutiny, approval and disclosure processes. This is to comply with our best value duty as set out in section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. Further details are set out in the Council's Constitution, Part C, Section C7.

Provisions in the Finance (No.2) Act 2017 changed the rules on the taxation of termination payments to remove the distinction between contractual and non-contractual payments in lieu of notice, effective from April 2018. The Council continues to comply with these requirements.

Employers are liable to pay Class 1A national insurance contributions on termination payments above £30,000 that are subject to income tax by the employee. The Council is fully compliant with this requirement.

3.5 Comparators Influencing Pay Levels

For context on pay levels in the local government sector, Birmingham City Council is not only the largest local authority in the UK, but also the largest unitary authority in Europe serving over one million residents and has a revenue budget of c.£3.5bn. The Council needs to maintain competitive pay levels to attract suitable candidates for senior positions that can demonstrate sufficient skills, experience and capacity required at this level as would be evidenced, for example, by fulfilling a comparable role in a large complex local authority. There is often a very small pool from which to recruit candidates with other authorities offering very competitive salaries in relation to their size.

As a consequence, it may be necessary, from time to time, to review senior pay scales by benchmarking Chief Officer remuneration with the Core Cities Group which is comprised of councils that represent the largest eight economies outside London, to ensure alignment with external pay markets, both within and outside the sector, which may result in the review of JNC salaries and/or temporary additions of market supplements (as per 3.3), as appropriate.

4.0 Non-Chief/Deputy Chief Officer Employees

Based on the application of an analytical job evaluation process, the Council uses the nationally negotiated NJC pay spine as the basis for its local grading structure with additional spine points. This determines the salary of most of the non-school based workforce, together with the use of other nationally defined rates such as Soulbury and JNC Youth and Community Workers. The Council presently adheres to national pay bargaining in respect of the national pay spine with the most recent increase effective 1st April 2025.

Progression within the grading structure for 2026/27 is automatic incremental progression within the grade, in line with agreed defined criteria effective from 1st April. Once the maximum spinal column point (as seen in annex 2) has been reached there will be no further progression.

4.1 Recruitment

New appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant grade, although this can be varied where necessary to secure the best candidate. From time to time, it may be necessary to take account of the external pay market to attract and retain employees with the experience, skills, and capacity. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector.

4.2 Lowest Paid Employees

The lowest paid employees under a contract of employment with the Council are employed on full-time (FTE) salary in accordance with the minimum pay point for NJC Workers. The minimum pay point for 2025 (based on April 2025 pay rates for NJC Workers) is £24,796 (NJC Range Pay Point 3). See Annex 2 for the NJC Pay Spine Worker BCC Pay Structure, effective 1st April 2025.

The statutory guidance under the Localism Act recommends the use of pay multiples as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010). The Hutton report was asked by Government to explore the case of a fixed limit on dispersion of pay through a requirement that no public sector manager can earn more than 20 times the lowest paid person in the organisation.

The report concluded that the relationship to median earnings was a more relevant measure and the Government's Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency recommends the publication of the ratio between highest paid salary and the median average salary of the whole of the authority's workforce. Whilst the ratio between the highest and lowest paid employees within the Council does not exceed 20 times, the Council does not set a ratio ceiling within its pay policy for senior officers.

The following tables illustrate various pay differentials between the salary of the Managing Director and the lowest paid full-time equivalent employee, median employee pay, and average employee pay based on base pay, and does not include any pension benefits, or any other variable elements of pay (e.g. non-contractual overtime, allowances etc.)

The pay data in this section is based on salaries as of 31 Dec 25. As and when national agreements on these pay awards are reached and implemented, this will be reflected in the Council's pay and grading structure appended to this statement.

Pay differential between Managing Director and lowest paid full-time equivalent employees

MD Salary	£312,149
Lowest Paid salary	£24,796
Pay Multiple Ratio	12.5:1

Pay differential between Managing Director and the median pay for full-time equivalent employees

MD Salary	£312,149
Median salary	£33,699
Pay Multiple Ratio	9.3:1

Pay differential between Managing Director and the average pay for full-time equivalent employees

MD Salary	£312,149
Average salary	£37,144
Pay Multiple Ratio	8.4:1

The following tables illustrate the various pay differentials between Chief/Deputy Chief Officers and the lowest paid full-time equivalent employee, median employee pay and average employee pay based on base pay, and does not include any pension benefits, or any other variable elements of pay (e.g. non-contractual overtime, allowances etc.).

