

Ribble Valley
Borough Council

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PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/2025

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1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1 Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as authority thinks fit”. This Pay Policy Statement (the ‘statement’) sets out the Council’s approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Sections 38 and 43 of the Localism Act 2011, and the ‘Openness and accountability in local pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Local Government Act 2011 – supplementary guidance’, which requires the council to produce a policy statement that covers a number of matters concerning the pay of the Council’s staff, principally Chief Officers.
- 1.2 The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council’s approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:
- the methods by which salaries of all employees are determined;
 - the detail and level of remuneration of its most senior staff;
 - the Committee(s) responsible for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to the Council.
- 1.3 Once approved by the Council, this policy statement will come into immediate effect and will be subject to review on a minimum of an annual basis, the policy for the next financial year being approved by 31st March each year.
- 1.4 This document also sets out details of local arrangements regarding elements of pay and reward for Council staff below Chief Officer grade. It is additional to the National Joint Council for Local Government Service’s National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service (commonly referred to as ‘the Green Book’) and as such is incorporated into the terms and conditions of employment of all Ribble Valley Borough Council employees.

It also ensures that the Council maintains a consistent approach to pay in line with budgetary limitations and management of the Council’s finances.

2. Other legislation relevant to pay and remuneration

- 2.1 In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations.
- 2.2 From 1 April 2024, workers aged 21 and over will be paid the National Living Wage.
- 2.3 The Council ensures there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation mechanisms, which directly establish the relative levels of posts in grades according to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

3. Definition of Officers Covered by the Policy Statement

- 3.1 This policy statement is required to cover “chief officer” posts as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

For Ribble Valley Borough Council these are:

- a) The Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

- b) Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer responsible for the administration of the authority's financial affairs)
- c) Director of Community Services
- d) Director of Economic Development and Planning
- e) Service Heads
 - Head of Cultural and Leisure Services
 - Head of Engineering Services
 - Head of Environmental Health
 - Head of Financial Services
 - Head of HR
 - Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
 - Head of Planning Services
 - Head of Regeneration and Housing
 - Head of Revenues and Benefits

3.2 It should be noted that, whilst within the terms of the Act, the posts listed at 3e above may fall within the wide definition of Chief Officer posts; they are not designated as such within the Council.

4. Pay Structure

4.1 The Council has a locally agreed pay spine(s) with locally agreed grades (ie a defined list of salary points) which determines the salaries of the large majority of its workforce as detailed below:

SCALE	SALARY BAND (VALUE AT TIME OF PREPARATION OF THIS STATEMENT)	RVBC SCALE POINTS
1a	£22,366	scp 2
1b	£22,737 – 23,114	scp 3- 4
2	£23,114 – 23,500	scp 4 - 5
3	£24,294 – 24,702	scp 7- 8
4	£25,545 - £26,873	Scp10 - 13
5	£28,282 – 29,777	scp 16 - 19
6	£30,825 - £33,024	scp 21 - 24
SO1	£34,834 - £37,336	scp 26 - 29
SO2	37,336 – 40,221	scp 29 - 32
PO1-4	£39,186 – 42,403	scp 31 - 34
PO2-5	£40,221 – 43,421	scp 32 - 35
PO5-8	£43,421 - £46,464	scp 35 - 38
PO6-9	£44,428 -£47,420	scp 36 - 39
PO10-13	£48,474 - £51,515	scp 40 - 43
	HEADS OF SERVICE	
PO16 -19	£54,712 - £58,073	scp 46 - 49
PO 23 -26	£62,630 - £66,035	scp 53 - 56

A Job Evaluation points scale is attached at Appendix 1 together with the procedure for ongoing evaluation of posts.

- 4.2 The Council adopts the national pay bargaining arrangements in respect of the establishment and revision of the national pay spine.
- 4.3 Following the completion of Job Evaluation there are no remaining bonus or shift allowance payments in operation across the Council.
- 4.4 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. These are outlined at Appendix 2.

