

# Making Cheshire Safer

**T**he opening of Lymm Fire Station means that all four of Cheshire Fire Authority's new fire stations are now responding to emergencies and working in their communities.

The stations at Alsager, Penketh, Lymm and at Powey Lane in Mollington were built as part of a comprehensive programme to improve emergency response across Cheshire over the past five years and to improve the efficiency of the organisation in light of reduced funding from central government.

The centre provides an immersive learning environment where people of all ages can develop the skills and knowledge they need to stay safe and well at home, on the road in and in our community. It has already welcomed over 2,000 young people and other visitors from across Cheshire since it became operational last Summer.

This year will see the launch of the shared headquarters site for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cheshire Constabulary at the existing Constabulary HQ at Clemonds Hey, Winsford. This is a key element of the Blue Light Collaboration programme between the two services to

save costs and increase resilience, by having joint teams provide many support functions to both organisations.



Lesson4Life programme

In turn, work will begin on redeveloping the Authority's previous headquarters site at Sadler Road, Winsford into an operational training facility that will provide realistic and immersive training so that firefighters can respond to a range of incidents confident, competently and safely.

In addition, preparatory work is underway to construct a new, replacement fire station at Chester at the location of the current station on St Anne Street. The new



Safety Central, Lymm

premises will provide a more fit-for-purpose and efficient building than the current site, which has served the city for nearly 50 years.

Finally, the Authority will also be preparing for its inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), which will provide an independent judgement on how effectively and efficiently Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service keeps people safe from fire and other risks and how well it looks after its staff.



Clemonds Hey, Winsford

## Cheshire Fire Authority

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

### Representing

#### Cheshire East

Cllr Damian Bailey  
Cllr Dorothy Flude  
Cllr Dennis Mahon  
Cllr David Marren  
Cllr Gillian Merry  
Cllr Jos Saunders  
Cllr Margaret Simon  
Cllr Jacqui Weatherill

### Meeting dates



|        |           |      |
|--------|-----------|------|
| Wed 20 | June      | 2018 |
| Wed 19 | September | 2018 |
| Wed 12 | December  | 2018 |
| Wed 13 | February  | 2019 |
| Wed 24 | April     | 2019 |

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
- 4 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:

- 674 operational staff
- 181 community safety and other support staff.

## Fire budget 2018–19



The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £41.57 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 2018–19.

A total of £27.73 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £75.48 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 2.99%, or 4.2p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 77p per week.

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to:  
Head of Finance, Joint Corporate Services, Clemonds Hey,  
Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2UA  
t: 01606 868700 e: [feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk)

## Estimated expenditure and income



|                           | 2018–19<br>£m | 2017–18<br>£m |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Pay related expenditure   |               |               |
| Firefighters              | 24.3          | 21.7          |
| Other staff               | 5.5           | 8.1           |
| Non-pay expenditure       | 13.5          | 13.0          |
| Income                    | (1.7)         | (1.5)         |
| <b>Budget requirement</b> | <b>41.6</b>   | <b>41.3</b>   |

## How the budget compared with last year



The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2018–19 is £41.6 million compared with a budget of £41.29 million for last year. The reasons for the 0.7% increase in the overall budget are as follows:

|  | £m           | % increase<br>(decrease) |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| Last year's budget                                   | 41.29        |                          |
| Pay and price inflation                              | 0.84         | 2.0                      |
| Essential growth                                     | 0.58         | 1.4                      |
| Efficiencies and Savings                             | (0.95)       | (2.3)                    |
| Reserves & Financing adjustments                     | (1.02)       | (2.4)                    |
| Net change in one-off items not funded from reserves | 0.83         | 2.0                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>41.57</b> | <b>0.7</b>               |

## Where the money will come from



|   | £m           | £ Per Resident | £ Band D Equivalent |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| This year's budget  | 41.57        | 39.66          | 113.14              |
| Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment | (13.84)      | (13.21)        | (37.66)             |
| <b>Local Council Tax</b>  | <b>27.73</b> | <b>26.45</b>   | <b>75.48</b>        |