Pay differential between the average of Chief Officers pay and the lowest paid full-time equivalent employees

Average CO salary	£142,066
Lowest paid salary	£24,796
Pay Multiple Ratio	5.7:1

Pay differential between the median of Chief Officers pay and the lowest paid full-time equivalent employees

Median CO salary	£135,398
Lowest paid salary	£33,699
Pay Multiple Ratio	4:1

Pay differential between the average of Chief Officers pay and the average pay for full-time equivalent employees

Average CO salary	£142,066
Average salary	£36,609
Pay Multiple Ratio	3.9:1

4.3 Accountability and Decision Making

In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, Employment Committee is responsible for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to the terms and conditions of employment for all Officers as contained within the Birmingham Contract.

5 Publication

The Pay Policy 2026/27 will be submitted to the full Council and upon approval, will be published [on the Council's Website](#). Other formats will also be made available on request.

In addition, for employees where the full-time equivalent salary is £50,000 or more, excluding employer superannuation contributions, the Councils Annual Statement of Accounts will include the number of employees in bands of £5,000.

1. Annex 1 Birmingham City Council - Senior Pay Spine (Chief/Deputy Chief Officers)

Pay structure effective as at 1st April 2025.

Job Level	Grade	Minimum £	Maximum £
Managing Director	B04	240,121	312,149
Executive Director	B03	179,826	233,915
Director	B02	135,398	175,419
Assistant Director	B01	87,724	130,531

The posts falling within the statutory definition for Chief Officers of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which covers the statutory officers and those others that report to the Managing Director, are set out below:

- a) **Managing Director -**
The head of paid service defined under section 4(1) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range from £240,121, rising to a maximum of £312,149. There is no additional supplement paid for returning officer duties incorporated into this role.
- b) **Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) -**
A statutory chief officer defined under section 2(6) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- c) **Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) -**
A statutory chief officer defined under section 5(1) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £135,398, rising to a maximum of £175,419.
- d) **Executive Director of Adults, Social Care & Health -**
A statutory officer defined under section 2(6) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- e) **Executive Director of Children & Families -**
A statutory officer defined under section 2(6) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- f) **Executive Director of City Operations -**
A non-statutory chief officer defined under section 2(7) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- g) **Executive Director of City Housing -**
A non-statutory chief officer defined under section 2(7) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.

- h) Executive Director of Place, Prosperity & Sustainability -
A non-statutory chief officer defined under section 2(7) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- i) Executive Director of HR, OD & Transformation -
A non-statutory chief officer defined under section 2(7) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- j) Executive Director Strategy, Insight & Governance and Deputy Chief Executive -
A non-statutory chief officer defined under section 2(7) of that Act. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £179,826, rising to a maximum of £233,915.
- k) Director of Public Health -
A statutory post under section 73A (7) of the NHS Act 2006. The salary for the above post falls within a range between £135,398, rising to a maximum of £175,419. There are also two statutory payments made in relation to this role

Annex 2 Birmingham City Council - Pay Spines

JNC Youth and Community Worker Pay Spine effective 1st September 2025

Support Worker Range	Salary
05	£25,580
06	£25,919
07	£26,225
08	£26,924
09	£27,817
10	£28,516
11	£29,644
12	£30,745
13	£31,885
14	£33,066
15	£33,869
16	£34,708
17	£35,533

Professional Range	Salary
13	£31,885
14	£33,066
15	£33,869
16	£34,708
17	£35,533
18	£36,364
19	£37,189
20	£38,016
21	£38,945
22	£39,998
23	£41,024
24	£42,053
25	£43,092
26	£44,129
27	£45,166
28	£46,217
29	£47,258
30	£48,301

NJC Pay Spine – Grade A to D (effective 1st April 2025).

