



TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 6

MEETING: 23 MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: PAY POLICY

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY,
THE FINANCE OFFICER AND PERSONNEL ADVISOR**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the revised Pay Policy Statement for subsequent publication by 31st March 2015 in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The provisions of the Localism Act 2011 came into force on 15th January 2012, bringing together the strands of increasing accountability, transparency and fairness in the setting of local pay. Section 38 of the Act requires English and Welsh local authorities and fire and rescue authorities to produce an annual pay policy statement starting with 2012/13, setting out authorities' policies for the financial year in relation to the remuneration of their senior staff/chief officers, the remuneration of their lowest-paid employees, and the relationship between the pay of chief officers and that of other employees. The statutory guidance emphasises that local authorities and fire and rescue authorities are individual employers with autonomy to make decisions on pay which are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. The provisions in the Act do not seek to change this or to determine policies or decisions on pay – but they do require that authorities are open about their own local policies and how local decisions are made.

- 2.2 Required elements:

The statutory pay policy statement needs to cover the Authority's policies relating to:

- The level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer (including salary, bonuses and benefits in kind);
- The remuneration of its lowest-paid employees (together with its definition of "lowest paid employees" and its reasons for adopting that definition);
- The relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and other officers;

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- Other specific aspects of chief officers' remuneration: remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, the use of performance-related pay and bonuses, termination payments, and transparency (i.e. publication of and access to information relating to their remuneration).
- 2.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 in October which includes the requirement to produce annual data regarding trade union facility time. This annual report has been updated to include this information.
- 2.4 The wording of the Act and the related guidance is primarily tailored to local authorities, and has needed to be interpreted appropriately to apply it to the circumstances and structure of a fire and rescue authority.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposed draft Pay Policy Statement is appended to this report. It draws from current guidance and references or incorporates the Authority's related policies where they exist. It reflects the Authority's practice and position in aiming to be an employer of choice within the context of managing scarce public resources.

4 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The draft pay policy statement reflects the Authority's obligations and commitment to equality objectives in pay and reward.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The pay policy statement does not of itself have any financial implications.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are recommended to:
- a) Approve the attached draft Pay Policy Statement for publication by 31st March 2015; and
 - b) Receive further reports as necessary.



BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- The Localism Act 2011
- DCLG Consultation – Local Government Transparency Code 1014

