

Swindon Borough Council Pay Policy Statement: April 2026

Introduction and Purpose

The Pay Policy Statement (the 'statement') sets out the Council's approach to pay and reward for senior managers and the lowest paid colleagues for the financial year 2026 – 2027.

Its purpose is to provide a clear and transparent policy, which demonstrates accountability and value for money. The policy also meets the Council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.

The pay policy is applicable to Council Colleagues and does not include school support, teachers, or casual workers.

The pay policy statement sets out the authority's policies for Council colleagues for the financial year and relates to:

- the remuneration of chief officers
- the remuneration of the lowest-paid colleagues
- the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and colleagues who are not chief officers.
- Remuneration for the purposes of this statement includes the following elements:
 - basic salary
 - any other allowances arising from employment

The term 'chief officer' in this instance applies to more posts than the usual Council definition, and includes the following senior manager roles:

- Chief Executive
- Corporate Director
- Director

The term 'lowest paid colleagues' refers to those colleagues on the lowest pay point of our grading system, which is currently Career Family Level 1, scale point 2, £24,413 per annum (as of 1st April 2026). However, the Council does not have any colleagues that are currently on this FTE salary.

This policy statement has been approved by the Council and is effective from 1st April 2026. It will be subject to review annually and in accordance with new or proposed legislation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Accountability and decision-making

In accordance with the constitution of the Council, Cabinet are responsible for decision making in relation to recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to colleagues of the Council.

Responsibility and scale

The Council is directly responsible for a net budget of £233.07m (subject to Cabinet approval) and the employment of 2,705 colleagues at the point of creating this report. The Council provides services to a total population of circa 233,700 residents.

Pay and remuneration for colleagues

In determining the pay and remuneration of its colleagues, 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, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations.

With regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the Council ensures that all pay arrangements can be objectively justified through the use of the following Job Evaluation methods:

Hay Job Evaluation Scheme

The Hay Job Evaluation Scheme is widely used in both public and private sectors, primarily for managerial, administrative and clerical roles. At Swindon, we have used the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme for all jobs within the Council.

Jobs have been evaluated by trained assessors. A trained evaluation team evaluates jobs against each of the elements within the scheme using detailed role profiles. The outcome of the evaluation assigns a profile, and points score that shows the total size of the job.

All roles are evaluated using the Hay Evaluation Scheme; however, the Council sets its own pay line. A copy of the Council's pay scales can be obtained from hradviceandadmin@swindon.gov.uk.

Pay design

The Council's pay policy is based on a nationally negotiated pay scheme, which applies to local government colleagues. This scheme determines the salaries of the majority of the non-school-based workforce. The majority of colleagues are on the National Joint Council scheme or Joint Negotiating Committee terms and conditions. The Council also has colleagues on other terms and conditions, mainly Soulbury and Agenda for Change.

Pay structure

Pay levels and progression

There is no incremental progression through the pay levels.

Under the pay policy, pay is set with respect to the market. All offers will be the minimum of the pay scale unless a pre-determined market rate or Rate for the Job has been established, or a new rate is approved.

Pay Supplements

From time to time, it may be necessary to pay special allowances or supplements to individual colleagues as part of their employment contract where specific circumstances require this and where it can be justified in accordance with Council policies and collective agreements.

The Council uses the following:

