



Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Pay Policy statement – 2014/15

Introduction

This statement of Pay Policy is provided in line with Section 38(i) of the Localism Act 2011 and is authorised by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to provide transparency to the Pay Policy adopted by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Accountability

The Combined Fire Authority is responsible for establishing the Pay Policy for the employees of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Combined Fire Authority is directly responsible for reviewing the pay structure for Principal Officers including the Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Director of Resources.

The Chief Fire Officer has delegated responsibility to establish appropriate grading and salaries for all other employees of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Pay Negotiating Bodies

The Authority applies the annual pay settlements negotiated by:

- The National Joint Council for Local Government Services
- The National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services
- The National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services.

The Authority undertakes negotiations with its recognised representative bodies on local agreements which affect the terms and conditions of its employees and which may include agreement of local allowances.

The representative bodies recognised for negotiating purposes are:

- The Fire Brigade's Union
- The Fire Officers Association
- The Association of Principal Fire Officers
- The Retained Firefighters Union
- UNISON.

Section One - General Pay Policy

1.1 The Authority applies the pay scales adopted by the respective National Joint Councils (NJC) for all its employees up to the level of Principal Officer.

1.2 Local pay arrangements for Principal Officers are established through the provisions of the NJC for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services and are reviewed bi-annually by the Fire Authority. Further details are set out in Section 2.

1.3 The number and level of roles within the Service are determined by the Fire Authority on advice from the Chief Fire Officer.

1.4 Pay Policy reflects the different roles, duties and responsibilities undertaken by Service employees. This is reflected in pay differentials between different groups of workers and between workers in the same pay group. The pay bands established are based on nationally applied role maps (operational employees) or grading bands established through a job evaluation process (support employees).

1.5 Pay Policy reflects adherence to the principle of "equal pay for work of equal value". The Service has committed to undertake an independent equal pay audit on a 3-yearly basis as a means of identifying any gender pay issues.

1.6 In applying its policy, the Authority will work to eliminate any elements which may, directly or indirectly, discriminate unfairly on the grounds of sex, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, marital status, having dependants, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, trade union activity, disability or any other factors. Part-time workers receive the same pay and remuneration as full-time workers undertaking the same job role on a pro-rata basis.

Generic Pay Information

1.7 Pay multiples

The idea of publishing the ratio of the pay of an organisation's top earner to that of its median earner has been recommended in order to support the principles of Fair Pay (Will Hutton 2011) and transparency.

The current ratio is 1:9.7. This will be monitored each year within the Statement of Pay Policy. This compares to a ratio of 1:10.6 in 2013/14.

Section Two - Pay Policy for Principal Officers

2.1 General Principles

2.1.1 National pay awards negotiated by the NJC for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services are applied by the Authority on an annual basis. This represents a cost-of-living increase.

2.1.2 In addition, a review of Principal Officer pay is undertaken every three years by the Combined Fire Authority. This is currently managed through the Performance Review Committee under delegated power from the Fire Authority.

2.1.3 In addition to this pay review, this Performance Review Committee undertakes an annual review of Performance, in accordance with the performance system in place for Principal Officers. Members of this Committee agree a series of objectives at the start of the financial year. These objectives are formally assessed by the Committee at the end of the financial year prior to any award of withheld salary being made.

2.1.4 Principal Officer roles covered by the review include the Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Director of Resources.

2.2 Establishing the Pay of the Chief Fire Officer

2.2.1 The base salary for the Chief Fire Officer role at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently set at £168,302 per annum. This is established through a local pay review, details of which are set out below.

2.2.2 Additionally a car is provided for operational and business use.

2.2.3 Pension. The Service makes an employer contribution of 21.3%*. This is in accordance with the contribution made to all members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme (1992). The employee contribution for 2013 will be 17% of pensionable pay compared to 15% in 2013/14.

2.3 Local Pay Review

2.3.1 In 2008, the Authority, through its Performance Review Committee, approved a methodology for the review of Principal Officer pay based upon a comparator for the role of Chief Fire Officer. The review compared the pay levels of Fire and Rescue Authorities and established a benchmark salary.

2.4 National Pay Review

2.4.1 The national pay review undertaken by the NJC for Brigade Managers of Fire and Rescue Services did not apply a cost of pay award in 2012.

2.5 Other Principal Officer Pay

2.5.1 The Authority has established a policy that Principal Officer roles below that of Chief Fire Officer would be paid as a proportion of the locally agreed Chief Fire Officer base pay rate as follows:

- Deputy Chief Fire Officer - 80%
- Assistant Chief Fire Officer - 75%
- Director of Resources - 70%

2.6 Publication of Principal Officer Pay

2.6.1 Details of Principal Officer Pay are published on the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service internet site. This can be found by clicking on the section Our Structure>Directors Salaries.