- 4.5 In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for any posts which fall outside its scope, 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.
- 4.6 New appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant pay scale for the grade, although this can be varied where necessary to secure the best candidate. Where the appointment salary is above the minimum point of the pay scale and is not affected by other council policies, for example redeployment or flexible retirement, this is approved in accordance with written procedures.
- 4.7 From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular 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 data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate. Further detail on the application of market supplements is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.8 Any temporary supplement to the salary scale for the grade is approved in accordance with this Pay Policy.
- 4.9 There are a number of pay points within each salary band. For staff not on the highest point within the band, there is a system of annual progression to the next point on the band.
- 4.10 There are several career-graded posts within the Council where advancement through a grade is based on achievement of relevant qualifications and the acquisition of practical experience. A job description has been created to cover each stage of the career in order to assess advancement through the grade. The current list of career-graded posts is attached at Appendix 4.
- 4.11 Additional
- 4.11.1 Pay is calculated on the basis of Annual Salary divided by 365 days. Salaries are paid 2 weeks in arrears and 2 weeks in advance on the 15th of the month.
- 4.11.2 The Chief Executive/Director of Resources is authorized to write off any over payment of salary in exceptional circumstances eg death in service.
- 4.11.3 To meet specific operational requirements it may be necessary for an individual to temporarily take on additional duties to their identified role. The Council's arrangements for authorising any additional remuneration e.g. honoraria, ex gratia, 'acting up' relating to temporary additional duties are as agreed by Personnel Committee.
- 4.11.4 In addition to basic salary, staff (including Chief Officers) are, or may be, eligible for other payments under the Council's existing policies, for example reimbursement of motoring expenses for business travel.
- 4.11.5 Pay Protection – where a member of staff is placed in a new post and the grade is below that of their previous post eg as a result of restructuring, pay protection at the level of their previous post is paid for 12 months. (Pay Protection would not apply where a move to lower graded jobs is the result of a disciplinary sanction.)

Any annual pay awards will continue to be applied. This protection period will also apply in any re-deployment situations where a member of staff is re-deployed to a lower graded post.

Where the employee is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme and their income has reduced at the end of the protection period a certificate will be issued to protect the value of their pension.

This means that if their pay has been reduced through circumstances beyond their control within the last ten years then their final pay will be the best years pay in the last three years, or the best consecutive three year average in the last ten years.

- 4.11.6 Professional Fees – The Council pays for or reimburses the cost of one practicing certificate fee or membership of a professional organisation provided it is relevant or essential to the post that an employee occupies within the council. This is relevant to some Chief Officers.

5. Senior Management Remuneration

- 5.1 For the purposes of this statement, senior management means ‘chief officers’ as defined within the Localism Act. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out in section 3 above.

6. Chief Executive Remuneration

- 6.1 The post of Chief Executive (which also acts as Head of Service) is paid a salary which falls within a range of 5 incremental points between £108,656 and a maximum of £118,186. The postholder also acts as the Returning Officer for which additional fees are payable in relation to specific election based activities.

6.2 Deputy Chief Executive Remuneration

The post of Deputy Chief Executive (which also acts as Head of Service) is paid a salary which falls within a range of 5 incremental points between £90,400 and a maximum of £98,304. The postholder also acts as the Returning Officer for which additional fees are payable in relation to specific election based activities.

7. Returning Officer Fees

- 7.1 In accordance with the national agreement the Chief Executive is entitled to receive and retain the personal fees arising from performing the duties of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, Counting Officer and similar positions which he or she performs subject to the payment of pension contributions thereon. Where appropriate fees for Returning Officer and electoral duties are identified separately for local government elections, elections to the EU Parliament and other electoral processes such as referenda. As these relate to performance and delivery of specific election duties as and when they arise, they are distinct from the process for the determination of pay for Chief Officers.

8. Directors

- 8.1 The Council has three Directors, one of which is the Deputy Chief Executive and is paid in accordance with 6.2. The salary of posts designated as Director fall within a range of 5 incremental points between £86,454 and a maximum of £94,271 p.a. Directors are also entitled to a lease car contribution of up to a maximum 7.5% of salary p.a.

