

Making Cheshire Safer

In July 2020, Cheshire Fire Authority approved its [Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024](#). This is a multi-year plan that sets out how the Authority will provide fire and rescue services across Cheshire to address the risks we face and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

We have started to implement the first parts of this Plan. We have rebalanced our firefighting resources across Cheshire West and Chester and have reviewed our programme of inspecting non-residential premises. We are adapting our Safe and Well visits to ensure we continue to engage with those most at risk and prevent fires.

This coming year we will implement plans to improve how we tackle wildfires and enhance our response to road traffic collisions. We will also introduce new technology into service by replacing a fire engine and an ageing hydraulic platform in Macclesfield with a new High-Reach Fire Engine.

The Authority will continue its estates modernisation programme. Many fire stations across Cheshire need upgrading to make them suitable for the needs of modern firefighting and make them better, more effective and energy efficient workplaces. Work will continue on constructing a new fire station to replace the existing building in Crewe and on the development of an emergency services hub on the site of Wilmslow Fire Station.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about significant and unprecedented change in how the Authority has operated over the past year. We have maintained our emergency response through the pandemic. However, many of our staff have either worked from



home or have seen their roles change completely in support of the community response by delivering food parcels, prescription medicines, protective equipment and other essential items. Many staff are now supporting our health colleagues in the vaccination effort.

As the risks from Covid change, in line with Government guidance the Authority will look to restart its community facing activities and other activity it suspended; adapting our practices to take into account what we have learnt through the pandemic. While the past year has brought unprecedented change, the future is also uncertain. As more becomes known about the long-term impacts of Covid, particularly on the public sector finances, the Authority will review its plans to ensure it addresses risks the community faces in order to continue saving lives, changing lives and protecting lives.





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:

- 714 operational staff
- 165 community safety and other support staff.



Fire budget 2021–22

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £46.21 million

is required to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington areas for 2021–22.

A total of £30.79 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £80.87 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 1.99%, or 3p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 83p per week.

Estimated expenditure and income

	2021–22 £m	2020–21 £m
Employee related expenditure	32.33	33.47
Non-pay expenditure	17.48	14.67
Income	(3.60)	(3.31)
Budget requirement	46.21	44.83

How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2021–22 is £46.21 million.

The reasons for the increase in the overall budget requirement are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Base budget	44.83	
Pay and price inflation	0.32	0.7%
Essential growth	0.28	0.6%
Efficiencies and Savings	(0.50)	(1.1%)
One-off items not funded from reserves	1.28	2.9%
Budget requirement	46.21	3.1%

Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	46.21	43.32	121.36
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(15.42)	(14.46)	(40.49)
Local Council Tax	30.79	28.86	80.87

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

Halton

Cllr Phil Harris

Cllr Stef Nelson

Cllr Rob Polhill

Meeting dates



Wed 23 June 2021

Wed 28 July 2021

Wed 29 September 2021

Wed 8 December 2021

Wed 9 February 2022

Wed 27 April 2022

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Sadler Road site in Winsford. Meetings are also recorded and these are available to view, along with meeting agendas and minutes, on the Service's website:

www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Cheshire
Fire Authority

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Treasurer, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Clemonds Hey, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2UA.



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