

CARDIFF COUNCIL

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025/26

INTRODUCTION

1. Since 2012 the Council has complied with the statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a Pay Policy Statement on an annual basis. This Pay Policy Statement covers the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. It was approved by Council on 27th March 2025 (and subsequent publication) of the 2025/26 Pay Policy Statement ensures continued compliance with legislation.
2. This Pay Policy Statement provides the framework for decision making on pay, and in particular, decision making on senior officer pay within the Council. It complements other information published on the Council's website which is linked at appropriate points in this Pay Policy Statement.
3. Cardiff Council recognises the importance of managing pay fairly and consistently in a way that motivates employees to make a positive contribution to the Council's business of delivering public services and administering local government in the Capital City of Wales.
4. The Council has also been accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation and is committed to ensuring that our lowest paid employees are paid, as a minimum, in accordance with the 'Real' or Voluntary Living Wage, which is calculated annually by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.
5. The decisions that are taken by the Council regarding pay are crucial to maintaining equality across the organisation. The production of an annual Pay Policy Statement supports this approach and assists in providing both transparency and accountability.

SCOPE

6. In accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 this Pay Policy Statement covers all aspects of Chief Officer remuneration (including on ceasing to hold office), and that relating to the 'lowest paid' employees in the authority. The relationship between the remuneration for Chief Officer posts and other employee groups employed by the Council is explained.
7. In the interests of transparency and accountability the Council has chosen to take a broader approach than that required by legislation and therefore this Pay Policy Statement covers all employee groups, except for teachers, (as the remuneration for this latter group is set by the Welsh Government and therefore not in local authority control).

8. This Pay Policy Statement does not apply to Members of the Council as they are not employees and are governed by separate legislation and the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

KEY PRINCIPLES

9. This Pay Policy Statement aims to ensure that all employees are rewarded fairly and without discrimination for the work that they do. It reflects fairness and equality of opportunity, the need to encourage and enable employees to perform to the best of their ability and the commitment to operate a transparent pay and grading structure.
10. The Council recognises that pay is not the only means of rewarding and supporting employees and offers a wider range of benefits, such as flexible working arrangements, access to learning and development, a Health and Wellbeing Charter and an Employee Assistance Programme.
11. To ensure these principles are embedded the Council will ensure that there are clear and transparent processes for setting and reviewing salaries for all employees, and that there is sufficient flexibility to take into account the pay market and recruitment and retention factors.
12. Any policy statement on pay has to be affordable and support the provision of high-quality public services.

LEGISLATION

13. In determining the pay and remuneration of all its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.
14. With regard to the Equal Pay requirements of the Equality Act, the Council will ensure there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of equality proofed Job Evaluation mechanisms which directly relate salaries to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

DEFINITIONS

15. The Localism Act 2011 sets out the requirements for Pay Policy Statements and as part of this there are certain terms that are used to define different employee groups and in particular senior officers. This section explains these definitions and how they apply in this authority.

Chief Officer

16. The Localism Act 2011 defines 'Chief Officer' as Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Statutory Chief Officers and Non-Statutory Chief Officers.
17. Cardiff Council's Chief Officers are as follows:
 - Head of Paid Service - Chief Executive
 - Monitoring Officer – Director of Governance & Legal Services
 - Statutory Chief Officers:-
 - Director for Education and Lifelong Learning,
 - Corporate Director for People and Communities who undertakes the role of Director of Social Services
 - Corporate Director Resources who undertakes the role of Section 151 Officer
 - Non-statutory Chief Officers – this refers to non-statutory posts that report directly to the Head of Paid Service
 - Director for Economic Development
 - Director for Planning, Transport and Environment

Deputy Chief Officers

18. The Localism Act 2011 defines 'Deputy Chief Officers' as those officers that report directly to statutory or non-statutory Chief Officers. In Cardiff Council this includes:
 - Director Adult, Housing and Communities
 - Director Children's Services
 - Assistant Director for County Estates
 - Assistant Director for Education and Lifelong Learning
 - Assistant Director for Street Scene
 - Assistant Director for Development and Regeneration
 - Programme Director for School Organisation Planning
 - Head of Service for Finance
 - Head of Performance and Partnerships
 - Head of Democratic Services – statutory role which reports to the Monitoring Officer
 - Chief HR Officer
 - Chief Digital Officer
19. The Council's senior management arrangements include Operational Manager posts. In addition to the posts identified above, there are also some Operational Managers that report directly to statutory or non-statutory Chief Officers (Corporate Director Resources, Directors of Economic Development; Governance and Legal Services; Planning, Transport and Environment) and so for the purposes of this policy these posts are included within the definition of Deputy Chief Officer. Operational Managers are employed on the same terms and conditions as the Council's Chief Officers as indicated in paragraph 30.