- **Market Factor Supplements** - External labour market conditions can produce a situation in which a colleague with scarce skills and expertise can command higher salaries than the maximum provided under the current grading mechanism for that post. In these circumstances, based on evidence from the relevant labour market, it may be deemed appropriate to pay an additional **Market Factor Supplement** in addition to basic pay. They are not linked to an individual's actual or anticipated performance within the role but are linked to the difficulty in recruiting to certain posts requiring specific skills or qualifications.
- **Acting up/ Honoraria** - A special payment where a colleague has taken on additional duties and responsibilities for a defined period of time, for example covering a vacancy or taking on a special project
- **Relocation Scheme** - The aim of the scheme is to provide financial recompense to colleagues who need to move their main residence to take up an appointment with the Council. The scheme does not cover the purchase of a second property. Eligibility criteria will also apply, and the decision to offer relocation will be made prior to the post being advertised. Relocation expenses can be claimed up to £8,000. The Council's policy requires repayment in part or in full if the colleague leaves within 3 years of appointment.
- **Allowance** – this is a payment made to a colleague by the Council that is not part of the basic contracted salary. Allowances are subject to taxation rules provided by the Inland Revenue, and some are pensionable.
- Payments made to colleagues (including the **Returning Officer** and the Deputy Returning Officer) working during working during local, parliamentary, police and crime commissioner or referenda are made in line with either the statutory fees or a local scale of fees agreed in consultation with Wiltshire Council. This could apply to Chief Officers.

The Council will ensure that the requirement for additional allowance or supplement is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence and where market supplements are considered that this is with reference to data available from within and outside the local government sector and is in line with Council policy.

Other employment-related arrangements

Local Government Pension Scheme

Subject to qualifying conditions, colleagues have a right to belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme. The colleague contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently range between 5.5% and 12.5% of pensionable pay depending on full-time equivalent salary levels. The colleague contribution rate for the 50/50 schemes currently ranges between 2.75% and 6.25% on full-time equivalent salary levels.

NHS Pension Scheme

The Council has colleagues who were transferred from the NHS. As part of the transfer agreement (TUPE), these colleagues were able to keep their NHS pension scheme and continue to contribute to that scheme. Further information about the [NHS Pension Scheme](#) can be found on their website.

Benefits schemes

The Council believes that it has a responsibility to help support the health, wellbeing and welfare of its colleagues to ensure that they can perform at their best. As part of this approach, the Council provides its colleagues with an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and Occupational Health. Access to Vivup (Perkbox) rewards platform has also been introduced, enabling employees to access hundreds of lifestyle savings discounts as well as having access to the Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice and Home and Electronics schemes.

Employment arrangements

When recruiting, the Council will take full and proper account of its own recruitment policy. The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed chief officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment.

Senior Pay

For the purposes of this statement, senior management means ‘chief officers’ as defined within S43 of the Localism Act.

The posts within the statutory definition are set out below, with details of basic salary as at 1st April 2026 (subject to JNC and NJC 2026-27 pay award):

Roles paid above £100,000 per annum listed by job title:

Job Title	FTE Salary
Chief Executive	£139,825 - £185,730
Corporate Director – People	£139,825 - £185,730
Corporate Director – Prevention and Communities	£139,825 - £185,730
Chief Operating Officer	£139,825 - £185,730
Corporate Director - Inclusive Economy & Sustainability	£139,825 - £185,730
Director of Children's Services	£104,196-138,225
Director of Public Health	£104,196-138,225
Director of Finance and Audit	£104,196-138,225
Director of Housing	£104,196-138,225
Director of Commissioning - People	£104,196-138,225
IT, Data and Digital Director	£104,196-138,225
Service Director Education	£104,196-138,225
Chief Legal Officer	£104,196-138,225
Director of Integrated Adult Social Care	£104,196-138,225
Director of Social Work for Corporate Parenting	£104,196-138,225
Director of Integrated Communities and Partnerships	£104,196-138,225
ICS Project Director	£104,196-138,225
Director of Operations	£104,196-138,225
Director of Inclusive Growth	£104,196-138,225
Director of HR and OD	£104,196-138,225

The Council’s organisation structure can be found on the Council’s [website](#).

Chief Executive / Chief Officer Recruitment

Due to the nature and responsibilities of their role, senior managers are normally employed on full-time permanent employment contracts.

In exceptional circumstances, where the Council remains unable to recruit to a chief officer or senior manager post or where there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant post, the Council may consider engaging an individual on a consultancy basis. Such arrangements can be advantageous because they can reduce employment costs and are flexible because they can be used for short periods of time without the need to pay termination payments. Where these arrangements are used the Council will use relevant procurement processes to ensure that it can demonstrate value for money.

