Date received:	29th November 2022
Date responded:	22nd December 2022
Subject:	Salary Scale for the Chief Executive

Question:

Please let me know what the current salary is for the Borough Council's CEO and the current salary scale.

Response:

The salary banding for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services is;

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (& HEAD of PAID SERVICES	
SP69	£113,953
SP70	£116,771
SP71	£119,591
SP72	£122,409
SP73M	£125,228

Whilst the Council aims to provide information wherever possible, the first part of your request has been exempt under Subsection 25(2)(b)(i)&(ii) as the disclosure of the Chief Executive's actual salary would contravene one of the data protection principles, namely the Council can only release information that would be fair, lawful and meet one of the conditions in schedule 2. In this case, none of those conditions have been met.

Section 25 of the Freedom of Information Act is an absolute exemption, and a public interest test is therefore not required, however, the Council has cited the below reasons for exempting the personal information;

1. An individual has a general expectation that the level of their salary will remain private. Disclosure of the information would contravene the expectations and cause an intrusion into the privacy of the data subject which may lead to some distress.
2. Whilst the role is public facing, with a greater degree of accountability, the exact level of salary is of a private nature.
3. The information was obtained in circumstances that imply a duty of confidentiality and it is expected that the information would remain confidential;
4. There is no legitimate interest in disclosure of the exact figure that is not met by releasing the salary banding of the role;
5. Whilst the Freedom of Information Act 2015 promotes transparency and accountability and therefore there may be some public interest in the Chief Executive's actual salary being disclosed, this does not outweigh an individual's right for the information to remain private.