9. Heads of Service

- 9.1 There are 9 Heads of Service. The salary package of Heads of Service falls within two bands as outlined at point 4.1 above. Heads of Service are also entitled to a lease car contribution of up to a maximum 7.5% of salary p.a.

10. Other Chief Officers Conditions of Service

- 10.1 Chief Officers are entitled to a lease car contribution up to a maximum of 7.5% of salary p.a.

- 10.2 Other terms and conditions of service are in accordance with:

Chief Executive - The Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives.

Deputy Chief Executive - The Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Officers.

Directors - The Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Officers.

Heads of Service - The Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Government (Green Book).

11. Recruitment of Chief Officers

- 11.1 The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers is set out within Part 4, Section 33 of the Constitution.

- 11.2 When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of all provisions of relevant employment law and its own Recruitment and Selection Policy as approved by Personnel Committee.

- 11.3 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. Any proposal to offer a salary package in excess of £100,000 (as per the recommendation of the Secretary of State's supplementary guidance) must be approved by Full Council. A salary package includes salary, any bonuses, fees or allowances routinely payable to an appointee and any benefits in kind to which the officer is entitled as a result of their employment.

- 11.4 Where the Council is unable to recruit Chief Officers, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a substantive Chief Officer post, the Council will, where necessary, consider engaging individuals under a 'contract for service'. These will be sourced through a relevant procurement process ensuring the council is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits from competition in securing the relevant service. In assessing such it should be noted that in respect of such engagements the Council is not required to make either pension or national insurance contributions for such individuals. The Council does not currently have any Chief Officers engaged under such arrangements.

- 11.5 The Council will not enter into any arrangements in the employment of Chief Officers which would or be perceived to be an arrangement to minimise an individual's tax liability.

12. Pension Contributions

- 12.1 Where employees have exercised their statutory right to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable remuneration due under the contract of employment of that employee. The Council contributes to the Local Government Pension Scheme for all its employees equally. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising the Lancashire Pension Fund and is reviewed on a triennial basis. For 2021/22 the employer contribution rate will be 17.1%, until the next triennial

actuarial review. In addition a lump sum payment is made as a contribution towards the Ribble Valley share of the deficit on the pension fund.

The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, as at 1 April 2023 are:

Full time salary	Contribution rate
Up to £16,500	5.5%
£16,501 - £25,900	5.8%
£25,901 - £42,100	6.5%
£42,101 - £53,300	6.8%
£53,301 - £74,700	8.5%
£74,701 - £105,900	9.9%
£105,901 - £124,800	10.5%
£124,801 - £187,200	11.4%
£187,201	12.5%

Not available 2024/2025.

13. Payments on Termination

- 13.1 The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment of Chief Officers is set out within its Redundancy policy statement in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 Regulation 12 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contribution) Regulations 2007.

At the time of preparation of this pay policy, the policy is:

- to pay statutory redundancy payments in accordance with the Employment Relations Act 1998, which provides for a maximum calculation of up to 30 weeks' pay. The payment will be based on an employee's actual weekly salary rather than the figure set by the Government.
- 13.2 Any proposal to offer a large severance package beyond a particular threshold must be approved by Full Council. The Secretary of State for Local Government recommends that this threshold should be set at £100,000. When presenting information to Full Council, the components of any severance package will be clearly outlined. These components may include: salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid.
- 13.3 For all permanent employees (including Chief Officers) where there is an option for early retirement, the terms of the Council's Early Retirement Policy will apply (See Appendix 5).

14. Lowest Paid Employees

- 14.1 The Council complies with the National Joint Council – Pay and Conditions of Service. The minimum salary the Council pays in accordance with the National Conditions of Service is spinal column point 2 of the pay scale, which as at 1 April 2023 equals £22,366 per annum.

Spinal Column Point	Salary (per annum)
2	£22,366

Progression through the grade occurs through the payment of an additional annual increment on 1 April each year.

Part-time posts are paid the same salary, but on a pro-rata basis.

The Council employs Apprentices who are paid in accordance with the National Minimum Wage rates for Apprentices.

- 14.2 Currently, 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, with the actual lowest salary as at 1 April 2023 being at spinal column point 2 - £22,366

This relates to the employment of a cleaner.