Performance-related pay and bonuses

The Council does not apply any bonuses or performance-related pay to its chief officers.

Arrangements for senior managers

The Council believes that no additional or specific requirements are necessary for the employment and reward of senior managers to reflect on the nature of their roles, responsibilities and accountabilities and the national employment market.

Lowest paid colleagues

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 minimum spinal column point currently in use within the Council's grading structure. As at 1st April 2026, this is £24,413 pa, however, the Council does not have any colleagues on this FTE salary.

The exception is colleagues who are employed on a government sponsored apprenticeship programme. Apprentices will be paid the National Living Wage rate (April 2026 - £12.71 per hour), and TUPE protected colleagues who are paid in line with Agenda for Change Band 2, which is currently £24,465.

The current pay scales are available from hradviceandadmin@swindon.gov.uk

Pay multiple

As described above, the Council uses an established process of defining roles, determining job size and salary levels. This process determines the relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and senior manager post, including chief officers, described as the pay multiple.

The current pay multiple is as follows:

Highest Pay	£ 185,573.00
Mean Pay	£ 37,857.89
Median Pay	£ 34,434.00
Lowest Pay	£ 24,465.00

Ratio of Mean to Highest	1:4.9
Ratio of Median to Highest	1:5.4
Ratio of Lowest to Highest	1:7.6

This is currently within the limits recommended by The Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (2010) and will be monitored and recorded annually.

The recommendation of the Hutton Report into “Fair Pay in the Public Sector”, as recognised by the Government in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, was that a pay ratio of the salary of the Chief Executive compared to the median average salary in the organisation should be published. The Hutton Review raised concerns about multiples in the order of 1:20 or higher, between the lowest and the highest paid colleagues in local authorities. The Council’s current ratio of lowest to highest is 1:7.6 and is below that level.

Salary Protection

Salary protection does not apply to colleagues who apply and are appointed into a lower grade role because of service re-design.

Payments on termination of employment

On termination, redundancy payments and any discretion exercised in relation to retirement or redundancy will be paid at the statutory rate of pay. The Council does not provide any further payment to colleagues leaving the Council’s employment other than in respect of payment for accrued leave, if agreed that it is not possible to take this leave before the date of leaving. Any other payments that are agreed or negotiated will be made in line with current employment law practices.

The Council will apply the provisions of the Redundancy Payments Modification Order regarding the recovery of redundancy payment if this is relevant. Pensions Regulations also have provisions to reduce pension payment in certain circumstances to those who return to work within the local government service.

Trade Union Facility Time – publication and access to information

In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, the Council is committed to publishing the following information relating to trade union facility time as a percentage of the Council's total wage bill on the Council's website:

- Basic estimate of spending on unions (calculated as the number of full-time equivalent days spent on union duties by authority colleagues who spent most of their time on union duties, multiplied by the average salary)
- Basic estimate of spending on unions as a percentage of the total pay bill (calculated

as the number of full-time equivalent days spent on union duties by authority colleagues who spent the majority of their time on union duties, multiplied by the average salary divided by the total pay bill).

Gender Pay Gap Reporting

The Council's mean gender pay difference as at 31st March 2025 is – 4.46%. The negative figure has increased from –3.02% in 2024. As the below table demonstrates, females are paid 0.82p per hour more than males when comparing the mean gender pay difference in March 2025. This translates as a negative (minus) mean gender pay gap for the Council of –4.46% and a median differential in gender pay of -8.64%.

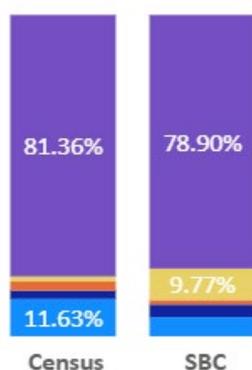
	Males	Females	Pay Gap
MEDIAN	£16.37	£17.79	-8.64%
MEAN	£18.37	£19.19	-4.46%
COUNT	914	1682	

Equality and Diversity

The Council's ethnicity reporting has improved significantly in the last year with over 92% of employees declaring their ethnicity status.