20. The Council's senior management arrangements also include the posts of Assistant Director for Adult Services, and Assistant Director of Housing and Communities, that report to a Deputy Chief Officer.

Lowest Paid Employees

21. The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to define its 'lowest paid employee' within the Pay Policy Statement. Within the Council the lowest paid employees are those appointed on Spinal Column Point (SCP) 2 of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services' nationally agreed pay scale. However, to support the Council's lowest paid employees, with effect from 1st September 2012 the Council adopted the Voluntary Living Wage. In practice this means that the pay for the lowest paid employees is kept under review to ensure that either the Voluntary Living Wage hourly rate is paid, or the relevant Spinal Column Point, whichever is the greatest.
22. The Voluntary Living Wage, as announced in October 2024 has risen to £12.60. Based on current rates of pay and changes to the NJC for Local Government Services pay scale effective from 1st April 2024, a Voluntary living Wage Supplement will therefore need to be paid to those employees on SCP 2 and 3, in 2025/26 until such a time as any pay award is agreed. In accordance with the Council's commitment to the payment of the Voluntary Living Wage this will be further reviewed once the 2026 National Pay Agreement is finalised, and any adjustment implemented.

Pay

23. The Localism Act 2011 defines 'pay' remuneration as 'salary, bonuses, charges, fees or allowances payable, any benefits in kind, increase or enhancement of pension entitlement. This definition is applied in this Pay Policy Statement.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

24. The Chief Executive fulfils the statutory role of Head of Paid Service as defined by the Localism Act 2011. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Section 54 makes provision to codify the role of the Chief Executive in a principal council (county and county borough councils), including, but not exclusively, the functions currently undertaken by the head of paid service as designated under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. As a result, from 5 May 2022, all principal councils are required to appoint a Chief Executive. This replaced the previous requirement to designate an existing officer as head of paid service under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This requirement did not affect arrangements in Cardiff as the Council already had an appointed Chief Executive.
25. As the most senior officer the Chief Executive is responsible for a wide range of services with a total budget of £849 million (2024/25) and for the employment of 13,929 employees (at 31st December 2024). The services are provided to a total population of 383,500 (rounded to the nearest 100) according to the Office for National Statistics' latest (mid-2024) population estimates. The Council was recorded as having a Council housing stock of 14314 (November 2024) and in November 2024 there were 55,823 pupils enrolled in our schools.

26. The role of Chief Executive is a full time and permanent appointment. Post holders are selected on merit, against objective criteria, following public advertisement. They are appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Council, comprising elected members.
27. The Chief Executive works closely with elected members to deliver the administration's policy statement – 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' – a programme setting out the themes that have defined the work of the Council over the past decade, and that are the heart of the Council's work over the next five years.
28. The Chief Executive routinely works outside of the standard Monday to Friday business week. The Chief Executive also heads the Gold Command 'on call' arrangements particularly to cover emergency planning requirements.

PAY DETAILS

Chief Executive

29. The Chief Executive is employed on Joint National Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities (JNC for Chief Executives) terms and conditions. The JNC for Chief Executives negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases, and any award of the same is determined on this basis. These pay awards are effective from 1st April each year, however they are not normally confirmed in advance of this date.

Chief Officers and Operational Managers

30. Posts at Operational Manager and above are employed on Joint National Committee (JNC) Chief Officer terms and conditions and pay levels for these posts have been evaluated using the Korn Ferry Hay (formerly Hay) Job Evaluation Scheme since 1999.
31. The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group, and any award of same is determined on this basis. These pay awards are effective from 1st April each year, however they are not normally confirmed in advance of this date.

Chief Officer Pay Decisions

32. Although the annual cost of living pay awards, referred to in paragraph 31 above, are part of the nationally agreed terms and conditions, the Council's Constitution Employment Procedure Rules states that any decision to determine or vary the remuneration of Chief Officers (or those to be appointed as Chief Officers) must be made by full Council.
33. Therefore, in accordance with these rules, the Council's decision to agree this Pay Policy Statement constitutes agreement to implement the cost of living pay increases determined by the relevant negotiating body effective from 1st April 2025, as accounted for in the Budget set and agreed by Council on 6th March 2024.