2.7 Principal Officer – Internal Pay Comparators

2.7.1 In 2012/13, the lowest paid role within the Service is £17,333 (fte), the highest paid role within the Service is £168,302. The Service does not have a policy of direct correlation between the highest and lowest paid roles (it does not apply a pay multiple in establishing Principal Officer pay).

2.7.2 The ratio of pay between the highest paid employee of the Service is set out in paragraph 1.7 above.

2.7.3 The pay, including rota allowances, of the most senior officer below Principal Officer (Area Commander) is 43% Chief Fire Officer pay.

2.7.4 The pay of the most senior support role below Principal Officer (Strategic Head of Resources) is 32% of Chief Fire Officer pay.

2.7.5 It should be taken into account that the salaries of Principal Officers and other flexible duty officers include an allowance for the associated additional responsibility and hours of work required to provide duty cover on a 24/7, 365 basis.

2.8 Re-engagement

2.8.1 Principal Officers are subject to the same re-engagement provisions as other Service employees; these are set out in more detail in Section 5.

2.9 Severance Payments

2.9.1 Principal Officers are subject to the same severance arrangements as other

Service employees; these are set out in more detail in Section 6.

Section Three - Pay Policy for Firefighters

3.1 This policy applies to Whole-time, On-Call Firefighters and Combined Control staff.

3.2 National pay awards negotiated by the NJC for firefighters of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services are applied by the Authority on an annual basis. This represents a cost-of-living increase. A 1% pay award was applied by the NJC for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services in 2013/14.

3.3 Pay is based upon the role undertaken and the stage of competence of each individual for example, trainee, in development and competent.

3.4 A formal assessment of individuals is undertaken at each stage of development before moving to the next salary level. Maintenance of competence is a requirement at all levels of the Service and is reviewed annually.

3.5 Progression between roles is subject to a competitive selection process.

3.6 On-call Duty System

3.6.1 Employees employed on the On-Call Duty System are paid an annual retaining fee and receive subsequent payments based on attendance at incidents and other activity including attendance at drill nights, disturbance fees, turnout fees, attendance fees, training fees, other authorised duties and compensation for loss of earnings. All payments are made in line with nationally agreed pay scales and rates.

3.7 Other Allowances and Payments

3.7.1 Pension contributions. The Service makes an employer contribution of 21.3%* of salary (1992 scheme) or 11% of salary (2006 scheme) for members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme. The employee will make a contribution in 2013 of between 12.2% and 16% (1992 scheme) or between 9.4% and 11.3% (2006 scheme) of pensionable pay. This compares with between 11.9% and 14.12% (1992 scheme) and 9.1% and 10.2% (2006 scheme) in 2013/14.

3.7.2 Flexible duty payment. Under national conditions of service, a flexible duty payment is made to Station Commanders, Group Commanders and Area Commanders who provide flexible duty cover on a 24/7 rota basis and who are available to attend emergency incidents when required and provide Duty Officer cover. This is paid at an allowance of 20% of base salary.

3.7.3 Area Commander rota payment. Under local arrangements, Area Commanders are paid an additional 9% to provide operational cover on the Principal Officer rota.

3.7.4 Acting up. An allowance is paid on a daily basis where employees temporarily undertake the duties of a higher graded role. This is paid at the rate applicable to the role being undertaken; employees must be qualified to undertake the higher level role.

3.7.5 Overtime rates. These are paid for roles below Station Commander at time and a half or double time on public holiday or time may be granted in lieu at the appropriate enhanced rate.

3.7.6 Detachments. These are paid at two hours overtime rate when operational employees are required to provide cover at other stations.

3.7.7 Recall to duty. These are paid at a minimum of three hours at double time rates.

3.7.8 Continuous Professional Development Payment (CPD). Under national conditions of service, a CPD payment is approved annually on an individual basis for employees with more than five years of service (since attaining competence in role). It is an annual payment of £867 (wholetime) and £216.72 on pro-rata basis (On-Call employees). The payment is made by application and authorised at a middle or senior management level. To be eligible, an individual must demonstrate evidence of CPD over and beyond that required for competence and have a good attendance, performance and disciplinary record.

3.7.9 Additional Responsibility Allowance (ARA). ARAs are only paid as and when required. For control operators this is paid at a quarter of the difference between Crew Commander and Watch Commander pay rates. Operational staff will receive one ninth of the difference between Watch Commander 'B' and Station Commander 'A'.