15. Relationship between Remuneration of Chief Officers and Remuneration of Employees who are not Chief Officers

- 15.1 The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and Chief Officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this policy statement.

- 15.2 The highest paid salary in the Council is to the Chief Executive with a mid-point salary of £113,317 . Set out below is the relationship between the Chief Executive's salary and the median and Lowest salaries within the Council.

- 15.3 The mid point salary for Chief Officer salaries is £66,035

- 15.4 Set out below is the relationship between the Chief Officer's salaries and the median and lowest salary.

Post	Mid point salary	Benchmark Salary (Median)	Ratio
Chief Executive	£113,317	£26,421	1:4.3
Chief Officers	£66,035	£26,421	1:2.5
Post	Mid point salary	Benchmark salary (Lowest)	Ratio
Chief Executive	£113,317	£22,366	1:5.1
Chief Officers	£66,035	£22,366	1:3.0

The Council does not have a policy of maintaining or reaching a specific pay multiple. However, the council is conscious of the need to ensure that the salaries of its highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the Council.

16. Gender Pay Gap Reporting

- 16.1 The Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations came into effect in March 2017. They require that organisations with 250 employees or more publish a series of statistics covering a number of different measures of the gap between total pay of male and female employees.

17. Accountability and Decision Making

- 17.1 In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the following Committees are responsible for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the Council: Personnel Committee and Full Council.

18. Publication

18.1 Upon approval by the Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

18.2 In accordance with regulation 7 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, 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

The Statement of Accounts is available on the Council's website.

18.3 Also, in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Council will place a link to the following data on its website:

Senior Salaries:

- the number of employees whose remuneration in that year was at least £50,000 in brackets of £5,000
- details of remuneration and job title of certain senior employees whose salary is at least £50,000
- the names of any employees whose salary is £150,000 or more
- a list of responsibilities (eg the services and functions they are responsible for, budget held and number of staff) and details of bonuses and 'benefits in kind', for all employees whose salary exceeds £50,000.

APPENDIX 1

JOB EVALUATION POINTS SCALE

Grade	Points
1a	182 - 225
1b	226 – 245
2	246 – 281
3	282 – 347
4	348 – 395
5	396 – 425
6	426 – 489
SO1	490 – 517
SO2	518 – 527
PO 1-4	528 – 543
PO 2-5	544 – 595
PO 5-8	596 – 625
PO 6-9	626 – 689
PO 10-13	690 +

Ongoing Job Evaluation

All new posts created within the authority will be evaluated under the Job Evaluation system.

Job descriptions are reviewed annually as part of the performance appraisal process. If during such a review the duties of a particular post have changed significantly since the original evaluation, an updated job description, job title and additional information sheet, must be agreed with the individual and relevant Head of Service and approved by the Director, and then submitted for re-evaluation, following which any score will then be moderated by Corporate Management Team (CMT).

To qualify for a re-evaluation, duties must have changed substantially, and that change must be permanent. A change in 'volume' or throughput does not necessarily constitute a significant change. Also, where it is claimed that duties have increased there must be clear evidence as to where the additional duties have come from eg new legislative requirements, new Central Government requirements. If tasks have been acquired from other posts, then those posts will also need job descriptions updating and re-evaluation. Any re-evaluation would be carried out by the Head of HR and UNISON branch representative and moderated as above. Any re-evaluation would be carried out by the Head of HR and UNISON branch representative and moderated as above.

Please note: during any re-evaluation all aspects of a post will be considered, not just the proposed additional duties

If at anytime during the course of the year, an employee feels that his/her job has changed significantly, they should discuss the changes with their manager, update their job description as appropriate and then follow the re-evaluation procedure as outlined above.

Weekend Working

Remuneration arrangements for weekend working are in accordance with the terms outlined in the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service (the Green Book).

Overtime

Overtime rates only apply after full time hours have been worked in the week, and for posts paid up to and including scp 24. In these circumstances employees will receive payment at the following rates:

Monday to Saturday	– time and a half.
Sundays, public and extra statutory holidays	– double time (min 2 hours).

