

## **Gender pay gap report for the year 2020 – 2021**

Since March 2017 employers with over 250 staff are required to report their gender pay gap information on an annual basis to the Government Equalities Office using six different measures (see Appendix 1). East Suffolk Council welcomes gender pay gap reporting and what it seeks to achieve. We are committed to equality of opportunity and our approach to pay seeks to reward all staff fairly, regardless of gender.

This report fulfils the reporting requirements sets out what we are doing to close the gender pay gap. The figures provided in brackets are from 2019/20. The report contains a glossary to explain the terms that the reporting framework requires us to refer to.

### **Summary**

The Council has a Gender Pay Gap of 10.3% which is an improvement on last year's figure of 11.2%. There is an ongoing programme of initiatives in place to reduce the gap and it is pleasing to report that these are having a positive impact. This is despite working through the pandemic which initially caused a pause in recruitment. A pictorial summary of the Councils' Gender Pay Gap position is appended.

### **What is the Gender Pay Gap?**

A gender pay gap is a measure of disadvantage (a gap) expressed as a comparison between what, on average, men earn and what, on average, women earn (gender pay). It is not 'equal pay'.

### **What is equal pay?**

Equal pay means that there should be no difference in the pay and contractual terms of a woman and a man doing equal work (or work of equal value) for the same employer.

### **How is the Gender Pay Gap Expressed?**

As above, the gender pay gap is a measure of disadvantage (a gap) expressed as a comparison between what, on average, men earn and what, on average women earn (gender pay).

A positive pay gap means that females on average earn less than males. A pay gap of zero means the average pay across the entire workforce is the same for males and females. A negative pay gap means that the average for female employees is higher than that for males.

### **National Picture**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) advise:

- The gender pay gap among all employees fell from 17.4% in 2019 to 15.5% in 2020 and continues to decline.
- For age groups under 40 years, the gender pay gap for full-time employees is now close to zero.
- The largest fall in the gender pay gap in 2020 is among managers, directors, and senior officials
- Although the coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a substantial impact on labour market, hours worked and pay, it appears to have had little impact on the gender pay gap in April 2020

### Gender make-up of the Council

44% male to 56% female (43% male and 57% female).

### Ordinary Pay

The mean gender pay gap is the difference in average hourly rates of pay that male and female employees receive. This gives an overall indication of the gender pay gap by taking all hourly rates of pay and dividing by the number of employees. The mean gender pay gap is 10.3% (11.2%)

The Councils' pay gap has decreased in the last year and still compares favorably to the rest of the Public sector pay gap of 14.5% (mean) as published by the ONS.

The median gender pay gap shows the difference in the midpoints of the ranges of hourly rates of pay for men and women by ordering individual rates of pay from lowest to highest and comparing the middle value. The median pay gap remains at 19.6%, compared to the rest of the Public sector median pay gap of 15.8% as published by the ONS.

### Bonus Pay

The Council does not pay any employee bonuses.

### Hourly pay quartiles

This is the percentage of male and female employees in four quartile pay bands, (dividing our workforce into four equal parts). Last year's figures are shown in brackets.

	East Suffolk Council	
	Male	Female
<b>All Staff</b>	<b>46.3% (47.0%)</b>	<b>53.7% (53.0%)</b>
First (Lower) Quartile	34.2% (35.5%)	65.8% (64.5%)
Second Quartile	40.2% (40.9%)	59.8% (59.1%)
Third Quartile	54.8% (54.4%)	45.2% (45.6%)
Fourth (Upper) Quartile	54.5% (55.7%)	45.6% (44.3%)

## East Suffolk Pay and Reward - Addressing the gender pay gap

The Council recognises that remuneration at all levels needs to be sufficient to attract and retain high quality employees, but at the same time needs to reflect that the Councils are part of the public sector and not a private sector organisation. The Council is committed to rewarding all employees in a fair and equitable manner and this is demonstrated in [the Pay Policy](#).

