

More Prevention, More Protection, Better Response

In February 2024 following a comprehensive consultation programme, Cheshire Fire Authority approved its new 2024 – 2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP will come into effect from 1 April 2024. It is a multi-year plan that sets out how we will deliver fire and rescue services across Cheshire to address the risks we face and meet the needs of the communities we serve; providing more fire prevention, more fire protection and a better emergency response.

The year ahead will focus on working with staff and representative bodies to implement the fire cover changes contained within the CRMP. This will involve changing four on-call fire engines at Runcorn, Macclesfield, Northwich and Winsford fire stations. Each of these stations currently has a full-time fire engine and an additional on-call, or part-time, fire engine. Maintaining the availability of the on-call engines at these locations is challenging and we believe our changes will mean better fire cover across Cheshire as a whole.

The four on-call fire engines will be changed into full-time fire engines which will operate flexibly across areas of Cheshire during weekday daytimes, when we typically have more demand on our services.

We will also reorganise our full-time cover during the daytimes in Warrington. This involves changing the



on-call fire engine at Stockton Heath to a full-time fire engine which will operate during 50% of daytimes. For the other 50% of daytimes, cover will be provided from Birchwood Fire Station. This change keeps four full-time fire engines in the Warrington area during daytime hours, but means that the fourth engine will alternate between Stockton Heath and Birchwood.

In addition we will introduce a day crewing duty system at Knutsford Fire Station, providing 24/7 guaranteed fire cover.

Each of our changes to emergency response are planned to be implemented towards the end of 2024/2025. Collectively, they provide more areas of Cheshire with guaranteed fire cover across our busiest times and enable our staff to deliver more fire prevention and protection work within the community.

Please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk for more information on the fire and rescue services we provide for the people of Cheshire.





Facts and figures

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 28 fire stations
- 3 community safety centres
- 3 community fire protection offices
- An operational training facility and headquarters
- Safety Central, our public safety education centre

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

- 665 firefighters and fire officers
- 196 community safety and professional services staff



Fire budget 2024–25

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £56.48 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 2024-25.

A total of £35.80 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £90.09 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 2.99%, or 5p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 98p per week.

Estimated expenditure and income

| | 2024–25 £m | 2023–24 £m |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Employee related expenditure | 41.92 | 37.5 |
| Non-pay expenditure | 18.12 | 17.94 |
| Income | (3.56) | (3.70) |
| Budget requirement | 56.48 | 51.74 |

How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2024–25 is £56.48 million. The reasons for the increase in the overall budget requirement are as follows:

| | £m | % increase (decrease) |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| Base budget | 50.08 | |
| Pay and price inflation | 2.19 | 4.4% |
| Essential growth | 4.50 | 9.0% |
| Efficiencies and Savings | (0.49) | -1.0% |
| One-off items not funded from reserves | 0.2 | 0.4% |
| Budget requirement | 56.48 | 12.8% |

Where the money will come from

| | £m | £ Per Resident | £ Band D Equivalent |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| This year's budget | 56.48 | 50.94 | 142.14 |
| Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment | (20.68) | (18.65) | (52.05) |
| Local Council Tax | 35.80 | 32.29 | 90.09 |

Cheshire Fire Authority

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

Please note that membership of the Authority may change after the conclusion of local elections Warrington on 2 May 2024.

Representing Halton

Cllr Stef Nelson
Cllr Phil Harris
Cllr Rob Polhill

Meeting dates



Wed 26 June 2024
Wed 25 September 2024
Wed 4 December 2024
Wed 12 Feb 2025
Wed 30 April 2025

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



Cheshire
Fire Authority

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Treasurer, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2FQ



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