34. Any additional financial implications arising from the national pay agreements determined after this date that cannot be met within the Council's Revenue Budget will be referred to Council for consideration and decision.

Chief Officer and Operational Manager Pay

35. The following table shows the current pay rates for Chief Officers and Operational Managers, as at 1st April 2024:

Table 1 Chief Officer and Operational Manager Pay

Post	Salary
Chief Officers – Spot Salary	
Chief Executive	£201,663
Corporate Director for Resources Corporate Director for People and Communities	£154,693
Directors	£142,950
Chief Digital Officer	£115,161
Chief Officers, Assistant Directors	£97,861
Operational Managers – 5 Point Range	
Operational Manager – Level 1	£64,976- £78,735
Operational Manager – Level 2	£53,547 - £64,258

36. The salary level for Chief Officer and Operational Managers is determined by an independent external evaluation process based on an assessment of relative job sizes and benchmarking against market comparisons for posts of similar size and complexity, using the Korn Ferry (previously Hay) Job Evaluation Scheme.
37. For Chief Officer positions, any report from the external evaluators on grading of new posts or changes to salary levels is presented to the Council's Employment Conditions Committee (ECC) which has the following functions delegated to it under the Council's Constitution:
- (i) *To consider and determine policy and issues arising from the organisation, terms and conditions of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers (as defined in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006), together with any other category of employee specified in Regulation from time to time where this is necessary, subject to the approval of Council in respect of any determination or variation of the remuneration of Chief Officers.*
 - (ii) *To decide requests for re-grading of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers (as defined in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006), except for Operational Managers deemed to be classed as Deputy Chief Officers, whose applications may be determined under Chief Executive officer delegation within the remuneration framework for Operational Managers, together with any other category of employee specified in Regulation from time to time, whether by*

way of appeal by an employee against a decision to refuse a re-grading application or to decide applications for re-grading which are supported, subject to the approval of Council in respect of any determination or variation of the remuneration of a Chief Officer.

38. Where an Operational Manager, who falls within the statutory definition of a Deputy Chief Officer, submits a request for regrading, this is dealt with by the Chief Executive under delegated authority, within the remuneration framework for Operational Managers (delegation reference CE8). It has been agreed that any such decisions shall be reported in this Pay Policy Statement for transparency. During 2024/25, the Chief Executive's delegation has not been exercised.
39. In addition to the above, the Independent Remuneration Panel in Wales (IRP) has specific functions concerning the salary of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service). Before making a change to the salary of the Chief Executive, which is not commensurate with a change to the salaries of the Council's other employees, the local authority must consult the IRP about the proposed change and have regard to any recommendation received from the IRP when deciding whether or not to proceed with making the change.
40. In the year ending 31st March 2025 the local authority has not had the need to make a referral to the IRP.
41. Since 2009/10, the Council has published pay details for Chief Officer posts on its website. Previous to this, the number of officers at each salary band over £60,000 were set out. The information can be found in the 'Statement of Accounts' which is accessed via the tab 'Your Council' and then the link to 'Council Finance' <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Council-finance/Managing-the-Councils-Finances/Pages/default.aspx>. The Chief Executive pay has been published on the website since 2010.

'National Joint Council (NJC) (Green Book)' and 'Joint National Council (JNC) Craft' Employees

42. The pay grades for all former NJC Green Book and JNC Craft positions within the Council are evaluated using a job evaluation (JE) process using the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) scheme. The JE process uses a consistent set of criteria which ensures that the Council's grading structure is fair, transparent, and equitable, and that men and women receive equal pay for work of equal value. The Council has Collective Agreements in place with UNISON, GMB and Unite (NJC Green Book), and GMB, and Unite (JNC Craft) which set out the pay ranges for each grade, and also relevant terms and conditions.
43. The Council's pay and grading structure links the scores from the job evaluation process directly to the NJC pay structure. There is a locally agreed pay scale which has 10 grades that span across SCPs 2- 40 of the national pay structure. SCPs 10, 13, 16, 18 and 21 of the national pay structure are not used in Cardiff Council. Overall, the Council's pay scale equates to £23,656 to £49,764, on 1st April 2024. Each grade has a number of incremental points.

