

# Making Cheshire Safer

**T**he Authority has commenced work on a 'Whole Service Review' to align the provision of services across our prevention, protection and response functions to future resources and priorities.

This review will set the future direction of the Service for the period 2020-2024. It will be developed using our CRM model and will be informed by incident data, risks, statistics, information sources and feedback, as well as the outlook for public finances.

The Review will also incorporate and expand on previous reviews, including the crewing arrangements at Wilmslow and Penketh fire stations; the provision of the Authority's third aerial appliance and the second fire engine at Ellesmere Port. It will also include the outcomes of reviews of the Service's Prevention, Protection and Operational Policy and Assurance strategies.

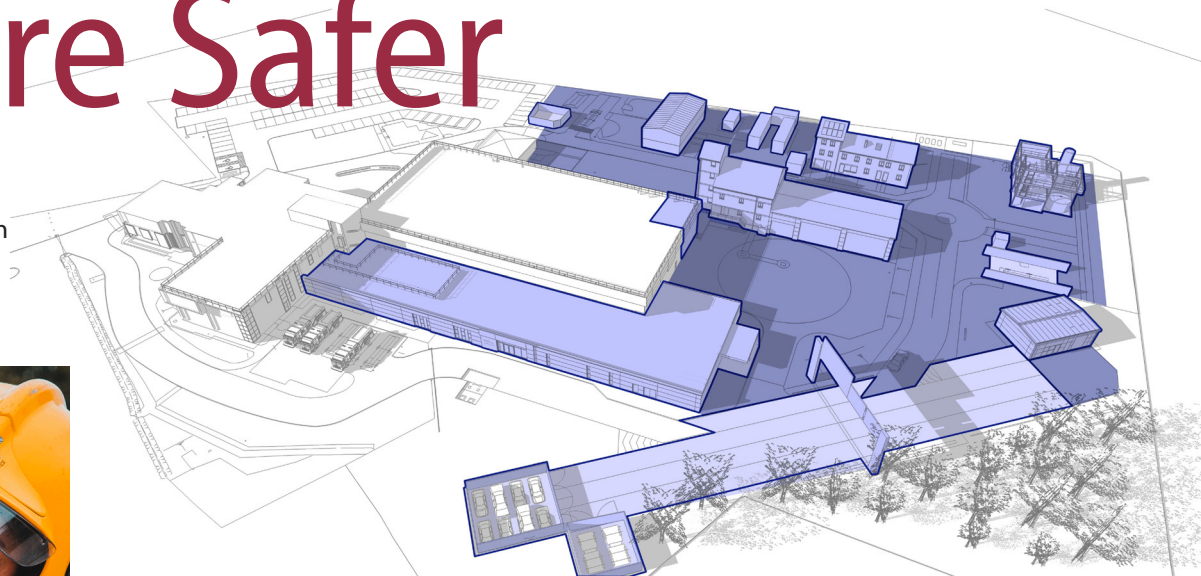
While work will progress this year, the outcomes of this Review will feature in the draft IRMP for 2020/2021, which will be subject to public consultation during the Autumn/Winter of 2019.

During 2019/20, the Authority will continue its programme of work to improve the on-call duty system.

This programme encompasses several themes including recruitment, retention and ensuring that procedures and processes are updated to reflect the needs of its on-call firefighters.



Alongside its revenue budget, the Authority has a significant capital programme which is being progressed. As well as regular capital spending on things like fire engines and equipment there are also particular programmes underway, such as a new operational training centre at its site on Sadler Road, Winsford.



*Architect's drawing of the proposed new operational training centre at Sadler Road, Winsford*

Taken together, the training centre and projects outlined below will be funded using a significant amount of the Authority's reserves and also public borrowing, where necessary.

Subject to planning approval, during 2019/20 the Authority will commence work to replace the existing fire station at Chester, on the existing site on St Anne Street. It will also move to create a joint fire and police facility on the site of Crewe Fire Station, as outlined previously in the document. In addition, the Authority will commence a multi-year programme of modernisation across its property portfolio to ensure its fire stations and other buildings meet the needs and requirements of a modern fire and rescue service.



## Cheshire Fire Authority

The Fire Authority manages the local fire and rescue service on behalf of the local community. It comprises 23 councillors – eight from Cheshire East, eight from Cheshire West and Chester, four from Warrington and three from Halton.

### Representing Warrington

CLlr Mike Biggin  
CLlr Karen Mundry  
CLlr Morgan Tarr  
CLlr Steve Wright



### Meeting dates

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Wed 19 June      | 2019 |
| Wed 18 September | 2019 |
| Wed 11 December  | 2019 |
| Wed 12 February  | 2020 |
| Wed 22 April     | 2020 |

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Sadler Road site in Winsford.

All reports and minutes are on the Service's website - [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

## Facts and figures

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 28 Fire Stations
- 3 Community Safety Centres
- 3 Community Fire Protection Offices
- Shared headquarters with Cheshire Constabulary
- An Operational Training facility.

The Authority provides a 24 hour service to just over 1 million people and employs some:

- 668 operational staff
- 177 community safety and other support staff.



## Fire budget 2019–20

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £43.46 million is required to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington for 2019-20.

A total of £29.08 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £77.74 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 2.99%, or 4.3p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 80p per week.



Queries about this leaflet should be sent to:  
Treasurer, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Clemonds Hey,  
Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2UA  
t: 01606 868700 e: [feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk)

## Estimated expenditure and income

|                           | 2019–20<br>£m | 2018–19<br>£m |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Pay related expenditure   |               |               |
| Firefighters              | 26.1          | 24.3          |
| Other staff               | 5.6           | 5.5           |
| Non-pay expenditure       | 15.1          | 14.4          |
| Income                    | -3.3          | -1.7          |
| <b>Budget requirement</b> | <b>43.5</b>   | <b>42.5</b>   |

## How the budget compared with last year

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2019-20 is £43.5 million compared with a budget of £42.5 million for last year. The reasons for the 2.1% increase in the overall budget are as follows:

|                                  | £m           | % increase<br>(decrease) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Last year's budget               | 42.53        |                          |
| Pay and price inflation          | 0.88         | 2.0                      |
| Essential growth                 | 2.11         | 4.9                      |
| Efficiencies and Savings         | -1.36        | -3.2                     |
| Reserves & Financing adjustments | -0.70        | -1.6                     |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>43.46</b> | <b>2.1</b>               |

## Estimated expenditure and income

|   | £m     | £ Per<br>Resident | £ Band D<br>Equivalent |
|---|--------|-------------------|------------------------|
| This year's budget  | 43.46  | 41.47             | 116.17                 |
| Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment | -14.38 | -13.72            | -38.43                 |
| Local Council Tax   | 29.08  | 27.75             | 77.74                  |