

Building the fire service of the future

The first of four new fire stations is scheduled to open this summer as Cheshire Fire Authority continues its programme to fundamentally change how its emergency response service will be provided in the future.

With crews attending 50% less incidents than a decade ago, the programme aims to ensure future staffing is more in line with risk and activity levels and that the new stations improve overall average response times.

The on-call station at Alsager is due to open in July 2015, with around 16 local people being trained to work as part-time firefighters. Planning permission has also been obtained for full-time fire stations at Penketh near Warrington, Powey Lane near the M56 and at the Lymm motorway junction.

Work on these starts in 2015-16 with the Lymm development integrating a fire station with a state of the art training and safety facility. The iconic circular building will feature scenarios aimed at raising awareness of a wide range of risks to young people, older people and carers.

Total cost of the building programme is £15.5 million and it is hoped this will be fully funded from grants and reserves. Changes in how some stations will be crewed are making a major contribution to

the near £8 million savings the Authority needs to make over the next four years due to cuts in its funding.

In 2015-16 savings of £1.9 million are required, with £950,000 coming from the emergency response changes and the rest mostly from a major value for money review across back office areas.

In addition, the Authority is increasing its Council Tax level by 1.99% which means that the amount for a Band D home will be £70.46 – an increase of £1.37 or 2.6p per week.

As well as the new stations, the Authority's capital programme for 2015-16 includes:

- £840,000 for three new fire engines
- £700,000 on a new hydraulic platform to help firefighters work at height
- £170,000 to fit all fire engines with new computers so crews can get the latest risk information.

More details about how the Authority aims to protect local communities are set out in 'Making Cheshire Safer'. This annual publication, also known as the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2015-16, is on the Service's website.



Over half of all fires in the home start in the kitchen – stay safe by following our tips:

- Always clean the grill pan after use to stop fat and oil building up
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Make sure that you have a working smoke alarm
- Don't start cooking if you have had alcohol or are really tired
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from grills and hobs
- Watch out if you are wearing loose clothing.



Sign up to our messaging system to get vital information about major incidents and issues in your area.

The Alert System is a completely free two-way community messaging system which allows you to receive key messages from the Service by text message, email or phone.

To register go to the Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/MyAccount - and put in your home or work post code or that of a relative and choose the alerts you want.

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 West and Chester

Cllr Jill Houlbrook
Cllr Eleanor Johnson
Cllr Lynda Jones
Cllr Bob Rudd
Cllr Tony Sherlock
Cllr Alex Tate
Cllr Norman Wright

Meeting dates



Wed 17	June	2015
Wed 23	September	2015
Wed 9	December	2015
Wed 10	February	2016
Wed 20	April	2016

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Service Headquarters in Winsford.

All reports and minutes are on the Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Facts and figures



Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service operates:

- 24 Fire Stations
- 4 Community Safety Centres
- 3 Community Fire Protection Offices
- A Headquarters and training facility.

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

- 663 operational staff
- 229 community safety and other support staff.



Fire budget 2015–16

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £42.2 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 2015–16.

With £17.44 million provided through Government grants and Business rates, it means that £24.51 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £70.46 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 1.99%, or 2.6p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 81p per week.

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Head of Finance, CFRS Headquarters, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2FQ
t: 01606 868700 e: feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Estimated expenditure and income



	2015–16 £m	2014–15 £m
Pay related expenditure		
Firefighters	23.5	24.0
Other staff	7.3	7.4
Non-pay expenditure	12.8	12.7
Income	(1.4)	(1.4)
Budget requirement	42.2	42.7

How the budget compared with last year



The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2015–16 is £42.2 million compared with a budget of £42.7 million for last year. The reasons for the 1.2% decrease in the overall budget are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Last year's budget	42.7	
Pay and price inflation	0.7	1.6
Essential growth	0.7	1.7
Efficiencies and Savings	(1.9)	(4.6)
IRMP & Financing adjustments	0.1	0.2
Other*	(0.1)	(0.1)
Total	42.2	(1.2)
*Other includes:		
Allocation of second homes precept	0.001	
Section 31 grants	(0.058)	

Where the money will come from



	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	42.18	42.18	121.25
Less Government grants and Business rates	(17.67)	(17.67)	(50.79)
Local Council Tax	24.51	24.51	70.46