Overtime can only be worked with the permission of an authorised Officer. Any hours worked for posts paid above scp 24 should be recorded as lieu time and must be agreed in advance by an authorised Officer.

Bank Holiday Working

Remuneration arrangements for Bank Holiday working are in accordance with the terms outlined in the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service (the Green Book).

NB. Staff whose contract arrangements and practices involve working on public or statutory holidays or additional days receive a day's leave in lieu for any such days worked.

Sick Pay

Arrangements for entitlement to sick pay are in accordance with the terms outlined in the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service (the Green Book).

Call Out Allowance

The Council's arrangements for out of hours contact applies to employees listed in the Council's Emergency Plan, who may be called upon to attend work in respect of emergency arrangements.

If staff are called out they receive the following payments:

Salary on scp 1 – 2	Fixed payment of £16.80 plus the appropriate overtime rate payable.
Salary between scp 3 – 24	Fixed payment of £23.71 plus the appropriate overtime rate payable.
Salaries over scp 24	Fixed payment of £54.65 plus time off in lieu

These rates are reviewed and updated in accordance with Pension Scheme revisions.

A disturbance allowance of £10.42 (as at 1st April 2023) is payable when an employee is contacted out of hours by telephone. If they then need to attend to an incident they will receive a callout allowance as outlined above but not the disturbance allowance. In exceptional circumstances these arrangements may be varied.

Market Supplements

Introduction

Pay is an important element in recruitment and retention, and if the Council is significantly and demonstrably below the market rate and unable to recruit or retain appropriate staff, then market supplements will be considered.

Market supplements will be used in a manner that:

- Helps preserve the integrity of the grading system
- Is fair and transparent
- Is consistent with equal opportunities policy and Equal Pay considerations

Policy

Market supplements will normally be considered where there is difficulty recruiting staff following two advertisements within six months and a subsequent risk assessment carried out by the Head of Service in the Request to Re-appoint procedure, indicates potential recruitment difficulties. There would need to be investigation and analysis by the manager and Human Resources to be sure that pay is the critical factor and this may involve local benchmarking where appropriate. There could be other reasons why people do not apply (eg hours of work, location, nature of the work, not advertising in the correct press). Consideration may also need to be given to amending the person specification of the post.

A market supplement will also be considered if retention problems are being encountered either for a job family or an individual key post. Again, it is important to investigate the reasons for retention difficulties to establish that pay is the principal and primary reason. There could be many other factors, such as staff not being able to make full use of their skills, working conditions, career development, management or training and development opportunities.

The market with which a comparison is being made will need to be carefully established. If comparison is being sought with the private sector, then the total recruitment package should be compared. A private sector company may have a higher salary but other conditions may not be as attractive, eg. hours of work, pension, access to training and development opportunities, etc.

Where possible a reliable, reputable salary survey will be used as a comparator rather than specific jobs from other sources although these can be added to build up a comprehensive set of comparative data. The National/Regional Employers Organisation will be used as a key source, supplemented by other means. Where data is not readily available the Human Resources Section will advise on the process for assembling comparative data.

Care should be taken to compare like with like (ie just because a job has the same title, the job content, responsibilities and remit could be vastly different).

Procedure

Where a Head of Service has severe recruitment or retention difficulties, s/he should discuss these with HR who will advise on a range of options to investigate and to solve the difficulties. These could include:

Recruitment

advertise in different press
advertise in different area
change the advertisement

redesign the job
consideration of flexibility over hours of work
part-time / job share
a survey of the people who apply for a recruitment pack but who do not convert to applicants
a salary survey

If consideration of other factors is unlikely to resolve the problem and a survey of salaries shows that Ribble Valley Borough Council pay is below the appropriate market, then a report to pay a market supplement should be submitted to CMT and then Personnel Committee for approval. The Director of Resources should be consulted to cost the proposal and the Head of Service must be able to identify the resources to meet the cost of the market supplement. The market supplement will not exceed 4 increments.

If the post is one of a number of posts having identical duties, the market supplement will be applied to staff currently in post.