44. More information about the GLPC Scheme and the grades of the Council can be found in the Council's Single Status Collective Agreement. The agreed grades and associated salaries at 1st April 2024 can be seen at Annex 1.

Employees other than Chief Officer and previous 'Green Book' and 'Craft' employees

45. The Council also has employees whose pay, terms and conditions are determined by other national agreement, i.e. JNC Youth and Community, Soulbury, and School Teacher terms and conditions. Pay for these employees is based on the relevant nationally agreed rates of pay. Pay rates are included in Annex 1 for information.

Pay Differentials

46. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the lowest paid (full time equivalent) employee (£23,656) and the Chief Executive (£201,663) as 1:9 and between the lowest paid employee (£23,656) and median Chief Officer (£97,861) as 1:4.
47. The multiple between the median full time equivalent earnings (£31,067) and the Chief Executive (£201,663) is [1:6] and; between the median full time equivalent earnings (£31,067) and median Chief Officer (£97,861) is [1:3].
48. The Council does not use performance related pay or bonuses for Chief Officers.

Incremental Progression – all employees

49. Incremental progression for 'Green Book', 'Craft' employees and Operational Managers is not automatic but is dependent upon a successful performance review. Following a successful performance review, increments are normally effective from the 1st April each year. For 'Green Book' and 'Craft' employees, this requirement is detailed in the relevant Single Status Collective Agreement, and for Operational Managers this is contained within their terms and conditions.

Salary on Appointment – all employees

50. Vacancies are advertised on the agreed grade for the post stating the minimum and maximum salary, or spot point, as appropriate to the post. All Chief Officers are appointed to the spot point. Where salary scales are in place appointments are made at the bottom point of the range, but there is discretion to appoint at a higher point within the range. This would usually be to match a candidate's current level of pay, or other particular circumstances.

Market Supplements – all employees

51. It is recognised that there will be exceptional circumstances where the market rate for certain key jobs is higher than that provided for by relevant Council pay and grading structure. In these circumstances, the grading of the post will be reviewed in accordance with the Council's Market Supplement Scheme agreed as part of the Council's Single Status Agreement. The scheme is applicable to all those covered by the Green book, Craft employees, JNC for Chief Officers, JNC for Youth &

Community Workers and those on Soulbury terms and conditions. Proposals to pay a Market Supplement must be supported by a fully evidence-based business case and follow the agreed decision making processes of the Council.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS

52. Employees employed under the previous 'Green Book' and 'Craft' terms and conditions are paid on the same terms and conditions and pay scales through Single Status. However, a tool allowance has been retained for relevant craft posts.

NJC 'Green Book' and JNC 'Craft' Employees

53. Additional payments are made as detailed in their respective Collective Agreements. The types of additional payments made include overtime and Saturday and Sunday working at time and a half; recalls to work attract a minimum payment of 2 hours payment; public holiday payments; car allowances; motorcycle and bicycle allowances; stand by and call out payments; night /evening /unsocial hours payments; shift work allowance; sleeping in duty payment; first aid allowance; relocation payment and payment for professional subscriptions. To manage ongoing budgetary pressures, in the financial year 2025/26 payments for interview expenses, relocation expenses and professional subscriptions (which are not legal requirements of a post) will not be made. This has consistently been applied since the 2014/15 financial year.

Chief Officers and Operational Managers

54. Additional payments made include car, motorcycle and bicycle allowances which have been harmonised for all Council employees using the single rate based on the HMRC arrangements paid for business mileage, i.e. currently 45p per mile for cars.
55. Interview Expenses and Relocation Assistance – Consistent with a decision applied since the 2014/15 financial year, these payments will not be made for the 2025/26 financial year.
56. Professional Subscriptions – In the financial year 2025/26 these will continue to only be paid by the Council where it is a legal requirement of the post.
57. Returning Officer Fees - The appointment of Electoral Registration Officer is required by S8 Representation of the People Act 1983; and the appointment of Returning Officer is required by S35 Representation of the People Act 1983. At the Council meeting on the 28th February 2019, the Chief Executive was appointed to the roles of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer, with effect from the 3rd April 2019. The roles of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer are part of the job description of the Chief Executive.
58. The Returning Officer fees for parliamentary, Welsh Government, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and all referenda are set out in statutory fees and charges orders for each election. For these externally sponsored elections, the fee is funded through grant awarded by the Welsh Government in respect of its election, and by Central Government in respect of the other elections. For local elections, the Council must pay the expenditure properly incurred by the Returning Officer in relation to

holding the election, for example, for printing of ballot papers and all election stationery and provision of polling stations. The Chief Executive has waived all personal fees associated with the role of Returning Officer.

