

More Prevention, More Protection, Better Response

At the start of this calendar year, the Authority implemented a significant change to its emergency response provision with the introduction of a weekday crewing model. This saw the four on-call fire engines at Runcorn, Macclesfield, Northwich and Winsford changed to become full-time fire engines, which operate during weekday daytimes and serve flexibly across the county depending on operational risk and demands.

In addition, we reorganised our full-time fire cover in the Warrington area and introduced a day crewing shift system at Knutsford Fire Station. Taken together, these changes increase the number of guaranteed full time fire engines we have available to respond to emergencies and to undertake vital safety work in the community. These changes were outlined in our 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which 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.

We are already underway with our work to deliver our response changes. However, equally as important is our work in the community to both prevent fires and other emergencies from occurring. To improve this we



have reviewed our prevention department to ensure it is equipped to meet the demands and risks we face; enabling us to better support those most vulnerable and at risk from fire and to help keep people safe on our roads and around water.

Over the coming year we will also begin a review of our fire protection department to ensure that it is

structured and equipped to meet the risks we face as a county and deliver more protection activity to keep people safe from fire and compliant with fire safety legislation.

Please visit our website [cheshirefire.gov.uk](https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) for more information on the fire and rescue services we provide for the people of Cheshire.



Cheshire
Fire Authority

www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



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:

- 571 firefighters and fire officers
- 209 community safety and professional services staff



Fire budget 2025–26

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £59.23 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 £38.43 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £95.09 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 5.55%, or 10p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just £1.01 per week.

Estimated expenditure and income

	2025–26 £m	2024–25 £m
Employee related expenditure	43.95	41.92
Non-pay expenditure	18.51	18.12
Income	(3.23)	(3.56)
Budget requirement	59.23	56.48

How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2025–26 is £59.23 million. The reasons for the increase in the overall budget requirement are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Base budget	56.28	
Pay and price inflation	1.71	3.08%
Essential growth	1.44	2.6%
Efficiencies and Savings	(0.61)	-1.1%
One-off items not funded from reserves	0.41	0.7%
Budget requirement	59.23	5.2%

Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	59.23	52.91	146.56
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(20.80)	(18.58)	(51.47)
Local Council Tax	38.43	34.33	95.09

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.

Representing Halton

Cllr Phil Harris
Cllr Stef Nelson
Cllr Rob Polhill



Meeting dates

Wed 25 June 2025
Wed 1 October 2025
Wed 3 December 2025
Wed 11 Feb 2026
Wed 29 April 2026

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



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