The market supplement will be superannuable and clearly distinguishable from basic pay. It will be reviewed when the post becomes vacant and in any event, after 2 years and every 12 months thereafter. If a further salary survey shows that there is no longer a pay differential, this will justify the removal of the supplement.

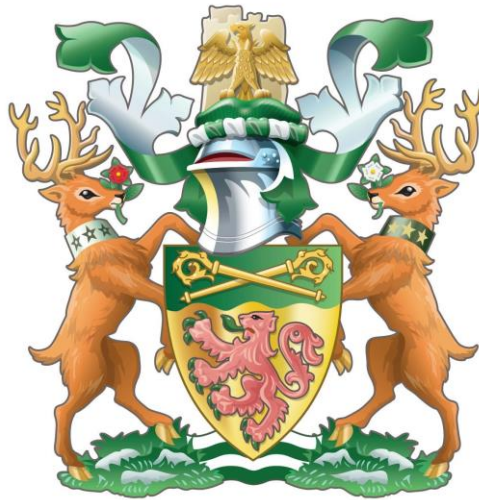
If the market supplement is withdrawn, it will be removed after 12 months.

CAREER GRADED POSTS

Internal Audit Assistant	grade 2/3/4
Dog Warden	grade 3/4
Graduate Environmental Health Technician (Food, H&S)	grade 4/5/6
Environmental Protection/Housing Technical Officer	grade 4/5/6
Assistant Planning Officer	grade 4/5/6
Assistant Planning Officer	grade 4/5/6
Assistant Planning Officer	grade 4/5/6
Cemetery & Grounds Maintenance Officer	grade 5/6
Building Surveyor (Community Service)	grade 6/SO1
Building Surveyor (Community Service)	grade 6/SO1
Building Surveyor (Economic Development)	grade 6/SO1
Senior Planning Officer	grade SO1/SO2
Senior Planning Officer	grade SO1/SO2
Principal Surveyor	grade PO5-8

14 Posts

10 Roles



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

EARLY RETIREMENT POLICY

1. Intention
 - 1.1 The intention of the scheme is to enable the Council to retain maximum flexibility in any situation where it needs to reduce the number of employees or otherwise change the establishment of any department or section. Reorganisation in order to improve the efficiency of a department will also be considered as part of the scheme.
2. Scope
 - 2.1 This policy applies to all Ribble Valley Borough Council employees but the provisions regarding pension benefits apply to members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme only.
3. Principles
 - 3.1 Employees 55 years of age or over may be eligible for early retirement:
 - At the employee's request but subject to the Council's consent. In these circumstances pension benefits may be subject to an actual reduction.
 - In the interest of avoiding redundancies. Employees who apply for early retirement in such circumstances will be able to access their pension without an actuarial reduction.
 - In the interest of facilitating restructuring and/or to improving the effectiveness of the service. Personnel Committee will decide on the merits of each case following the presentation of a robust business case by the relevant Director. If successful, the employee will receive their pension without actuarial reduction.
 - Gradual/phased retirement by reducing their hours of work or taking a less well-paid job.
 - 3.2 In cases of early retirement, employees will not receive any redundancy payments.
 - 3.3 The Service benefitting from the increased efficiency will finance any extra costs.

4. Procedure

- 4.1 An employee considering requesting early retirement would first discuss the position with a member of the HR section. The employee can ask that the enquiry is "in confidence" at this stage.
- 4.2 The employee may then apply in writing to the HR section for a more detailed pension benefits statement because he/she is seriously considering the possibility of early retirement/. The relevant Director will be notified at this stage and the employee will be informed whether an application would be likely to fulfil the Council's criteria for early retirement ie:

Key criteria:

- (i) Staff must be age 55 or above to apply for early retirement and the Council will take account of the age, years of service in the pension scheme and years of service with Ribble Valley Borough Council, of the employee involved.
- (ii) The maximum enhancement the Council will, at their discretion allow, should be $6\frac{2}{3}$ years.