Election Staff to Assist the Returning Officer

59. The Returning Officer has power to appoint all staff necessary to assist in the discharge of the Returning Officer's duties in respect of holding the elections, including Poll Clerks, Presiding Officers, and Count Staff. For all externally sponsored elections, staff fees must be set in line with the appropriate statutory fees and charges order and are recoverable on that basis. For local elections, staff fees are based on the scale and type of election and are reviewed to take account of inflation and any other pressures, as appropriate. The fees are set and approved by the Returning Officer prior to the election.

HONORARIA AND ACTING UP SCHEMES

60. The Council has schemes for payment where an employee acts up into a post at a higher level of pay (Acting Up Scheme) or where they undertake additional duties at a higher level of responsibility (Honorary Scheme). These schemes are applicable for all Council employees, excluding teachers, however for the financial year 2025/26 the current Honorary Scheme will continue to be withdrawn in order to manage an ongoing budgetary pressure.

ANNUAL LEAVE

61. Annual leave entitlements are determined by the terms and conditions of the different employee groups. Entitlements to annual leave are pro rata for part time employees.

Green Book and Craft employees, Chief Executive, Chief Officers and Operational Managers

62. The annual leave entitlement is 28 days, rising to 33 days after 5 years' service, and in addition, there are usually 8 public holidays. This leave entitlement is set out in the Council's Single Status Collective Agreement. Under local agreement this leave entitlement also applies to employees whose pay is negotiated under Craftworkers, Chief Officer pay terms (OMs and above) and the Chief Executive.

Other Employees

63. The annual leave entitlement for JNC Youth & Community is 30 days, rising to 35 days after 5 years' service. The Soulbury entitlement is 25 days rising to 30 days after 5 years' service. In addition, there are usually 8 public holidays and 4 extra statutory days for both groups.

Purchase of Annual Leave

64. The Council has in place an Annual Leave Purchase scheme where employees can purchase up to 10 day’s annual leave, which is then payable by monthly deductions during the leave year. In December 2024 121 employees accessed the scheme in the 2024/25 annual leave year, which was an increase of 21 compared to the previous year.

GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

65. The Council has published a Gender Pay Gap report as part of its Annual Equalities Monitoring Report. The report uses data for employees who were paid for the period that covers 31st March each year. There will be changes from year to year and these will very much depend on the extent to which changes arise in the number of male and female employees at different grades, the use of salary sacrifice schemes and changes to additional allowances paid to employees. The following Gender Pay Gap information sets out the actual differences in the average pay between employees who are male and those who are female (excluding schools) as at 31st March 2024, compared with 31st March 2023, and shows the percentage and actual pay gap between men and women:

Table 2 Gender Pay Gap - data excluding schools

	31/03/2023 Mean Hourly Rate	31/03/2023 Median Hourly Rate	31/03/2024 Mean Hourly Rate	31/03/2024 Median Hourly Rate
Male	£16.11 Grade 6	£14.78 Grade 6	£17.50 Grade 6	£16.26 Grade 6
Female	£16.08 Grade 6	£14.44 Grade 6	£17.43 Grade 6	£15.70 Grade 6
Pay Gap	0.19% (£-0.03)	2.30% (-£0.34)	0.40% (-£0.07)	3.44% (-£0.56)

66. The **mean** average involves adding up all the hourly rates and dividing the result by how many numbers were in the list. The **median** average involves listing all the hourly rates in numerical order. If there is an odd number of results, the median average is the middle number. If there is an even number of results, the median will be the mean of the two central numbers.

67. A positive percentage figure reveals that typically, or overall, employees who are female have lower pay than male employees. According to the national government’s Gender Pay Gap information at www.gov.uk, this is likely to be the situation for most employers. A negative percentage figure indicates that typically, or overall, employees who are female have higher pay than male employees.

