

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council **Pay Policy Statement – 2026/27**

Introduction and Purpose

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the council to publish a Pay Policy Statement (the “Statement”). The purpose of the Statement is to set out the council’s approach to how its employees are paid.

The Statement must be reviewed at least annually, so that full Council can approve, prior to the 31st of March each year, the Statement that will apply in the following financial year. Any in-year amendments to the Statement must also be approved by Full Council.

The Statement is published on 1st April 2026 and comes into immediate effect.

Legislative Framework

In deciding how its employees are paid, the council complies with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, the Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

Pay Structure

The posts of the majority of employees have been assessed using a National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) job evaluation scheme which is supported by both the national trade unions and the Council. That scheme evaluates the requirements, demands and responsibilities of each role and then directly ascribes evaluated roles to a nationally negotiated pay scale. This ensures that there is no pay discrimination and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified.

The NJC payscale was increased by 3.2% on all points and allowances (pro rata for part-time and term time only employees) effective from 1st April 2025.

Chief Officers (statutory and non statutory) and Chief Executive Officers were also awarded an uplift of 3.2% effective from 1st April 2025

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 the times those services are required.

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 in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for a market supplement 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. Any market supplements awarded are kept under review.

Where the Council has been unable to recruit to critical roles under a contract of employment, or there is a short term need it may engage 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 in securing the relevant service.

4 officers are employed on apprenticeship contracts with salaries and terms in line with national scheme.

Senior Management Pay

For the purposes of this Statement, the council has had regard to the definitions of "Chief Officers" (statutory and non-statutory) set out in Section 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The definition of Chief Officers (statutory and non-statutory) covers the Council's:-

- Chief Executive
- Deputy Chief Executive
- Section 151 Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance
- Service Director for Information and Technology
- Service Director for Regulatory Services
- Service Director for Sustainable Environment
- Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery
- Service Director for Planning
- Service Director for Commercial Delivery

In reaching this decision, we have had regard to the guidance issued about Pay Policy Statements, which draws on the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 salary publication threshold of £50,000 to identify "senior employees". We also note the content of Government's Transparency Code 2015 on this issue.

Chief Officers

- 1) The Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service). The salary of the post is a spot salary of £123,266.10. There is no incremental point range. This does not include payments the Chief Executive may receive as the Council's Returning Officer/Acting Returning Officer for elections.
- 2) Deputy Chief Executive. The salary of this post falls within a range of 4 incremental points between £99,672.69 and £106,182.50
- 3) Monitoring Officer. The Council's Service Director for Legal & Governance Services is designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer. The Service Director for Legal & Governance Services is remunerated on the SD scale which has a range of 3 incremental points between £72,258.32 and £78,827.26. The post also receives a Statutory Officer Allowance of £10,000.
- 4) Section 151 Officer. The Council's Service Director for Finance is designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer. The Council's Section 151 Officer is remunerated on the Head of Service scale which has a range of 3 incremental points between £63,510.68 and £70,346.75 The post also receives a Statutory Officer Allowance of £10,000.
- 5) The Council operates a career grade scale at Service Director level, which allows controlled progression from Head of Service to Service Director Level following skills and experience

assessment. There are 7 service areas of responsibility whose lead officers fall within this category which are identified below.

- i. Strategy, People and Performance
- ii. Information and Technology
- iii. Regulatory Services
- iv. Sustainable Environment
- v. Neighbourhood Delivery
- vi. Planning
- vii. Commercial Delivery

6) Service Directors / Head of Service will usually start at the minimum point in the initial half of the salary scale (Head of Service) and progress until the gateway point after which they may progress to the additional pay points as Service Director on assessment of appropriate skills acquisition (see figure 1)

7) Should the Government enact Local Government Reorganisation, a further senior post focused on activity is likely to be needed on a temporary basis following any announcement by Ministers. This will be funded from the Council's reserves set aside for LGR in 2026/2027 and reviewed as any programme progresses.

Payments on Termination

The Council's approach to payments on termination of employment of chief officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within its policy statement in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006. That policy statement is available on the Council's website.

Any other payments falling outside the policy statement relating to termination payments prior to reaching normal retirement age or outside of contractual notice periods shall, where those payments exceed £100,000, be authorised by a resolution of full Council. This is without prejudice to the urgency provisions which are set out in the Council's constitution.

Flexible Retirement

The Council's policy on Flexible Retirement for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme is available on the Council's website

Other Remuneration

The Council does not apply any target related bonuses or performance related pay to its senior managers. Progression through the pay increments in a pay scale (where relevant) are subject to satisfactory performance which is assessed on an annual basis.

Publication

Upon approval by the Full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website, alongside data required under the Transparency Code 2015.

