

# Making Cheshire Safer

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

Since the development of the IRMP, the Covid pandemic over the past two years has seen significant change for many of us. Therefore, in Autumn 2021 the Authority consulted on its [2022-2023 Annual Plan](#), which reviewed our IRMP, outlined revisions to our original plans and contained actions to address new and emerging risks. The Authority approved the Plan in February and it sets out our priorities for the next 12 months.

Over the coming year, the Authority will progress the expansion of its Rapid Response Rescue Units across our on-call fire stations to improve our response to road traffic collisions and other emergencies. Work will also commence to introduce a day crewing shift system at Wilmslow, an effective and efficient way of providing fire cover for the area without the need to bring in other resources from elsewhere in Cheshire to support the station.

The Authority will continue to modernise its estate, including construction of a new fire station at Crewe. This will provide our firefighters and communities with the facilities befitting a modern fire and rescue service, while improving our energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint.



Together, our plans will improve how effective and efficient Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is at keeping the people of Cheshire safe from fire and other emergencies.

The year ahead will also mark the start of our planning for a new four year plan to set out the Authority's direction for 2024 and beyond. The new Plan, which is expected to be subject to public consultation in Autumn 2023, will outline how the Authority will address fire and rescue related risks to keep the communities of Cheshire safe.





## 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
- Safety Central, our public safety education centre

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

- 714 firefighters and fire officers
- 165 community safety and professional services staff



## Fire budget 2022-23

The Fire Authority has agreed a budget of £46.59 million to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington areas for 2022-23.

A total of £31.96 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £82.48 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 84p per week.

## Estimated expenditure and income

	2022-23 £m	2021-22 £m
Employee related expenditure	34.07	32.33
Non-pay expenditure	16.13	17.48
Income	(3.61)	(3.60)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>46.59</b>	<b>46.21</b>

## How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2022-23 is £46.59 million.

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

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Base budget	43.72	
Pay and price inflation	1.28	2.9%
Essential growth	1.59	3.6%
Efficiencies and Savings	(0.78)	-1.8%
One-off items not funded from reserves	0.78	1.8%
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>46.59</b>	<b>6.6%</b>

## Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	46.59	43.55	120.24
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(14.63)	(13.67)	(37.76)
<b>Local Council Tax</b>	<b>31.96</b>	<b>29.88</b>	<b>82.48</b>

## Cheshire Fire Authority

The Fire Authority manages the 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 27 April 2022  
Wed 22 June 2022  
Wed 28 September 2022  
Wed 7 December 2022  
Wed 15 February 2023  
Wed 26 April 2023

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](http://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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