Grade A (until 1st Oct 2025 Grade 1 & 2)

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
3	24,796	13.03
4	25,185	13.23
5	25,583	13.44
6	25,989	13.66
7	26,403	13.87
8	26,824	14.09
9*	27,254	14.32
11*	28,142	14.79

Grade B (until 1st Oct 2025 Grade 3)

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
12	28,598	15.03
13	29,064	15.27
14	29,540	15.52
15	30,024	15.78
16	30,518	16.04
17	31,022	16.30
18	31,537	16.57
19	32,061	16.85
20	32,597	17.13
21	33,143	17.41
22	33,699	17.71
23*	34,434	18.09

Grade C (until 1st Oct 2025 Grade 4)

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
24	35,412	18.61
25	36,363	19.11
26	37,280	19.59
27	38,220	20.08
28	39,152	20.57
29	39,862	20.94
30	40,777	21.43
31	41,771	21.95
32	44,075	23.16
33*	35,412	18.61

Grade D (until 1st Oct 2025 Grade 5)

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
34	45,091	23.69
35	46,142	24.24
36	47,181	24.79
37	48,226	25.34
38	49,282	25.89
39	50,269	26.41
40	51,356	26.98
42*	53,460	28.09

*not available until 1 April 2026

Grade 6

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
43	54,495	28.63
44	56,181	29.52
45	57,883	30.41
46	59,581	31.31
47	61,295	32.21
48	62,988	33.10
49	64,811	34.05

Grade 7

SCP 2025	Salary 2025 (£)	Hourly Rate 2025 (£)
50	66,627	35.01
51	68,466	35.97
52	70,614	37.10
53	72,847	38.28
54	75,157	39.49
55	77,546	40.74
56	80,026	42.05
57	82,589	43.39
58	85,845	45.11

Annex 3 JNC Deputy Chief Officers

The positions in the table below are core establishment, JNC deputy chief officers as mentioned in section 2(8) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, i.e. JNC officers that report directly to any of the JNC chief officers listed in Annex 1:

Designation	Directorate	Grade	Range
Director Early Intervention & Prevention	Adult Social Care & Health	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director Older Adults & Urgent Emergency Care	Adult Social Care & Health	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director Younger Adults, Safeguarding & Provider Services	Adult Social Care & Health	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director Population - PH	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Knowledge, Evidence & Governance - PH	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Healthy Behaviours & Communities - PH	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Adults & Older People - PH	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Deputy Director Public Health	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Consultant Public Health Parks & Neighbourhoods - PH	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Director of Commissioning	Adult Social Care & Health	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director Community Services & Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Early Intervention & Prevention	Adult Social Care & Health	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Director of Children's Commissioning and Performance	Children & Families	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of SEND & Inclusion (Deputy DCS)	Children & Families	B02	£135,398 - £175,419

Director of Thriving Children & Families	Children & Families	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Schools and Employability	Children & Families	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of City Housing Solutions & Support Services	City Housing	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of City Housing Management	City Housing	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of City Asset Management	City Housing	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Regulation & Strategy	City Housing	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director Community Safety, Cohesion & Resilience	City Operations	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Highways & Infrastructure	City Operations	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Neighbourhoods, Culture, Leisure, and Sport	City Operations	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Waste & Street Scene	City Operations	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Regulation & Enforcement	City Operations	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director Community Safety & Resilience	City Operations	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Highways & Infrastructure	City Operations	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods	City Operations	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Waste	City Operations	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Director of Corporate Finance (Deputy s.151 Officer)	Finance	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Digital & Technology Services	Finance	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director Business Partnering & Support (Dep s151)	Finance	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits & Rents	Finance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Director Commercial & Procurement	Finance	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director of Assurance and Risk Management	Finance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Director of HR Services	HR, OD & Transformation	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Centralised Services	HR, OD & Transformation	B02	£135,398 - £175,419

Director of Industrial & Employee Relations	HR, OD & Transformation	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Economy & Skills	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Planning & Development	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director of Infrastructure & Sustainability	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Director Property & Regeneration	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B02	£135,398 - £175,419
Assistant Director of Planning	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Route to Zero Carbon	Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director - Governance (Deputy MO)	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Legal Services - Litigation Law (Deputy MO)	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Legal Services - Corporate Law	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director of Communications	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Strategy & External Affairs	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531
Assistant Director Insight, Policy & Strategy	Strategy, Insight & Governance	B01	£87,724 - £130,531