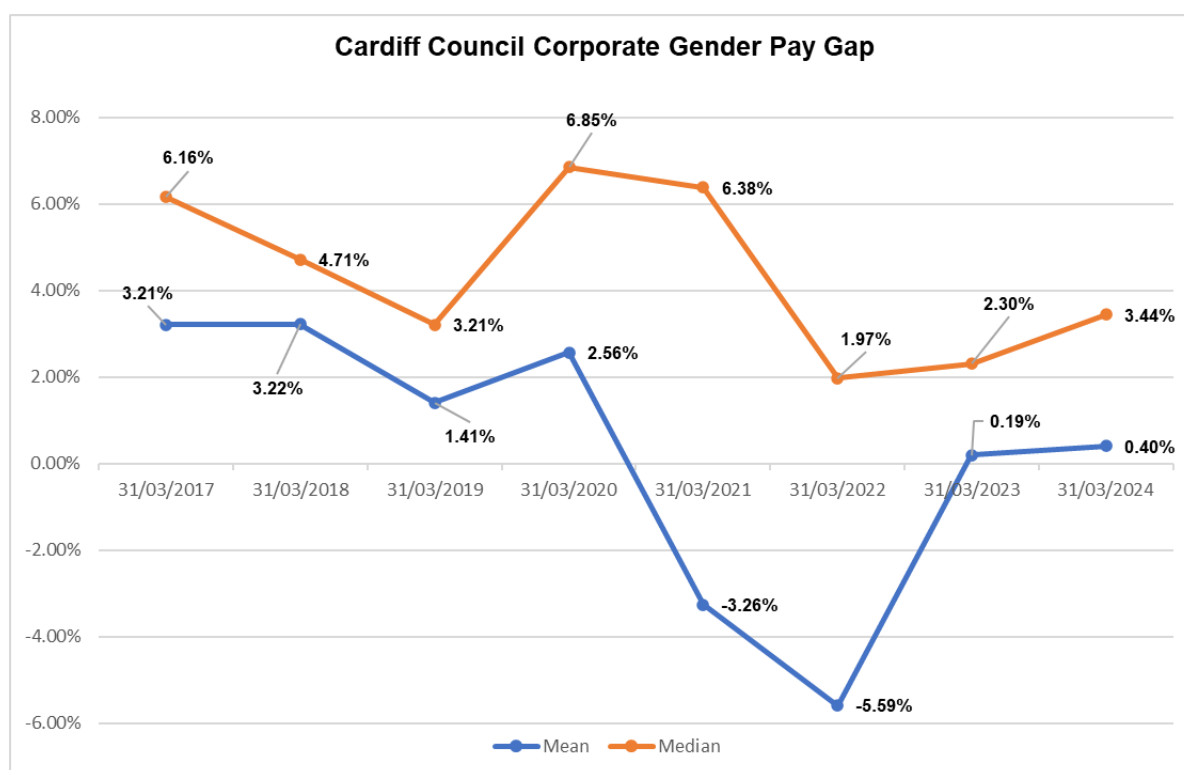
68. Using the **mean** method of calculating the average the pay gap shows that the hourly rate for women is lower than that for men, with a pay gap of 0.40%. This is a change from 2023 when the mean method of calculating the average pay gap demonstrated a pay gap of 0.19%. The **median** average of 2.30% in 2023 has grown to 3.44% in

2024. Both methods of calculation indicate that employees who are female have lower pay than male employees.

69. The **median** hourly pay rates for both males and females are within Grade 6 which is consistent with 2023.

70. The graph below demonstrates Cardiff Council's Gender Pay Gap trend between 2017 – 2024. The graph demonstrates that whilst there has been an expected fluctuation in the % gap between years, the gap has remained relatively constant with the overall trend demonstrating that the gap is narrowing for both mean and median methods of calculation around 0%. A gender pay gap of 0% would demonstrate that pay for males and females is the same; this graph shows the overall positive progress Cardiff Council is making towards that goal.

Figure 1 Gender Pay Gap



71. As demonstrated in the table below point 72, when schools are included, the Gender Pay Gap information at 31st March 2024, compared with 31st March 2023 shows that the mean and median hourly rates fall within the same grades as in the previous year. The mean pay gap shows that women overall have a lower mean hourly rate than men, by £0.32 per hour.

72. When schools are included, the 2022 the median pay gap was £0.83 per hour, a gap of 5.78% in favour of male employees, in 2024 this pay gap has increased to £1.06. It must be remembered that the pay information for school-based employees includes those who are paid on teachers' terms and conditions so different pay award levels each year, and higher salary levels, will result in a fluctuation in the pay gap information.