The Council is broadly representative of the Borough when compared to Census data from 2021 as the below table demonstrates with 78.9% of employees declaring their ethnicity as White compared to 81.36% within the Borough.

SBC & Swindon 2021 Census

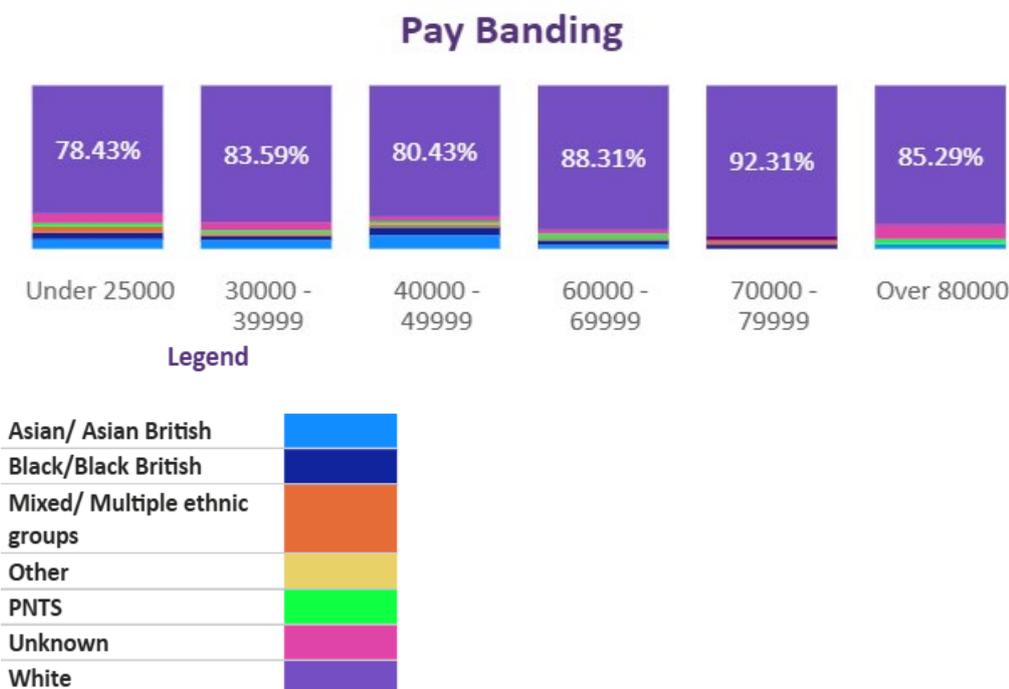


One of the biggest differentials being 5.93% of employees declared as Asian - British Asian, compared to 11.63 % of the Borough.

9.77% of employees declared their ethnicity as 'other', compared to only 1.62% of the Borough. 3.96% of employees declared as Black – Black British compared to 2.62% of the Borough.

Moving forward in 2026, the Council will be reporting annual equality and diversity data including a breakdown across pay quartiles, ensuring alignment with gender pay gap reporting practices. Analysis will be undertaken in relation to the Council's representation of the Borough from an equality and diversity perspective. Furthermore, The Swindon Data Story will be used to enhance the Council's ethnicity reporting and analysis practices.

An overview of the Council's current ethnicity reporting by pay banding has been provided below with a more detailed review planned for 2026. Given the ethnicity declaration of the Council's population is nearly 80% White, the below breakdown by pay banding broadly aligns. However, further analysis will be undertaken in 2026 to ascertain measures to increase diversity at all levels across the organisation.



*PNTS – Prefer Not to Say

Publication of pay statement

Upon approval by the full Council, the Council will publish this pay policy statement on its website at http://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20028/open_data_and_transparency/401/senior_council_officers as soon as is reasonably practicable after it has been approved by Full Council. Any subsequent amendments to this pay policy statement made during the financial year to which it relates will also be similarly published.

For further information about this pay policy statement please contact the Council's Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development or Reward Team via email rewardteam@swindon.gov.uk