In addition, for posts where the full time equivalent salary is at least £50,000, the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts will include a note setting out the total amount of:

- salary, fees or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any bonuses so paid or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax;

- any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination;
- any benefits received that do not fall within the above

Lowest Paid Employees

The lowest paid persons employed under a contract of employment with the council are employed on full time (37 hours) equivalent salaries in accordance with the National Living Wage. No employee is paid under the National Living Wage hourly rate of £12.71 (for those age 21 and over from April 2026)

The Council employs apprentices who are not included within the definition of 'lowest paid employees' as they are employed under the National Apprenticeship Scheme.

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.

The current basic pay levels within the council give a multiple between the lowest paid (full time equivalent basic salary) employee and:-

- the Chief Executive as 1:5.04
- the median (average) full time equivalent earnings and average chief officer as 1:2.7

Date of Statement: 20th January 2026

Figure 1

NJC SALARY SCALES

Salary Scales as at 01/04/2025

GRADE	SPINAL COLUMN POINT	SALARY £	Hourly Rates	BASIC LEAVE ENTITLEMENT (DAYS)	ADDITIONAL LEAVE AFTER 5 YEARS SERVICE (DAYS)	TOTAL LEAVE AFTER 5 YEARS SERVICE (DAYS)	PENSION CONTRIBUTION eff April 2023				
Grade 2	2	24,413	12.65	24 (177.6 hours)	4 (29.6 hours)	28 (207.2 hours)	Main section	50/50			
							5.8%	2.90%			
Grade 3	3	24,796	12.85							5.8%	2.90%
	4	25,185	13.05							5.8%	2.90%
Grade 4	5	25,583	13.26							5.8%	2.90%
	6	25,989	13.47							5.8%	2.90%
Grade 5	7	26,403	13.69							5.8%	2.90%
	8	26,824	13.90							5.8%	2.90%
	9	27,254	14.13							5.8%	2.90%
	10	27,694	14.35							5.8%	2.90%
Grade 6	11	28,142	14.59							6.5%	3.25%
	12	28,598	14.82	24 (177.6 hours)	5 (37 hours)	29 (214.6 hours)	6.5%	3.25%			
	13	29,540	15.31				6.5%	3.25%			
	14	30,024	15.56				6.5%	3.25%			
	15	30,518	15.82				6.5%	3.25%			
16	31,022	16.08	6.5%				3.25%				
Grade 7	17	31,537	16.35				6.5%	3.25%			
	18	32,061	16.62				6.5%	3.25%			
	19	32,597	16.90				6.5%	3.25%			
	20	33,143	17.18				6.5%	3.25%			
Grade 8	21	33,699	17.47				6.5%	3.25%			
	22	34,434	17.85	26 (192.4 hours)	5 (37 hours)	31 (229.4 hours)	6.5%	3.25%			
	23	35,412	18.35				6.5%	3.25%			
	24	36,363	18.85				6.5%	3.25%			
25	37,280	19.32	6.5%				3.25%				
Grade 9	26	38,220	19.81				6.5%	3.25%			
	27	39,152	20.29				6.5%	3.25%			
	28	39,862	20.66				6.5%	3.25%			
Grade 10	29	40,777	21.14				6.5%	3.25%			
	30	41,771	21.65				6.5%	3.25%			
	31	42,839	22.20				6.5%	3.25%			
Grade 11	32	44,075	22.85	28 (207.2 hours)	5 (37 hours)	33 (244.2 hours)	6.5%	3.25%			
	33	45,091	23.37				6.5%	3.25%			
	34	46,142	23.92				6.8%	3.40%			
Grade 12	35	47,181	24.46							6.8%	3.40%
	36	48,226	25.00							6.8%	3.40%
	37	49,282	25.54							6.8%	3.40%
	38	50,269	26.06							6.8%	3.40%
Grade 13	39	51,356	26.62							6.8%	3.40%
	40	52,413	27.17							6.8%	3.40%
	41	53,460	27.71							6.8%	3.40%
	42	54,495	28.25				6.8%	3.40%			
	43	55,601.44	28.82				6.8%	3.40%			
Grade 14	44	56,742.03	29.41				6.8%	3.40%			
	45	57,907.90	30.02				6.8%	3.40%			

Figure 2
Chief Officer Pay

JNC Salary Scales - April 2025			
SCP	£ per annum	£ per hour	
Point 1	63,510.68	32.92	Heads of Service
Point 2	66,928.72	34.69	
Point 3	70,346.75	36.46	
Point 1	72,258.32	37.45	Service Directors
Point 2	76,090.20	39.44	
Point 3	78,827.26	40.86	
EXD-1	99,672.69	51.66	Executive Directors
EXD-2	101,843.72	52.79	
EXD-3	104,012.57	53.91	
EXD-4	106,182.50	55.04	
CEO	123,266.13	63.89	Chief Executive