Table 3 Gender Pay Gap - data including schools

	31/03/2023 Mean Hourly Rate	31/03/2023 Median Hourly Rate	31/03/2024 Mean Hourly Rate	31/03/2024 Median Hourly Rate
Male	£17.73 Grade 7	£15.26 Grade 6	£18.99 Grade 7 Increase of £1.26	£16.50 Grade 6 Increase of £1.24
Female	£17.60 Grade 7	£14.73 Grade 6	£18.67 Grade 7 Increase of £1.07	£15.44 Grade 6 Increase of £0.71
Pay Gap	0.73% (-£0.13)	3.47% (-£0.53)	1.69% (-£0.32)	6.42% (-£1.06)

73. The quartile table below shows the proportion of male and female full-pay relevant employees (excluding schools) in four quartile pay bands, which is calculated by dividing the workforce into four equal parts. If there are number of employees on the same hourly rate of pay crossing two of the quartiles, males and females are split as evenly as possible across the quartiles. Quartile 1 represents the lowest paid and Quartile 4 represents the highest paid.

Table 4 Gender Pay Gap Quartiles

Quartiles	31/03/2023 Male	31/03/2023 Female	31/03/2024 Male	31/03/2024 Female	Difference Male	Difference Female
Q1 Lower hourly pay	39.60%	60.40%	35.57%	64.43%	-4.03%	+4.03%
Q2 Lower middle hourly pay	41.54%	58.46%	43.49%	56.51%	+1.96%	-1.96%
Q3 Upper middle hourly pay	43.74%	56.26%	44.65%	55.35%	+0.91%	-0.91%
Q4 Upper hourly pay	42.83%	57.17%	41.53%	58.47%	-1.30%	+1.30%

74. At the 31st March 2024, compared to 2023, in Quartile 1 the percentage of females compared to male employees decreased. In Quartiles 2 and 3 the percentage of female employees compared to male employees decreased.

75. Whilst there is no requirement in Wales to publish Gender Pay Gap information, Cardiff Council has chosen to publish its information on GOV.UK. In terms of the 2024/25 published data, Cardiff Council's position compares well to other Local Authorities, include those core cities that have published their data.

PENSION SCHEME

76. All Council employees (except for teachers) are entitled to join the local government pension scheme (LGPS) which is offered by the Local Government Employers. If employees are eligible, they will automatically become a member of the scheme (to join they must have a contract for at least 3 months duration and be under the age of 75). Employees can decide to opt out of the scheme. The benefits and contributions payable under the Fund are set out in the LGPS regulations.

77. The current level of contribution to the scheme by employees is:

Table 5 Contribution table 2024/25

Band	Actual pensionable pay for an employment	Main - Contribution rate for that employment	50/50 section - Contribution rate for that employment
1	Up to £ £17,600	5.50%	2.75%
2	£ £17,601 to £27,600	5.80%	2.90%
3	£ £27,601 to £44,900	6.50%	3.25%
4	£44,901 to £56,800	6.80%	3.40%
5	£ £56,801 to £79,700	8.50%	4.25%
6	£79,701 to £112,900	9.90%	4.95%
7	£112,901 to £133,100	10.50%	5.25%
8	£133,101 to £199,700	11.40%	5.70%
9	£199,701 or more	12.50%	6.25%

78. Teachers are entitled to join the Teachers' Pensions scheme. As the Teachers Pensions scheme is operated externally further information can be found on www.teacherspensions.co.uk.

79. The Council's current published statement relating to pensions was agreed by the Cabinet on 12th June 2014 for implementation on 30th June 2014. The way redundancy payments are calculated was agreed by Cabinet on 26th January 2015 as part of the former Voluntary Redundancy Policy (now the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy) and is detailed below.