3.7.10 Local Resilience Payment. A local payment is made for employees volunteering to provide operational cover for periods when the Service struggles to provide an operational response owing to external factors for example, industrial action, flu pandemic. Current payments are £959.50 per annum for Group Commanders and £757.50 per annum for Station Commanders.

3.7.11 Messing allowance. Paid to station personnel who are responsible for catering arrangements on stations.

3.7.12 Spoilt meals. Paid when prepared meals are uneaten as a result of attending an emergency call-out.

3.7.13 Travel allowance. A local allowance to cover additional travel costs when an operational employee is compulsorily transferred to another work base. A payment is made of the difference in mileage undertaken and is paid for four years (compulsory transfer) or 18 months (promotion).

3.7.14 Reimbursement of medical fees. This only applies to employees whose service commenced before November 1994. The reimbursement of fees covers dental, optical

and prescription fees and is paid at NHS rates.

Section Four - Pay Policy for Support Roles

4.1 This policy applies to employees covered by the NJC for Local Government Services and includes all non-operational staff.

4.2 National pay awards negotiated by the NJC for Local Government Services are applied by the Authority on an annual basis and represent a cost-of-living increase. A 1% pay award was applied by the NJC for Local Government Services in 2013/14.

4.3 The pay structure is aligned to a spinal column point system. Spinal column points are configured into groups to provide incremental pay points. The incremental rises occur on 1 April and employees progress incrementally through their respective grade until they reach the maximum point.

4.4 Starting salary may be uplifted along the incremental structure if experience and knowledge warrant this approach. Movement between grades is through a competitive selection process.

4.5 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service apply the Hay analytical job evaluation process that systematically ranks each job objectively and fairly. The Hay Group evaluation system is a recognised best practice, non-discriminatory method of ranking jobs against a predetermined scale. The evaluation process assesses all roles and allocates an appropriate grade according to the duties and responsibilities undertaken. Employees may apply for a review of their grade where permanent, substantial and material changes have increased the level of duties and responsibilities attached to their role. Any substantive changes to grade must be authorised by the Director of Resources.

4.6 Other Allowances and Payments

4.6.1 Pension contributions. The Service makes an employer contribution of 25.3% of salary for all members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The employee will make a contribution of between 5.5% and 11.4% of pensionable pay depending on their salary band. These bands will come into effect from 1 April 2014.

4.6.2 Acting up. An allowance is paid if an employee is required to fill a higher level role for a period of more than one month.

4.6.3 Honorarium. A discretionary payment may be made, with the approval the Director of Resources, for duties undertaken outside of the normal job requirements for an extended period of time.

4.6.4 Stand by. Employees required to attend work outside of normal office hours or to be on-call are paid an allowance depending on the nature of the arrangements.

4.6.5 Disturbance. Paid when an employee is required to move work location; actual additional mileage is paid for a period of four years.

Section Five - Policy on Re-engagement and Pension Abatement

5.1 This applies where individuals retire from the Service, draw pension benefits and are subsequently re-engaged into the same or other role with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. The policies set out below apply to all employees, including senior officers.

5.2 The Service operates a Re-engagement Policy, which has been authorised by the Fire Authority, for operational employees. This permits re-engagement if there is a tangible business benefit. During any period of re-engagement the employee has full abatement of pension i.e. when combined with salary, their pension cannot make them earn more than they did in their previous role. This complies with the provisions of the Firefighters Pension Scheme.

5.3 The Service operates a Flexible Retirement Policy for employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme which allows employees to take their pension benefits and be re-employed on reduced hours or at a lower grade without abatement of pension. This complies with the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

5.4 Where employees who have taken retirement benefits (either as former Service employees or employees of another public sector organisation) apply for a support role with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of a competitive selection process and are successful, no abatement of pension is applied.

Section Six - Severance Payments

6.1 In the event of redundancy, the Service applies statutory redundancy payments under the provisions of its Redundancy Policy. This applies to both compulsory and voluntary redundancy situations.

6.2 There were seven such compensation payments made as part of redundancy payments in 2013/14.

6.3 In exceptional cases, the Chief Fire Officer is authorised to agree a compensation payment as part of a compromise agreement when the employment of an employee is terminated by the Service, or in settlement of a claim. Such agreements are subject to confidentiality clauses and there were two such settlements in 2013/14.

Early Payment of Pension Benefits

6.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme employees aged

over 55 who are made redundant, or who are retired from Service on the grounds of efficiency, are awarded early payment of pension benefits.

6.5 In this case, a charge is made against the Fire Authority by the pensions fund; this is referred to as actuarial strain.

6.6 In 2013/14 the Service agreed to the early payment of pension in six cases. Five of these were linked to redundancies.