The leadership and culture of the Council has been consistent in assuring that all aspects of people management are dealt fairly and are transparent. Practices have not been more favourable to one gender than the other. Our People Strategy underpins this and outlines our aim to build a strong reputation as a good employer and to be a progressive and exciting place to work. We encourage our staff to achieve their potential, feeling valued and supported in a safe and healthy workplace. We work hard to attract and retain good quality people, by offering great opportunities for interesting roles and career development. Our strategy involves attracting women to work in traditionally non female areas.

We have a clear set of values and framework of expected behaviours which contribute to a culture based on trust and outcomes. Our employee engagement survey results tell us that most of our staff believe that we have a culture of dignity and respect.

There are a number of practices and initiatives in place which should have a positive impact on reducing the gender pay gap, including;

- Culture based on trust and outcomes, and a set of clear values
- Monitoring pay to identify pay differences and take targeted action where appropriate, within the Councils pay controls.
- Clear, consistent, single approach to pay and reward; formal authorisation processes for any changes in pay.
- Ensuring that all new and changed roles are job evaluated through a robust process which involves Unison.
- Flexible working policies which actively encourage women to work, taking into account training and development that has been invested in these employees.
- Enhanced occupational maternity pay and shared parental leave and support for women returning to work - through shared parental leave, job-sharing, compressed hours, part-time, and term-time only opportunities.
- Encouraging men to take advantage of arrangements which enable them to fulfil their caring responsibilities, such as shared parental leave, part-time working and compressed hours.
- Continuous improvement of the recruitment process, including regular diversity awareness sessions for recruiting managers to eliminate any bias. We ensure that our adverts are gender neutral and all recruitment is based on merit and competency.

- Formal career pathways in place in several services including Planning, Finance, Human Resources, Revenues and Benefits, Procurement with more being developed.
- Performance linked to outcomes and delivery in the role rather than working hours.
- The use of Natural Work Teams which will be utilised to promote development opportunities for employees across the Councils. This complements an accessible learning and development programme.
- Exit interviews offered to leavers to gauge their experience and obtain feedback.
- We will continue to encourage recognition of the value of diverse perspectives in developing teams.
- Participation in the Suffolk Wide Intern scheme to develop future talent.
- Continue and develop participation with local schools and colleges, offering work experience and attendance at careers events to assist in dispelling stereotypes.
- Well established apprenticeship scheme in place across a range of occupational areas. We actively encourage female apprentices in the Building trades
- Partnership with local schools and colleges including attendance at careers fairs to raise awareness of different career opportunities and to help dispel myths and stereotypes.
- Quarterly reporting to the Corporate Governance Theme Group on the progress of reducing the gender pay gap.

## **Glossary**

**Job Evaluation Scheme** – this is a robust, consistent and gender-neutral method for assessing and comparing the value of different roles. The scheme provides a basis for a grading and pay structure, as well to demonstrate equal pay for equal work. The scheme evaluates the job, not the job holder, and provides a way to assess the demands of the job through an objective means.

**Natural Work Teams** - The Natural Work Team framework is based on a 'top down objective' and 'bottom up solutions' approach to allow the freedom to generate solutions from a blank page. Natural Work Teams have responsibility for a particular process and work together in a participative environment. The participative approach is based on the belief that employees will be more productive if they have a higher level of responsibility for their work, and that people will advocate what they help to create. This framework has been adapted to enable wider organisational change.

**Mean** - another name for average. To find the mean of a data set, add all the values together and divide by the number of values in the set. The result is your mean

**Median** - the middle value between the smallest and largest of a set of numbers.

**Quartile** - the values that divide a list of numbers into quarters: Put the list of numbers in order then cut the list into **four** equal parts.

## Appendix 1

### The gender pay gap reporting measures

<i>Mean gender pay gap</i>	The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male full-paid employees and that of female full-paid employees
<i>Median gender pay gap</i>	The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male full-paid employees and that of female full-paid employees
<i>Mean bonus gap</i>	The difference between the mean bonus pay paid to male employees and that paid to female employees
<i>Median bonus gap</i>	The difference between the median bonus pay paid to male employees and that paid to female employees
<i>Bonus proportions</i>	The proportions of male and female relevant employees who were paid any bonus pay during the relevant period
<i>Quartile pay bands</i>	The proportions of male and female full-paid employees in the lower, lower middle, upper middle and upper quartile pay bands