EXIT (REDUNDANCY/SEVERANCE) PAYMENTS

Voluntary Severance Scheme

80. The Council's 'Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy' provides details of the position on making discretionary payments on early termination of employment under Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. The policy also provides details of the Council's policy on increasing an employee's total pension scheme membership and on awarding additional pension under Regulation 60 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

81. The arrangements set out in the document referred to in paragraph 80 apply to Chief Officers and all other employees of the Council irrespective of grade or status. The most relevant sections are detailed below:
- (i) **The power to pay lump sum compensation of up to 104 weeks** - the Council's policy for utilising this discretion is that the statutory redundancy table is multiplied by a factor of 1.5 subject to a maximum of 45 weeks from 3rd April 2015.
 - (ii) **The power to increase a Statutory Redundancy Payment** – the Council's policy for utilising this discretion is that redundancy payments to be based on actual week's pay up to a maximum of £700 per week (at 6th April 2024) or actual pay whichever is the lesser. The maximum figure to be adjusted by the statutory amount for a week's pay, as announced annually by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills. The maximum redundancy payable is therefore £31,500, with any payment above £30,000 being subject to tax and national insurance deduction.
82. The policy effective since 5 April 2015 was amended to take account of the decision of an Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) in the case of *University of Sunderland v Drossou* (13 June 2017). The EAT ruled that employer's pension contributions should be included in the calculation of a week's pay for calculations made under the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA). Sections 220-229 of the ERA set out the rules regarding the 'week's pay provisions' and the way a week's pay is used, which includes the calculation of redundancy pay.
83. The EAT held that a week's pay should include remuneration 'payable by the employer under the contract of employment' and that this value should not be limited by what the employee directly receives. The rationale offered by the EAT was that employer's pension contributions formed part of the overall package of 'remuneration' offered to an employee in return for their services. The result of this is that, where appropriate, the employer's pension contributions are included in the calculation of weekly pay, subject to the £700 maximum.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

84. Since 1st April 2015, the Council has had a policy regarding re-employment of employees (at any level) who take voluntary redundancy from the Council which was agreed at Cabinet on 26th January 2015.
85. The Council's agreed policy is that employees requesting voluntary redundancy have to agree to the condition that given the Council's obligation to safeguard public funds, they will be precluded from returning to employment (which includes permanent, temporary, casual and agency) within the Council (including schools) for a period of 12 months from the date of their termination. Casual engagement includes contracts for services.
86. The Council does not believe that it employs any individual in a manner that seeks to avoid tax.

87. Within the Council, under the pension fund discretionary policies there is generally no abatement of pension following re-employment except under the following circumstances:

- (i) Where a person has been awarded compensatory added years (CAY's) under the LGPS Compensation Regulations the pension may be abated. This is a requirement of the compensation regulations, but these will be historical cases as CAY's can no longer be granted.
- (ii) Where a person has retired under tier 1 ill health provisions and is subsequently re-employed. This is because the certification for tier 1 supposes that the person is permanently unfit for all work. Other tiers of ill health or other retirements would not lead to abatement on re-employment.

88. Abatement, where it applies, would be based on non-betterment that is the pension together with the pay in the new employment should not exceed the pay at the point of retirement (adjusted for pension increases). Under (i) the abatement would only apply to the pension from CAY's.

NON-GUARANTEED WORKING HOURS

89. In December 2016 the Welsh Government issued principles and guidance on the appropriate use of non-guaranteed hours arrangements in the devolved public services in Wales. These principles and guidance were developed by the Public Services Staff Commission in social partnership with the Welsh Government's Partnership Council and its sector groups.

90. The Council is committed to the principles determined by Welsh Government which apply to those employees who are employed on a relief, casual or sessional basis. These employees are used in services within the Council where there is either a need to bring in an additional workforce in order to cover peaks in workload or where the workload is on a one-off basis.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND DECISION MAKING

92. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Cabinet are responsible for decision making in terms of pay, terms and conditions and redundancy arrangements in relation to employees of the Council. The exception to this is that the Employment Conditions Committee is responsible for posts at Chief Officer level and above.

93. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 redundancy packages above £100,000 for Chief Officers must be agreed by full Council. The redundancy package includes any redundancy payment (from 3 April 2015, statutory redundancy pay of 30 weeks plus an additional 15 weeks), contractual notice period and full cost of early release of pension (as required under Regulation 68(2) of the Local Government Pension Scheme).

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

93. This Pay Policy Statement will be kept under review and developments considered in the light of external best practice and legislation. The Pay Policy Statement may also be reviewed as part of the Council's existing Scrutiny arrangements. The Council will ensure the Pay Policy Statement is updated on an annual basis in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. The annual Pay Policy Statement will be submitted to Cabinet, and then full Council by March of each year.
94. In line with legislation, this Pay Policy Statement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis for consideration and agreement by full Council, with the next Pay Policy Statement to be in place for the 2026/27 financial year.