

Emergency response project starts

Works starts shortly on a major programme to change how Cheshire Fire Authority will provide its frontline emergency response service in the future.

The proposals, which have been subject to extensive consultation, will see more fire stations than now, virtually the same number of fire engines but with significant changes in how many of them are staffed.

With Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service attending 40% less incidents than it was seven years ago, the programme aims to ensure resources are more in line with risk and activity levels and that average response times improve.

The changes in how some of the stations and fire engines are staffed will also help to meet some of the near £6 million in savings the Authority needs to make over the next four years following significant cuts to its central funding.

In 2013-14 savings of £1.7million are required, with the majority coming from reducing staffing at fire stations with two fire engines and from value for money reviews in corporate support departments.

In addition, after a two year freeze, the Authority is putting up its Council Tax level by just under 2%, equivalent to 2.5p extra a week or £1.32 year for a Band D home.



The Authority will be using a one-off £4.5 million capital grant it has won from the Government to start building the new stations so the work will not have an impact on its revenue budget.

Other key capital projects for 2013-14 include:

- £290,400 for a new vehicle to improve the storage and delivery of foam in fighting chemical and fuel fires
- £150,000 on specialist kit which helps

firefighters monitor and maintain water supplies at fires

- £86,900 on refitting a command and control unit for use at major incidents
- £29,500 on replacing thermal image cameras which identify hotspots at fires.

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 2013-14, is on the Service's website.



Safety at Work

Fire safety legislation now covers over 30,000 businesses across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.

Owners are responsible for carrying out effective risk assessments. Make sure you know what you have to do - visit our website and click on 'business safety'.

You can also register to get key updates by visiting the 'My account' section.

Safety at Home

Our Home Safety Direct system can protect you and your home - at the click of a button.

Visit cheshirefire.gov.uk/5mins and take the quick online test - it could save your life.

For safety advice on everything from barbecues to winter driving, check out the public safety section of the website.

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



Meeting dates

Wed	12	June	2013
Wed	18	September	2013
Wed	11	December	2013
Wed	12	February	2014
Wed	23	April	2014

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:

- 659 operational staff
- 27 control room operators
- 238 community safety and other support staff.



Fire budget 2013–14

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £43.6 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 2013–14.

With £20.7 million provided through Government grants, it means that £22.9 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £67.75 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 1.99%, or 2.5p a week for a Band D home.

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

Estimated expenditure and income

	2013–14 £m	2012–13 £m
Pay related expenditure		
Firefighters	26.4	26.9
Other staff	6.6	6.8
Non-pay expenditure	11.8	13.0
Income	(1.2)	(1.2)
2012–13 Council Tax freeze grant	—	(0.8)
Budget requirement	43.6	44.7

How the budget compared with last year

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2013–14 is £43.6 million compared with a budget of £44.7 million for last year. The reasons for the 2.5% decrease in the overall budget are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Last year's budget	44.72	
Pay and price inflation	0.70	1.6
Essential growth	0.51	1.1
Efficiencies and Savings	(1.69)	(3.8)
IRMP & Financing adjustments	(1.37)	(3.1)
Other*	0.75	1.7
Total	43.62	(2.5)

*Other includes:

Allocation of second homes precept	0.001
Council Tax grant 12-13 reversal	0.751

Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	43.62	43.23	128.96
Less Government grants	(20.70)	(20.52)	(61.21)
Local Council Tax	22.92	22.71	67.75

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