- (iii) The additional cost to the Council of any early retirement (both lump sum and ongoing pension) must be at least offset by savings directly arising from staff changes following the retirement.
 - (iv) Any pension strain and associated costs of the employee retiring early will be charged directly to the relevant service from which the savings have been found.
- 4.3 If the criteria is met, and the employee wishes to proceed they must commit themselves to early retirement should their application be agreed by CMT and Personnel Committee. The employee in such a case, will inform the HR department who will submit the application to CMT stating, the date from which termination will be effective.
- 4.4 Each application, together with the financial details will be submitted to CMT for consideration. If CMT approve the application it will be forward to Personnel Committee for approval.
- 4.5 When an application has been approved by the Personnel Committee, the appropriate Director will be notified and a letter sent to the employee formally terminating his/her service. The termination will be effective following the normal period of notice or from a date specified by the Committee (which, where appropriate, will be the date requested by the applicant or suggested by his/her Director).
- 4.6 The Personnel Committee may refuse the application, or, if the application cannot be approved immediately but may be approved in the future, the Personnel Committee may defer the application until such time as it can be approved. The decision of the Committee in these cases will be conveyed to the applicant in writing by the HR section.
- 5. Retirement on the Grounds of Redundancy
 - 5.1 Employees qualify for an immediate pension if they are made redundant (or retired in the interest of the efficiency of the service) so long as they are age 55 or over and have two years service, or have transferred pension rights to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Where there is a dismissal for redundancy there will also be an entitlement to a redundancy payment.
 - 5.2 All employees who are members of the LGPS will be able to convert the lump sum compensation payment into added years of service in accordance with the scheme regulations.
- 6. Retirement in the Interests of Efficiency
 - 6.1 There may be occasions where retirement on the grounds of efficiency will be appropriate. In cases such as these the Council has the flexibility to deal with individual cases on their own merits.
 - 6.2 Employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme will be given the option of converting compensation payments into additional pensionable service on a strictly cost neutral basis.
 - 6.3 The Council will not make use of the augmentation provisions of regulation 52 of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 7. Flexible Retirement
 - 7.1 The Council recognises the need to keep the skills and experience of its members of staff for the benefit of the Council and the community as a whole. The Council is

therefore committed to working with employees to facilitate a flexible retirement option that will meet the needs of both the individual and the service.

- 7.2 Employees over 55 years of age can apply to change the nature and intensity of their work and receive accrued pension benefits and build up further benefits within the Scheme (where appropriate) whilst continuing in employment, thereby enabling them to ease into retirement.

The change may be:

- a reduction in hours;
- a change in duties resulting in a reduction in grade.

The change must meet the needs of the Service and is at the Council's discretion and there is no obligation on the Council to grant any application.

- 7.3 Benefits Payable (only applicable to employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme).

- 7.4 Employees who retire flexibly are entitled to their accrued pension and lump sum subject to an actuarial reduction. Employees who were contributing to the Scheme prior to 1 October 2006, may have some protection if they take flexible retirement between the age of 60 and 65. However, if they retire flexibly between 55 and 59 their pension benefits will be reduced to reflect the early payment. The Council will not waive this reduction.

- 7.5 Once a flexible retirement request has been approved, the employee may not, at a later date, increase their hours or grade beyond those approved for flexible retirement as per 7.2 above.

- 7.6 In circumstances where the job description of a post is changed as a result of a request for flexible retirement, the post will be re-evaluated. If the result of the evaluation is that the post is downgraded then pay protection **will not** apply.

8. Applications for Flexible Retirement

- 8.1 Employees who wish to apply for flexible retirement must do so in writing to their Director with a copy to the Head of Human Resources (HR).

- 8.2 Applications from staff who are not members of the Local Government Pension Scheme can be granted by CMT in consultation with the Head of HR.

- 8.3 Applications for flexible retirement from employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme must be authorised by the:

- Corporate Management Team;
- the relevant Director;
- Head of Human Resources.

- 8.4 Applications for flexible retirement will be submitted to Personnel Committee for approval.

- 8.5 Applications for flexible retirement from the Chief Executive, Directors or Heads of Service must have the approval of Personnel and Policy and Finance Committees.

Signatures:

..... Chief Executive

..... Head of HR
..... UNISON Branch Secretary