

your fire authority

CHESHIRE Fire Authority is the public body responsible for providing a fire and rescue service for the residents of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.

It is made up of 21 elected Members appointed by Cheshire County Council (14), Halton Borough Council (3) and Warrington Borough Council (4). The current political composition of the Authority is Labour (9), Conservative (7) and Liberal Democrat (5).

Key duties include setting the annual budget, agreeing the numbers of staff and levels of equipment necessary to provide an effective service and approving the Service's plans, policies and strategies.

Members also monitor the effectiveness of the Service at a local level by attending meetings of the performance delivery groups (PDGs) which mirror local government boundaries. The map alongside shows which PDGs the Fire Authority Members monitor.



Halton



Stef Nelson Rob Polhill Linda Redhead

Ellesmere Port & Neston



David Andrews Derek Bateman Brian Jones

Chester



Eveleigh Moore Dutton

Crewe & Nantwich



Margaret Simon

Warrington



John Joyce Ted Lafferty Hans Mundry Colin Oliver

Macclesfield



David Freear Bert Grange Sylvia Roberts

Congleton



Rod Fletcher

Vale Royal



Pam Booher Malcolm Byram Nora Dolphin Tony Hooton Danny Maguire

Summary of accounts 2006/07

THE accounts of the Fire Authority are important in showing how we use the resources provided to us to deliver a Fire and Rescue Service in Cheshire.

The summary of accounts set out below provides an overview of; where our resources come from, how we allocate resources across both our community safety and emergency response services, and our financial position as at 31st March 2007.

Summary Revenue Account

THE 2006-07 Fire Authority budget was £37.7m.

The total expenditure incurred was

£36.6m, an underspend of £1.1m which has been added to our general reserve to provide the Authority with some resilience should a major incident arise in Cheshire.

Recent history demonstrates that the Authority must be prepared to meet the costs of large scale incidents whether they are due to the impact of climate change such as major flooding, the threat of terrorism or more conventional incidents such as the Buncefield fuel depot fire.

The Authority also elected to re-classify £1.5m of this reserve as a Community Risk Reduction reserve, in order that the costs associated with its extensive programme of Home Safety Assessments are fully funded until 2010/11.

The net reduction in our general reserve is therefore £0.4m.

Summary Balance Sheet

THE Summary Balance Sheet shows the end of year position for the Fire Authority.

The most obvious point to note is that there is a net liability of £241m – most significant in arriving at this figure is a liability of £279m which recognises all our future pension liabilities. All local authorities are required to recognise this liability in their balance sheet even though it is not an immediate call on our resources, but instead is paid out over the life of our existing and future pensioners.

- Large-scale incidents, such as the recent flooding (right), can require an immediate and expensive response



SUMMARY REVENUE ACCOUNT 2006-07	£'000	£'000
Community Fire Safety	15,978	
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	21,999	
Corporate and Democratic Core	1,957	
Net Cost of Service		39,934
Other income, expenditure and adjustments	(2,105)	
Amount to be met by Govt Grant and Local Taxation		37,829
Revenue Support Grant and Non-Domestic Rates	(15,525)	
Council Tax	(21,874)	(37,399)
Net General Fund (Surplus)\Deficit		430
Balance on General Fund Brought Forward	(6,226)	
Balance on General Fund Carried Forward		(5,796)

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET 2006-07	£'000	£'000
Fixed Assets	33,934	
Current Assets	13,986	
Long Term Liabilities	(284,839)	
Current Liabilities	(3,824)	
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		(240,743)
Financed by:		
Notional Accounts	(250,854)	
Earmarked Reserves and Provisions	4,315	
General Reserve	5,796	
TOTAL NET WORTH		(240,743)

• A full copy of the Statement of Accounts is available on our website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk - in public libraries or by telephoning 01606 868815.